



# Washington Association of Wheat Growers

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## **WAWG Statement on GMO Labeling**

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### **For Immediate Release**

“Providing safe, reliable food to consumers at a reasonable price is the paramount goal of Washington’s wheat farmers.

“That’s why we take very seriously issues like genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which have been in the news lately. Before discussing our organization’s policy on GMOs, let me make clear an important fact – there is no GMO wheat on the market today. No GMO wheat is raised in Washington, or any other state, because it hasn’t yet been fully developed or gone through the rigorous USDA approval process that’s required before it can be grown here.

“We are not in favor of state-based laws regarding the labeling of GMOs, and we came to that decision after a great deal of research, thought and debate within our organization. To simplify, we believe such laws and regulations must come at the federal level, in part because wheat is an international commodity. For example, more than 85 percent of the wheat raised by Washington’s family farmers is exported. Having a patchwork quilt of state-by-state labeling regulations would severely hinder our ability to competitively serve our customers.

“And in the end, it is consumers, our customers both in the United States and overseas, who will determine whether and how GMO wheat will be produced and regulated. Consumers will only buy food they know is safe, and that’s the major reason we are closely monitoring the technological advancements that are being made with GMO wheat.”

Eric Maier  
President, WAWG  
Ritzville, Wash.

WAWG’s resolution on biotechnology can be found by going to [http://www.washingtongrainalliance.com/about\\_wawgresolutions.html](http://www.washingtongrainalliance.com/about_wawgresolutions.html) and scrolling down to the Biotechnology section.

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