Commissioner Bio Questionnaire

Washington Grain Commission

Please share brief responses about your background and interest in board service.

Name: Mike Carstensen

Farm/Company Name:

M&L Carstensen Farms / Carstensen Boys

Hometown:

Almira

Education – degree(s) and school name(s):

Accounting / Business Management: Double major (Whitworth college), MBA/emphasis in Econ (Phoenix University)

Family:

My spouse Lorie, 3 adult children that work the farm with us-Justin, Blinn, Jake, and my 7 grandchildren

Main farm operation region:

NW corner of Lincoln County

How you got into farming:

Crop share; I started out by renting a retiring farmers land.

Farming/Professional career overview:

I started out working for the federal land bank (precursor to AgWest farm credit)

A noteworthy fact about your operation or company:

4th generation farmer

Current and previous leadership positions:

I currently serve on the U.S. Wheat board of directors and am progressing through its chair positions. I have participated on the boards of HighLine Grain Growers, Inc., a cooperative grain handler; Tri-Cities Grain, a barge loading river terminal, the Lincoln County Conservation District, and the National Wheat Improvement Committee. I served as WGC chairman from 2021-22.

Why would you like to serve on the Washington Grain Commission board?

I would like to serve on the Washington Grain Commission board because I believe our responsibility as farmers extends beyond our own operations. We must also contribute to the strength, profitability, and long-term success of our industry. International markets are essential to Washington grain producers, and I want to support efforts that build customer relationships, expand markets, and help farmers access the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Serving on the board of the WGC would allow me to give back to the farming community, bring a producer's perspective to important decisions, and help guide the responsible use of grower investments. I would welcome the opportunity to listen to fellow growers, represent their needs, and contribute to work that delivers lasting value.

I believe in the philosophy, "It's not ours, it's our turn." Previous generations built the foundation we rely on today. It is our turn to strengthen that foundation and preserve opportunities for our children and grandchildren. Serving on the WGC board would be an opportunity to honor that legacy through service, stewardship, and a commitment to the future of Washington's grain industry.

What should be the top priorities for Washington grain growers?

That is a great question, Profitability and Survival: I believe the top priorities for Washington grain growers should be strengthening profitability, expanding market opportunities, and ensuring our farms remain viable for future generations.
