

**Washington Association of Wheat Growers
2018 Resolutions**

NATIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

WAWG opposes federal legislation or regulations that are economically disruptive such as cap and trade, carbon tax, or a low carbon fuel standard.

WAWG supports a loan program that is based on the cost of production for each class of wheat (FAPRI) instead of being based on the market price of wheat.

WAWG supports PCPs that are based on how wheat is marketed. Examples include 14% protein for DNS, 12% protein for Hard White, and 11.5% protein for Hard Red Winter wheat.

WAWG encourages USDA to keep the wheat loan rate comparable with competitive crops, so wheat production is not at a farm program disadvantage.

WAWG supports refinement to the grower questionnaires from National Ag Statistic Services (NASS) that would reduce the length of surveys with the elimination of redundant questions and the timely use of farm operator level data already reported to Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency.

WAWG recommends that NASS include club wheat as a category in surveys where seeded acres, production and stored bushels are required. Stocks of club wheat shall be reported in the June 1 stocks report, and acres and production in the September 30th Small Grains Report.

WAWG supports a higher statutory reference price for PLC.

WAWG supports a consistent ARC floor price with the final PLC reference price.

BARLEY

WAWG encourages USDA to keep the barley loan rate comparable with competitive crops, so barley production is not at a farm program disadvantage.

FARM PROGRAM

WAWG opposes means testing for any Farm Program payment or crop insurance subsidy.

WAWG does not support any form of government owned reserves.

WAWG supports the present system of electing farmers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.

WAWG will work with and lobby appropriate officials to continue the policy that allows the FSA county committee to make "Good Faith Determinations" each year.

Wheat growers should be able to lock in Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) payment rates for wheat any time after April 1st, or after their wheat is harvested, whichever comes first.

WAWG supports the implementation of the conservation portion of the farm bill. However, we do not support the use of other program funds to support the conservation part of the program.

WAWG supports FSA deducting all shipping/handling and quality discounts from all commodity loan proceeds.

WAWG supports adequate funding for local FSA county offices.

RISK MANAGEMENT

WAWG supports adoption of a consistent USDA wide pack factor when calculating bushels of stored grain to more accurately reflect actual quantity.

WAWG will continue to work with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to improve the wheat policy and recommends the following changes in the wheat contract:

1. RMA should allow the regional office the ability to make changes in the final planting dates when agronomic conditions are such that many farmers, while farming using good economical and agronomic practices, cannot meet the final planting date of the policy.

WAWG urges RMA to allow producers to select different coverage levels and price elections for irrigated and non-irrigated, and different types and classes of wheat.

WAWG recommends the RMA allow crop insurance proceeds on Schedule F be included as income for whole farm crop insurance purposes.

WAWG opposes any division (lines) within a county for crop insurance purposes.

WAWG recommends that RMA address the issue of APH adjustments for uninsured causes (such as fire wildlife damage) due to no fault of the grower.

WAWG recommends that RMA attach full insurance coverage at time of planting for replant payment purposes.

WAWG supports programs that promote outreach and education concerning RMA programs.

WAWG opposes linking conservation compliance to crop insurance program participation.

WAWG supports the option of a new landowner using the APH yield from the previous operator regardless of acreage in the county.

WAWG supports changes in the federal crop insurance policy to allow all classes of wheat to be insured as separate crops.

WAWG supports a ten year average APH for insurance purposes if given the option.

WAWG supports crop insurance special provisions that allow lower discounts for quality in all classes of wheat.

WAWG opposes quality discounts in the calculation of Actual Production History (APH) values.

TAXES

WAWG supports income averaging, Farm Account for Rural and Ranch Management (FARRM), allow investment credits, favor capital gains-type investments, would eliminate federal estate taxes permanently, retain cash basis accounting and would let all types of entities deduct health insurance premiums.

WAWG supports the elimination of the Federal estate tax or a minimum level of \$10 million per individual estate tax exemption indexed to inflation, retaining a step up in basis.

WAWG supports the exclusion of farm rental income from self-employment taxes.

WAWG supports the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) net income (i.e. Schedule F) figures for determining agriculture's financial position.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

TRADE

WAWG supports the continued donation of US-produced commodities to meet Food Aid distribution needs, not cash donations.

WAWG urges international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.

WAWG recommends USW and NAWG work to see markets adhere to CODEX standards regarding import specification.

WAWG supports an exemption for the PNW states relevant to the Jones Act to allow natural gas products, anhydrous ammonia and grain to be delivered by foreign vessels to and from ports on the west coast.

