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2 **Washington Association of Wheat Growers**  
3 **2019 Resolutions**  
4

5 **NATIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**  
6

7 WAWG opposes federal legislation or regulations that are economically disruptive such as cap  
8 and trade, carbon tax, or a low carbon fuel standard.  
9

10 WAWG supports a loan program that is based on the cost of production for each class of wheat  
11 (FAPRI) instead of being based on the market price of wheat.  
12

13 WAWG supports PCPs that are based on how wheat is marketed. Examples include 14%  
14 protein for DNS, 12% protein for Hard White, and 11.5% protein for Hard Red Winter wheat.  
15

16 WAWG encourages USDA to keep the wheat loan rate comparable with competitive crops, so  
17 wheat production is not at a farm program disadvantage.  
18

19 WAWG supports refinement to the grower questionnaires from National Ag Statistic Services  
20 (NASS) that would reduce the length of surveys with the elimination of redundant questions and  
21 the timely use of farm operator level data already reported to Farm Service Agency and Risk  
22 Management Agency.  
23

24 WAWG recommends that NASS include club wheat as a category in surveys where seeded  
25 acres, production and stored bushels are required. Stocks of club wheat shall be reported in the  
26 June 1 stocks report, and acres and production in the September 30<sup>th</sup> Small Grains Report.  
27

28 WAWG supports a higher statutory reference price for PLC.  
29

30 WAWG supports a consistent ARC floor price with the final PLC reference price.  
31

32 WAWG supports giving FSA authority to use the most accurate available data whether it is from  
33 NASS or RMA.  
34

35 **BARLEY**  
36

37 WAWG encourages USDA to keep the barley loan rate comparable with competitive crops, so  
38 barley production is not at a farm program disadvantage.  
39

40 **FARM PROGRAM**  
41

42 WAWG opposes means testing for any Farm Program payment or crop insurance subsidy.  
43

44 WAWG does not support any form of government owned reserves.  
45

46 WAWG supports the present system of electing farmers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
47 County Committee.  
48

49 WAWG will work with and lobby appropriate officials to continue the policy that allows the FSA  
50 county committee to make "Good Faith Determinations" each year.  
51

52 Wheat growers should be able to lock in Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) payment rates for  
53 wheat any time after April 1st, or after their wheat is harvested, whichever comes first.  
54

55 WAWG supports the implementation of the conservation portion of the farm bill. However, we do  
56 not support the use of other program funds to support the conservation part of the program.  
57

58 WAWG supports FSA deducting all shipping/handling and quality discounts from all commodity  
59 loan proceeds.  
60

61 WAWG supports adequate funding for local FSA county offices.  
62

### 63 **RISK MANAGEMENT** 64

65 WAWG supports adoption of a consistent USDA wide pack factor when calculating bushels of  
66 stored grain to more accurately reflect actual quantity.  
67

68 WAWG will continue to work with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to improve the wheat  
69 policy and recommends the following changes in the wheat contract:  
70

- 71 1. RMA should allow the regional office the ability to make changes in the final planting  
72 dates when agronomic conditions are such that many farmers, while farming using good  
73 economical and agronomic practices, cannot meet the final planting date of the policy.  
74

75 WAWG urges RMA to allow producers to select different coverage levels and price elections for  
76 irrigated and non-irrigated, and different types and classes of wheat.  
77

78 WAWG recommends the RMA allow crop insurance proceeds on Schedule F be included as  
79 income for whole farm crop insurance purposes.  
80

81 WAWG opposes any division (lines) within a county for crop insurance purposes.  
82

83 WAWG recommends that RMA address the issue of APH adjustments for uninsured causes  
84 (such as fire wildlife damage) due to no fault of the grower.  
85

86 WAWG recommends that RMA attach full insurance coverage at time of planting for replant  
87 payment purposes.  
88

89 WAWG supports programs that promote outreach and education concerning RMA programs.  
90

91 WAWG opposes linking conservation compliance to crop insurance program participation.  
92

93 WAWG supports the option of a new landowner using the APH yield from the previous operator  
94 regardless of acreage in the county.  
95

96 WAWG supports changes in the federal crop insurance policy to allow all classes of wheat to be  
97 insured as separate crops.  
98

99 WAWG supports a ten year average APH for insurance purposes if given the option.  
100

101 WAWG supports crop insurance special provisions that allow lower discounts for quality in all  
102 classes of wheat.  
103

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

105

106

## **TAXES**

107

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

112

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

115

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

117

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

120

## **MARKETING COMMITTEE**

122

123

## **TRADE**

124

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

127

128 WAWG urges international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.

129

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

132

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

136

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

139

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

142

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

147

148 WAWG supports increased trade through free trade agreements.

149

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

152

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

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

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

162 WAWG supports bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that are favorable to the U.S. wheat  
163 industry as a top priority for USTR. (US Trade Representative)

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

166  
167 WAWG encourages the Administration and USTR's office to fully comply and enforce WTO  
168 rules and regulations, utilizing the trade dispute settlement system as the best way to eliminate  
169 foreign trade barriers.