WAWG urges Congress, the administration, and the USDA to continue to facilitate and encourage trade with all of our world customers with innovative credit programs.

WAWG supports increased funding the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD).

WAWG opposes any trade distorting policies that interfere with the international shipment of grain. Examples include but are not limited to: unilateral sanctions, embargoes, violations of contract sanctity, cargo preference laws, Turkish flour dumping, SPS issues, State Trading Enterprises (STE's) and the withholding of food as leverage to achieve political objectives.

WAWG supports increased trade through free trade agreements.

WAWG urges US trade negotiators to protect domestic farm policies from being negotiated away to benefit other sectors of the US economy.

WAWG calls for an open border with Canada that provides for reciprocal bilateral wheat trade, and encourages cooperation with Canadian producers and industry to achieve an open border with reciprocal access.

WAWG supports protecting non-trade-distorting and minimally trade-distorting domestic farm programs that maintain an adequate safety net.

WAWG opposes the Turkish government's use of disruptive incentives to its milling industry to export flour, regardless of price to export markets. Such exports clearly constitute dumping and WAWG supports US trade officials working with the impacted nations to impose a reasonable anti-dumping duty on Turkish flour imports.

WAWG supports the re-engagement of Trans Pacific Partnership and encourages expansion of the TPP to other wheat importing countries in the region as a top priority for USTR. (US Trade Representative)

WAWG supports the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) of the United States as a mechanism to finance international sales that would not otherwise occur.

WAWG encourages the Administration and USTR's office to fully comply and enforce WTO rules and regulations.

FARM PROGRAM

WAWG will promote, develop or pursue adequate state or federal funding for any and all farm programs on marketing and export.

WAWG supports development of a sound agricultural export policy to ensure U.S. competitiveness in the world market.

WAWG shall encourage reduction of the regulatory and tax burdens on agriculture and supporting industries.

MARKETING

Wheat and barley should be marketed on a 12% fixed moisture basis.

US Grain Standards should reflect and identify end-use characteristics of grain, foreign or domestic, as set and approved by the Federal Grain Inspection Service. An end-use certificate should remain with the grain even though possession or identity may change.

WAWG encourages grain segregation based on customer needs or market demands.

RESEARCH

WAWG supports restoring funding for the IMPACT Center (International Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities & Trade) at Washington State University (WSU) to research international markets, product development, and to assess the implementation of policy changes for the U.S. wheat industry.

WAWG supports continued funding through the WGC for WSU/USDA-ARS Minimum Quality Standards project - G & E study. ("G" represents the genetic component of wheat quality and "E" represents the environmental component)

WAWG supports efforts of the Washington State Crop Improvement Association (WSCIA) to control goat grass and urges growers to use caution when purchasing seed from questionable sources.

WAWG encourages other states to adopt a zero tolerance for goat grass in certified seed.

WAWG supports research funding for an alternative wheat utilization market and encourages the commercial sale of value-added grain products for export.

WAWG encourages additional financial support from state and federal agencies to develop new value added industries for the use of straw and grains, including but not limited to tax incentives, building code changes, low interest loans and grants.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

WAWG supports laws and regulations that allow Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funds to be used to implement conservation practices for either endangered species recovery or clean water.

WAWG opposes public acquisition of private land without providing for the loss in property tax revenue to local governments.

WAWG supports federally sponsored programs promoting all natural resource conservation programs provided they include strong local input and control.

WAWG supports tax law changes and cost share programs that would provide incentives for producers to invest in equipment that is designed for conservation.

Long-term resource retirement or rental program payments should reflect the productive value of the land, protect its crop history base, and not require additional restrictive measures upon lands returned to production.

WAWG requests that agricultural representatives and producers be involved in the planning and implementation of government programs and regulations at federal, state and local levels to ensure that regulations are socially and economically feasible for growers.

WAWG supports NRCS' Local Working Group process to remain in local conservation district control.

WAWG supports consolidation of conservation programs as long as flexibility in implementation of the program is maintained and/or increased.

WAWG acknowledges that soil erosion, to some degree, is a naturally occurring event, but through the use of research, technology and BMPs the land will remain productive for generations into the future.

WAWG urges state and federal agencies to utilize voluntary, incentive-based conservation practices when regulating the Clean Water and Clean Air acts, rather than issuing regional or statewide mandates.

WAWG recognizes NRCS, state conservation commission and local conservation districts as the authorities in conservation technical guidance throughout the state, and urges state and federal regulators to also recognize them as the authorities.

WAWG opposes a federal or state agency requiring that a landowner install a prescribed practice on their land as a precondition to receiving any other federal or state cost share funding.

WAWG supports maintaining the trust relationship between USDA and farmers, and opposes NRCS using employees from other organizations that would violate that trust.

WAWG supports adequate funding for NRCS technical assistance and implementations of Farm Bill conservation programs.

WAWG supports efforts to implement quality assurances within NRCS programs in a consistent, accountable manner.

WAWG supports RCPP that enhances the sustainability of wheat production in Washington State.

WAWG supports identification of roles and responsibilities of USDA agencies through collaboration of data.

WAWG supports any federal or state agency (except for emergency services) to give notice to the land owner or tenant prior to the inspection of their property.

WAWG supports transparency from private to public, state and federal agencies, when utilizing drones or other forms of electronic data.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

WAWG supports the use of EBI score criteria that does not change for the life of the farm bill.

WAWG supports the establishment of a conservation priority area (CPA) for grouse that is exempt from current state CPA zone acre cap.

The CRP payment exemptions and the death benefits that apply to the landlord's heirs should also apply to the operator's heirs.

WAWG supports CRP when it is part of the economic and environmental portfolio of a working farm.

WAWG supports adjusting EBI numbers to reflect the fact that CRP cover has habitat value for wildlife.

CRP plant stands should be kept as weed-free as possible.

CRP plant stand evaluations should be based on original certification standards.

WAWG supports increased CRP rental rates for water way buffers.

WAWG supports expanding Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to include intermittent, ephemeral and perennial waters.

WAWG encourages increased communication with federal and state agencies that are writing rules and regulations, standards and technical guidance that have potential major impacts to our natural resources at the local level without local input.

WAWG supports CSP being recognized as a conservation practice for CRP bid submission.

WAWG supports efforts to realign CRP contract duration for continuous and general CRP contracts thus allowing the entire field to be returned to production at the same point in time.

WAWG supports separate payment limitations between CRP, CBS (Contour Buffer Strips), CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) and SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) among priority areas.

WAWG supports raising the individual payment limitation for CRP from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

WAWG supports research into how acreage is determined in the Conservation Priority Area (CPA) area.

WAWG requests financial accommodation from Farm Service Agency in cases of natural disasters that impair previously established CRP stands.

WAWG supports the allocation of higher bid points to CRP for farmland that is located in 12 inch or below precipitation zones to address air quality concerns.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payment limitation rules should be changed to follow standard FSA "person determination" guidelines.

WAWG supports a CSP program will be administered by FSA with technical work done by NRCS.

A producer who farms state and federally owned lands should be eligible to participate in CSP.

WAWG supports raising the individual payment limitation for CSP from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

WAWG supports allowing growers to renew CSP contracts to enter into a third CSP contract period.

WAWG supports continued funding for the CSP program, if the program is cut or phased out we support those funds being redirected to the EQIP programs rather than RCPP and easements.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

WAWG supports modifying the ESA to take into consideration the economic impact of recovering endangered species.

WAWG believes that actions taken because of the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water Act should be economically viable, biologically sound and respect land owners' rights.

WAWG will work for economic stability in counties that have land in CRP and species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

WAWG supports an ESA baseline that includes dams.

WAWG supports efforts to update ESA law implementation to protect listed species by developing and providing biologically sound, scientifically based, and cost effective measures implemented in a way that maintains strong regional economies.

WAWG supports requiring local consultation before the implementation of any action done under the authority of ESA.

WAWG opposes the listing of sage grouse as endangered.

WATER

WAWG supports local level participation in regulatory decision making activities impacting water quality, quantity, instream flow and habitat use.

WAWG opposes federal, state or local designation of any agricultural practice as a point source of pollution. Agriculture crop production has historically been regarded as a "non-point" source of pollution under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

WAWG supports reforming the water relinquishment statute to preserve existing water rights.

WAWG supports continuing development of the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Columbia Basin Project in order to minimize groundwater declines within the Odessa Groundwater Management Subarea. (Chapter 173-130A WAC)

WAWG supports keeping an exempt well statute.

WAWG opposes any action that would reduce agricultural priorities of any of the state's water or change the first-in-time, first-in-right doctrine, as intended by Western Water Law.

WAWG urges members of congress and the administration to ensure that CWA permits not be required for labeled applications of labeled crop protection products.

WAWG opposes changing the definition in the CWA from "navigable waterways" to "all waters" in the US.

WAWG encourages EPA to use the WSDA Water Monitoring Data results during their rule making on agricultural issues.