#### 170 171 **FARM PROGRAM**

172  
173 WAWG will promote, develop or pursue adequate state or federal funding for any and all farm  
174 programs on marketing and export.

175  
176 WAWG supports development of a sound agricultural export policy to ensure U.S.  
177 competitiveness in the world market.

178  
179 WAWG shall encourage reduction of the regulatory and tax burdens on agriculture and  
180 supporting industries.

#### 181 182 **MARKETING**

183  
184 Wheat and barley should be marketed on a 12% fixed moisture basis.

185  
186 US Grain Standards should reflect and identify end-use characteristics of grain, foreign or  
187 domestic, as set and approved by the Federal Grain Inspection Service. An end-use certificate  
188 should remain with the grain even though possession or identity may change.

189  
190 WAWG encourages grain segregation based on customer needs or market demands.

#### 191 192 **RESEARCH**

193  
194 WAWG supports restoring funding for the IMPACT Center (International Marketing Program for  
195 Agricultural Commodities & Trade) at Washington State University (WSU) to research  
196 international markets, product development, and to assess the implementation of policy  
197 changes for the U.S. wheat industry.

198  
199 WAWG supports continued funding through the WGC for WSU/USDA-ARS Minimum Quality  
200 Standards project - G & E study. ("G" represents the genetic component of wheat quality and  
201 "E" represents the environmental component)

202

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

206  
207 WAWG encourages other states to adopt a zero tolerance for goat grass in certified seed.  
208

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

211  
212 WAWG encourages additional financial support from state and federal agencies to develop new  
213 value added industries for the use of straw and grains, including but not limited to tax incentives,  
214 building code changes, low interest loans and grants.

## 215 216 **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

### 217 218 **CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

219  
220 WAWG supports laws and regulations that allow Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program  
221 (CREP) funds to be used to implement conservation practices for either endangered species  
222 recovery or clean water.

223  
224 WAWG opposes public acquisition of private land without providing for the loss in property tax  
225 revenue to local governments.

226  
227 WAWG supports federally sponsored programs promoting all natural resource conservation  
228 programs provided they include strong local input and control.

229  
230 WAWG supports tax law changes and cost share programs that would provide incentives for  
231 producers to invest in equipment that is designed for conservation.

232  
233 Long-term resource retirement or rental program payments should reflect the productive value  
234 of the land, protect its crop history base, and not require additional restrictive measures upon  
235 lands returned to production.

236  
237 WAWG requests that agricultural representatives and producers be involved in the planning and  
238 implementation of government programs and regulations at federal, state and local levels to  
239 ensure that regulations are socially and economically feasible for growers.

240  
241 WAWG supports NRCS' Local Working Group process to remain in local conservation district  
242 control.

243  
244 WAWG supports consolidation of conservation programs as long as flexibility in implementation  
245 of the program is maintained and/or increased.

246  
247 WAWG acknowledges that soil erosion, to some degree, is a naturally occurring event, but  
248 through the use of research, technology and BMPs the land will remain productive for  
249 generations into the future.

250  
251 WAWG urges state and federal agencies to utilize voluntary, incentive-based conservation  
252 practices when regulating the Clean Water and Clean Air acts, rather than issuing regional or  
253 statewide mandates.

254

255 WAWG recognizes NRCS, Washington State Conservation Commission and local conservation  
256 districts as the authorities in conservation technical guidance throughout the state, and urges  
257 state and federal regulators to also recognize them as the authorities and support funding them  
258 accordingly.

259  
260 WAWG opposes a federal or state agency requiring that a landowner install a prescribed  
261 practice on their land as a precondition to receiving any other federal or state cost share  
262 funding.

263  
264 WAWG supports maintaining the trust relationship between USDA and farmers, and opposes  
265 NRCS using employees from other organizations that would violate that trust.

266  
267 WAWG supports adequate funding for NRCS technical assistance and implementations of Farm  
268 Bill conservation programs.

269  
270 WAWG supports efforts to implement quality assurances within NRCS programs in a consistent,  
271 accountable manner.

272  
273 WAWG supports RCPP that enhances the sustainability of wheat production in Washington  
274 State.

275  
276 WAWG supports identification of roles and responsibilities of USDA agencies through  
277 collaboration of data.

278  
279 WAWG supports any federal or state agency (except for emergency services) to give notice to  
280 the land owner or tenant prior to the inspection of their property.

281  
282 WAWG supports transparency from private to public, state and federal agencies, when utilizing  
283 drones or other forms of electronic data.

284  
285 WAWG supports ensuring that organic producers are held to the same standards as those set  
286 for conventional production.

287  
288 **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

289  
290 WAWG supports the use of EBI score criteria that does not change for the life of the farm bill.