WAWG opposes unreasonable buffer zones that are in excess of label recommendations for waterways that are not based on sound science.

WAWG actively opposes an increase in water right application fees and opposes instituting an annual water management service fee.

WAWG will work with the state legislature, agricultural organizations, etc. to explore rewriting the WAC or propose new legislation that improves the potential visual citation process and improves the working relationship with land owners, managers of our natural resources.

WAWG encourages agricultural group participation in the decision-making process that defines “substantial potential to pollute” in Washington state.

WAWG encourages the state’s water quality authority to continue to participate in the non-point source pollution advisory council.

WAWG supports rescinding the proposed Waters of the US regulation.

WAWG opposes any expansion of regulatory authority of Waters of the US by the EPA and Corps of Engineers.

WAWG supports a legislative fix to the Washington State Supreme Court Hirst decision restricting the use of exempt wells.

AIR

WAWG supports the option of controlled open field burning as a tool in agriculture’s effort to implement integrated pest management, manage residue and improve soil conservation practices.

WAWG opposes changes to the Washington Clean Air Act that will negatively affect agriculture.

WAWG supports the Department of Ecology’s program to educate both the public and growers about smoke management for public health.

WAWG supports field burning regulations based on Best Management Practices (BMPs) administered at the local level.

WAWG will work with the appropriate agencies to refine BMPs to reduce emission from ag burning.

WAWG will continue to work with federal and state agencies and university researchers to study the origins and effects of naturally occurring fugitive dust.

WAWG opposes any agricultural dust and air quality particle size regulations.

WAWG opposes air quality restrictions that reduce particle size and micron limitations to air quality that results in a net loss to the Washington agricultural industry.

WAWG supports that the Agriculture Burning Task Force continue to set the burn permit fee as stated in current law.

WAWG supports the Department of Ecology maintaining a seven day per week agricultural burn smoke management program.

WAWG will work to ensure that air quality standards for ozone will not impact the Agriculture Burning Task Force agreements.

WAWG supports collaboration and clear communication on the notification process for allowed ag burning between fire districts, Clean Air Authorities, and Department of Ecology.

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465 **ENERGY**
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467 WAWG supports development of alternative sources of energy that benefit small grain
468 producers.
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470 WAWG urges that climate change proposals consider production of foodstuffs a national priority
471 and avoid negative impact upon the costs and adequacy of supplies of essential inputs used to
472 produce crops.
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474 WAWG endorses all hydropower as a qualifying renewable resource.
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476 WAWG supports a change in the Energy Independence Act that would allow utilities to delay
477 buying power from eligible renewable sources until their demand grows enough that they need
478 the additional power.
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480 WAWG opposes increasing the renewable portfolio standard or limiting the ability of utilities to
481 acquire new power sources as long as hydropower is not considered a qualifying renewable
482 resource under the Energy Independence Act.
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484 **CROP PROTECTION**
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486 Registrations for agricultural chemicals in the US and Canada should be harmonized.
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488 WAWG will work with pesticide manufacturers, regulatory agencies and research universities to
489 gain and maintain pesticide registrations that are recognized by all federal agencies.
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491 WAWG supports increased federal funding for import food inspections.
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493 WAWG recommends that imported food inspections be conducted by USDA.
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495 WAWG supports the professional use of pesticides and best management practices.
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497 WAWG opposes mandatory reporting of agricultural pesticide use to governmental agencies.
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499 WAWG will study, comment on, or oppose any efforts, governmental or otherwise, to remove
500 the labels from commonly used agricultural pesticides in the Pacific Northwest.
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502 **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)**
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504 Best Management Practices (BMP) and preservation of crop residue for Alternative
505 Conservation Systems (ACS) acreage should reflect local BMPs as developed and revised
506 locally. Conservation District boards should retain the authority to develop ACS.
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508 WAWG will strive to ensure that all BMPs will be written to continue the economic sustainability
509 of current farm units.
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511 WAWG requests federal and state agencies recognize local innovative conservation and BMPs
512 and give farmers credit for using practices that effectively protect the natural resources on their
513 farms.
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514 WAWG will work with agencies to evaluate local BMPs that help protect ground water.
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WAWG will work with all agricultural organizations to educate the DOE so that they adopt local BMPs, farm plans, and continue to use the NRCS technical guidelines that will result in the protection of the natural resources and water quality.

Direct seeding is a useful management tool for some circumstances in our state, but it should never be a mandated best management practice for the whole state, or specific regions.

WAWG will assist the WACD, Conservation Districts and Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association to work with NRCS at the state and national level so that the 329 and 345 standards use RUSLE Soil Value at 30 and less. This will allow the choices and evaluation of equipment with the grower and local NRCS staff.

WAWG supports that the NRCS change its rules to allow the counting of green growth (grower's crop) in the calculation of residue for HEL compliance.

WAWG supports the Washington State Conservation Commission efforts to develop BMP's for nonpoint pollution.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

WAWG strongly encourages the prioritization of wheat and barley research, including discussions with all interested parties, in the following areas:

1. Production and varietal development.
2. All aspects of diseases, insects, weeds, winter hardiness, and sprout damage.
3. Soil fertility and plant nutrition.
4. Crop rotation and alternative crops.
5. Soil conservation (including continuation of the (Regional Approaches to Climate Change).
6. Marketing (including the restoration of IMPACT – WSU's International Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade and the Wheat Marketing Center).
7. Agriculture economics
8. Grain quality and varietal testing of all public and private cultivars grown in Washington.
9. Carbon sequestration.

WAWG, in conjunction with the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and Washington State University (WSU), should work toward greater Pacific Northwest support for USDA/ARS's NW Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit located in Pullman, WA to insure development of acceptable integrated methods of weed control and increased competitiveness of wheat and barley.

WAWG will work with environmental groups to find areas of mutual concern where both groups can financially support sound science research that focuses on solving environmental quality problems.

WAWG urges all growers to participate in coordinated farm research.

WAWG supports full and continued funding of the Ag and Food Research Initiative in the Farm Bill.

WAWG supports a collaborative approach to grain research between Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

WAWG supports the research of a reliable, consistent, quality-testing method to replace the existing falling number test as a grading factor on wheat.

WAWG supports research to determine if using a lower falling number standard would affect end-use quality.

RESEARCH FUNDING

WAWG supports efforts to fund WSU, Agricultural Research Center and University Extension at the level of its peer institutions.

WAWG supports Plant Variety Protection (PVP) for new publicly released varieties of wheat developed at WSU that need Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection for varieties developed with public funds.

WAWG requests that technical positions at Washington State University in the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences be funded by the Washington State Legislature.

WAWG supports stabilized or increased funding to the ARS facilities in Pullman, WA.

WAWG supports and encourages the American wheat and barley industry to join National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research Initiative (C-FAR), with the rest of the agricultural industry, to double agricultural research funding.

WAWG will seek additional research funding for the land grant schools and USDA ARS for collaborative research to improve the consistency of the current falling numbers testing protocol and to study improved late maturity alpha amylase measuring tools for the future.

WAWG supports the WSU Plant Sciences and Global Animal Health Phase II capital building projects.

EDUCATION

WAWG supports and encourages standardization of wheat quality testing protocols, procedures, and data reporting between the four Pacific Northwest wheat quality testing laboratories. This includes the USDA-ARS Western Wheat Quality Laboratory located in Pullman, WA; the Wheat Marketing Center, Inc., located in Portland, OR; and the University of Idaho Wheat Quality Laboratory, located in Aberdeen, ID, the Oregon State University, and Wheat Quality Laboratory located in Corvallis, OR.

WAWG supports Washington State University retaining full authority to use, manage, buy and sell research real estate properties that they own and oversee.

INNOVATION THROUGH NOVEL BREEDING

Advancing breeding technology holds great promise for the future and the US wheat industry values these advancements. In preparation for the future commercialization of wheat derived through these technologies, we take the following positions:

1. We support and will work to ensure the ability of wheat producers to make planting and marketing choices based on economic, agronomic, and market factors.
2. We support the ability of our wheat customers to make purchases on the basis of specific traits. We commit ourselves to the principle that our customers' needs are vitally important.
3. We support and will assist in the development by all segments of the industry of an orderly marketing system to assure delivery of non-transgenic wheat to markets that require it.
4. We urge the adoption of nationally and internationally accepted definition of generally accepted breeding technology. We also urge international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.
5. We support voluntary labeling of food products derived from specific breeding technologies provided these technologies are consistent with US law and international trade agreements and are truthful and not misleading. We support the establishment of a reasonable threshold level for adventitious or accidental inclusion of transgenic traits in bulk wheat or wheat food products in both U.S. and international markets.
6. We are confident that continued advances in breeding techniques will deliver significant consumer and producer benefits, and we support continued advanced research and product and market development. We invite valued and interested customers to join with us in a working partnership to capitalize on emerging novel wheat breeding technologies.

STATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION

WAWG supports the WSU CAHNRS budget requests.

WAWG opposes restrictions on roadside spraying that will compromise fire and weed management.

WAWG firmly opposes state legislation creating collective bargaining for agricultural workers.

WAWG supports maintaining the integrity of dedicated state funds and accounts. Any associated accrued interest should be appropriated to and used for only their original intent.

WAWG supports the policy that, if state agriculture programs, including research dollars, are subject to budget cuts to achieve deficit reduction, the same percentage of cuts should apply to all state government programs.

WAWG opposes state legislation and regulations pertaining to greenhouse gases that are economically disruptive such as cap and trade, carbon tax, or a low carbon fuel standard. WAWG supports the use of voluntary incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather than mandates.

WAWG supports voluntary development and deployment of greenhouse gas reduction technology.

WAWG supports a guest worker program that secures the borders of the US and provides a legal, affordable and stable workforce for agriculture.

TAXES

WAWG positions on state tax policy are:

1. Support the Open Space Act.
2. Support tax and spending reform and elimination of the B&O tax.
3. Oppose taxes and policies that hinder intra-family transfers of family farms.
4. Oppose removal of lands from local tax rolls through state and federal acquisition without compensation to local taxing jurisdictions. (PILT)
5. Oppose any changes to any tax preferences that would be harmful to agriculture.
6. Tax increases must be voted on by affected voters.
7. Removal of the state portion of the sales tax on all farm equipment.
8. Support the ag exemption for the overtime payroll rules.
9. Support raising the state's estate tax exemption to match the federal estate tax exemption.

WAWG supports to promote and continually update the study on the value of ag tax preferences to the state of Washington.

WAWG supports efforts to retain or improve our agriculture tax preferences which assist us in competing in a domestic and international marketplace.

REGULATORY REFORM

WAWG supports legislative and administrative efforts to enact and implement state regulatory reforms that would reduce regulatory burdens on individuals and businesses.

WAWG supports the concept that whenever governmental actions adversely affect the value or use of private property, the owner must be fairly compensated.

WAWG will work with all organized user groups, state agencies and the legislature to ensure departmental rule making is consistent with legislative intent and to promote an efficient and responsive management process in the state of Washington.

WAWG supports the public right to know who has filed an environmental quality management complaint.

WAWG supports efforts to enact legislation requiring review of all agency budget programs or minimum of once every ten years, in efforts to cut wasteful spending and programs not meeting their intended reasons for implementations.

STATE AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture

WAWG positions on Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) issues are:

1. Supports continued WSDA administration of the regulation of agricultural chemical use versus Department of Ecology administration.

2. Supports continued WSDA administration of the grain inspection program versus federal administration.
3. Supports funding for the waste pesticide collection programs.
4. Supports maintaining legislative appropriations to WSDA at levels, which allow the department to efficiently and effectively perform its legislated responsibilities.

WAWG supports maintaining the WSDA as a standalone agency.

WAWG supports the Conservation Commission to remain as an independent agency.

Department of Ecology

WAWG supports funding for conservation districts to assist landowners and operators to implement necessary conservation practices to maintain clean water.

WAWG believes Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) should be determined by landowners, operators and local conservation experts.

WAWG supports a MOA between the DOE and local conservation districts.

WAWG supports participation in the DOE Ag and Water Quality Advisory Committee.

Department of Employment Security

WAWG supports cutting Employment Security unemployment insurance (UI) rates to reduce any excessive surpluses in the UI account and opposes increased spending on training and benefits programs.

Department of Labor and Industries

WAWG positions on Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) issues are:

1. Opposes farm safety regulations that are burdensome and unnecessary.
2. Requests direct mailings to growers of proposed and adopted changes to the Agricultural Safety Code in language easily understood by growers.
3. Supports adoption of a more flexible industrial insurance system that would allow private insurance and group self-insurance.

WAWG will continue to work with other agricultural employer groups, the legislature, and L&I to ensure that both the content and the format of the Agricultural Safety Code are conducive to the maintenance of farm safety in our state.

WAWG will work with L&I to develop various strategies, such as the breaking out of rates, based on specific farm operations in an effort to keep the rates lower.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

WAWG shall regularly meet with the Commissioner of Public Lands, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or his/her designated representatives to discuss issues of mutual concern.

WAWG opposes DNR and Fish and Wildlife aggressively acquiring and purchasing agricultural land to form any new land trusts for the state.

WAWG supports the Conservation Stewardship Program and Ag Land Easement (ALE) be eligible on State Trust Lands, managed by DNR.

WAWG opposes state agencies aggressively acquiring and purchasing agricultural land over a fair market value.

WAWG opposes state agencies acquiring new land until they are current with the (payment in lieu of taxes) PILT payments.

State Noxious Weed Board

WAWG will work with the State Noxious Weed Board and the legislature to ensure that any amendments to the state noxious weed laws and regulations are necessary, practical, and effective.

EDUCATION

WAWG encourages its members and leaders to:

1. Communicate and cooperate with other agricultural organizations and companies (partnerships) to collectively influence agricultural policy.
2. Have an active and frequent presence in Olympia.
3. Utilize the expertise of the WAWG lobbyist to inform the membership and help direct WAWG policy in Olympia.
4. Individually get involved in local and state political processes and work for the election of candidates favorable to agriculture.
5. Inform non-agricultural legislators of the value, needs and importance of agriculture in the state.

WAWG will monitor attempts to further restrict the freedoms of teaching our trade to interested children and young people.

WAWG opposes rules and regulations adversely effecting employment of young people on farms as long as adequate safety and educational training measures are maintained

WAWG support states' efforts that ask county commissioners to formally request in writing that the state and federal governments direct their employees do the following:

1. Consult with each respective county prior to implementing any laws, statutes, or US codes;
2. Follow and adhere to the aforementioned laws, statutes, or USCs, which would affect the economy, customs and culture of their county.

WAWG opposes any state laws or regulations, which are more restrictive than the 1987 federal manual for defining wetlands. Any such laws or regulations must require that all defining factors be present: soil type, water, air, plant type, animal, human, and energy (SWAPAHE).

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

WAWG will pursue all efforts to keep a well-maintained West Coast Trade Corridor. We will do so by helping to maintain or improve roadway, rail, and river (navigation) freight corridors.

ROAD

WAWG requests that any funds collected from any transportation source or mode be allocated back to transportation uses.

WAWG requests the Washington State Transportation Commission and WSDOT develop a statewide, long-term Freight Plan for Washington State that incorporates both infrastructure and funding plans.

WAWG will educate wheat farmers and continue to lobby against additional Interstate and Intrastate licensing issues for farm trucks and semi-tractor/trailer vehicles.

WAWG supports a farm-to-market exemption from interstate commerce regulatory enforcement to allow movement of a commodity from the farm to its first point of in-state delivery where title is transferred within the state of origin.

WAWG requests the WSDOT and county road departments continue annual roadside spraying programs for the abatement of weeds.

WAWG encourages the Washington State Patrol and WSDOT to expedite the implementation of the MAP-21 federal transportation law, especially the provisions exempting farm vehicles.

RAIL

WAWG supports the Palouse River Coulee City Rail Authority efforts to rebuild, refurbish, maintain and reconnect the short line rail system.

WAWG supports federal and state assistance for branch line track rehabilitation.

WAWG continues to encourage WSDOT to ensure the return and use of Washington Grain Train cars primarily on short lines in the Pacific Northwest AND to purchase additional Grain Train Cars when economically feasible.

WAWG encourages the state of Washington to ensure the mainline rail carriers provide grain cars to shippers in an economically fair and timely manner to ensure that state investment in short line infrastructure is not marginalized.

WAWG supports the Alliance for Rail Competition and their efforts for rail-to-rail competition.

WAWG urges members of Congress, the Surface Transportation Board and other responsible government entities, to prevent America's railroads from implementing unnecessary new railcar standards that would impede the timely and economical transportation of anhydrous ammonia, an essential fertilizer for wheat and the feedstock used to produce other nitrogen products. WAWG asks the legislature and WSDOT to use their influence to maintain trackage rights and access to the rail line to Wallula for future use.

WAWG supports increased Surface Transportation Board monitoring of railroad maintenance and improvements.

WAWG opposes the use of inverse rate structures by railroads and supports the nondiscriminatory geographic rates.

WAWG shall pursue all facets of rail issues that will provide relief to wheat growers on rail rates and service.

WAWG supports maintenance and expansion of intermodal services that service agricultural products.

RIVERS

WAWG will continue membership of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and will hold a position on its board of directors.

WAWG supports a strong barge, river and port system with continued federal and state funding for operations, maintenance and improvement of the region's inland waterways, infrastructure, and coastal harbor channels. WAWG will work with other groups to reduce the impact of the river closure maintenance.

WAWG encourages Washington State legislators to actively support and pursue rivers (navigation) as an integral part of freight mobility in relieving rail and road congestion.

WAWG supports retaining congressional authority over navigation and the other congressionally authorized purposes of the federal Columbia-Snake River System projects.

WAWG opposes the removal or breaching of any dams, and excessive spill and flow augmentation within the Columbia/Snake River system.

WAWG supports development of biologically effective salmon recovery measures that maintain the existing federally authorized, multiple-use river system.

WAWG strongly endorses the routine maintenance of the Columbia-Snake River Navigational Channel at authorized depth via dredging and/or by adjusting reservoir pool levels.

WAWG supports funding for short- and long-term repair needs of jetties at the mouth of the Columbia River.

WAWG supports Columbia River Treaty efforts which protect the viability of US navigation, hydropower, irrigation, and flood control.

WAWG supports a flood control approach that does not cause impacts to the safety or efficiency of navigation on the Columbia or Snake rivers.

MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS INFORMATION COMMITTEE

EDUCATION

WAWG shall actively produce public information and educational programs in order to increase the awareness of wheat and agriculture's importance to the state and nation's economy.

WAWG encourages the Washington Grain Commission and Washington Wheat Foundation to continue funding public informational programs.

WAWG urges the WGC to continue to fund and assist the Wheat Foods Council and other organizations dedicated to addressing the public regarding wheat's nutritional value.

Each county association of wheat growers is encouraged to annually help fund agriculture education programs such as Agriculture in Washington Resources for Educators.

WAWG will maintain an active website, linked to other wheat industry sites for complete information and education for members and the public.

VALUE ADDED SERVICE, PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

WAWG will engage various companies to offer optional value-added services to individual WAWG members and associates. Officers, Executive Committee, staff and the WAWG Membership Committee will review and make recommendations to the WAWG Board of Directors for final approval.

MEMBERSHIP

WAWG encourages each county to:

1. Recruit all wheat producers as members.
2. Upgrade individual membership levels.

Optimize levels of communication on the national, state and local county level through newsletters, websites, Wheat Life and email.

State committees should maintain continuity in their plans and goals:

1. Each county should have a member assigned to each state committee.
2. Committee chairmen shall receive a job description, instruction and budget.

As representatives of WAWG, state officers and executive committee members should not publicly endorse political candidates.

Membership is the grassroots of WAWG.

Membership fees can change with growers needs. The following membership levels will be current until such time as the membership with proper procedure shall choose to change amounts (as outlined in Article X – Conventions or by Board motion to be reconfirmed at state annual meeting.)

Lifetime member dues remain as a permanent endowment (regardless of death) and only the interest from the permanent endowment may be used as non-restricted funds.

Only those lifetime members joining WAWG prior to November 21, 2009, shall receive a complimentary convention registration.

Harvest Plus Lifetime Membership dues will be 20 times that of the grower membership level. As of 11/21/2009 the amount is \$2,500 and payments over a three-year billing period is allowed and is non-refundable.

The dues for regular membership (voting) shall be:

- Grower/Landlord- \$125 per person per annum,
- Family - \$200 for up to 2 people per annum.
- Partnership - \$500 for up to 5 people per annum.
- Convention – \$600 for 2 individuals, membership and convention registration

The dues for student nonvoting membership

- Education - \$75.00 per annum, Wheat Life magazine and Green Sheet

The designated dues for Associate Members (non-voting) shall be:

- Level 1 Industry Supporter - \$150 per annum membership
- Level 2 VIP - \$500 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit \$250
- Level 3 CEO - \$1,800 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit \$1,050, AMMO \$500
- Level 4 Convention Sponsor - \$6,000 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit \$2,750, AMMO \$1,000, Convention Silver \$2,000
- Level 5 Platinum Sponsor - \$10,000 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit \$2,750, AMMO \$1,000, Convention Platinum \$6,000

The state association will provide Wheat Life magazine and either Green Sheet Alert via email or Green Sheet newsletter at all levels of membership.

The state association shall retain eighty-five (85%) percent of membership payments and fifteen (15%) percent shall be returned to the counties for their efforts towards membership. Lifetime member fees are excluded from the 85/15% amounts to be retained by the state and counties respectfully. County paybacks will be paid approximately twice a year.

Members are encouraged to donate to Legislative Action Fund, Washington Wheat PAC and Barley Boosters for state and national legislative lobbying, and to the Environment Stewardship Fund for fighting environmental issues that arise and directly affect growers.

2018 WAWG Resolutions passed at the 2017 Washington Association of Wheat Growers Annual Meeting at the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention on November, 9th, 2017.