291  
292 WAWG supports the establishment of a conservation priority area (CPA) for grouse that is  
293 exempt from current state CPA zone acre cap.

294  
295 The CRP payment exemptions and the death benefits that apply to the landlord's heirs should  
296 also apply to the operator's heirs.

297  
298 WAWG supports CRP when it is part of the economic and environmental portfolio of a working  
299 farm.

300  
301 WAWG supports adjusting EBI numbers to reflect the fact that CRP cover has habitat value for  
302 wildlife.

303  
304 CRP plant stands should be kept as weed-free as possible.

305  
306 CRP plant stand evaluations should be based on original certification standards.

307 WAWG supports increased CRP rental rates for water way buffers.  
308  
309 WAWG supports expanding Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to include  
310 intermittent, ephemeral and perennial waters.  
311  
312 WAWG encourages increased communication with federal and state agencies that are  
313 writing rules and regulations, standards and technical guidance that have potential major  
314 impacts to our natural resources at the local level without local input.  
315  
316 WAWG supports CSP being recognized as a conservation practice for CRP bid  
317 submission.  
318  
319 WAWG supports efforts to realign CRP contract duration for continuous and general  
320 CRP contracts thus allowing the entire field to be returned to production at the same  
321 point in time.  
322  
323 WAWG supports separate payment limitations between CRP, CBS (Contour Buffer  
324 Strips), CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) and SAFE (State Acres  
325 for Wildlife Enhancement) among priority areas.  
326  
327 WAWG supports raising the individual payment limitation for CRP from \$50,000 to  
328 \$100,000.  
329  
330 WAWG supports research into how acreage is determined in the Conservation Priority  
331 Area (CPA) area.  
332  
333 WAWG requests financial accommodation from Farm Service Agency in cases of natural  
334 disasters that impair previously established CRP stands.  
335  
336 WAWG supports the allocation of higher bid points to CRP for farmland that is located in  
337 12 inch or below precipitation zones to address air or water quality concerns.  
338  
339 WAWG supports revising the CRP-TIP program to remove the limitations on payments  
340 to the retiring farmer or operator if the “covered farmer” (TIP application) is a family  
341 member as defined in section 1001 of the Food Security act of 1985.

### **CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)**

342  
343  
344  
345 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payment limitation rules should be changed to follow  
346 standard FSA “person determination” guidelines.  
347  
348 WAWG supports a CSP program will be administered by FSA with technical work done by  
349 NRCS.  
350  
351 A producer who farms state and federally owned lands should be eligible to participate in CSP.  
352  
353 WAWG supports raising the individual payment limitation for CSP from \$40,000 to  
354 \$100,000.  
355  
356 WAWG supports allowing growers to renew CSP contracts to enter into a third CSP contract  
357 period.  
358

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

361  
362

### 363 **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)**

364

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

367

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

370

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

373

374 WAWG supports an ESA baseline that includes dams.

375

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

379

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

382

383 WAWG opposes the listing of sage grouse as endangered.

384

### 385 **WATER**

386

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

389

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

393

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

395

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

399

400 WAWG supports keeping an exempt well statute.

401

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

404

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

407

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

410



411 WAWG encourages EPA to use the WSDA Water Monitoring Data results during their rule  
412 making on agricultural issues.  
413  
414 WAWG opposes unreasonable buffer zones that are in excess of label recommendations for  
415 waterways that are not based on sound science.  
416  
417 WAWG actively opposes an increase in water right application fees and opposes instituting an  
418 annual water management service fee.  
419  
420 WAWG will work with the state legislature, agricultural organizations, etc. to explore rewriting  
421 the WAC or propose new legislation that improves the potential visual citation process and  
422 improves the working relationship with land owners, managers of our natural resources.  
423  
424 WAWG encourages agricultural group participation in the decision-making process that defines  
425 “substantial potential to pollute” in Washington state.  
426  
427 WAWG encourages the state’s water quality authority to continue to participate in the non-point  
428 source pollution advisory council.  
429  
430 WAWG supports rescinding the proposed Waters of the US regulation.  
431  
432 WAWG opposes any expansion of regulatory authority of Waters of the US by the EPA and  
433 Corps of Engineers.  
434  
435 WAWG supports a legislative fix to the Washington State Supreme Court Foster decision.  
436

### **AIR**

437  
438  
439 WAWG supports the option of controlled open field burning as a tool in agriculture’s effort to  
440 implement integrated pest management, manage residue and improve soil conservation  
441 practices.  
442  
443 WAWG opposes changes to the Washington Clean Air Act that will negatively affect agriculture.  
444  
445 WAWG supports the Department of Ecology’s program to educate both the public and growers  
446 about smoke management for public health.  
447  
448 WAWG supports field burning regulations based on Best Management Practices (BMPs)  
449 administered at the local level.  
450  
451 WAWG will work with the appropriate agencies to refine BMPs to reduce emission from ag  
452 burning.  
453  
454 WAWG will continue to work with federal and state agencies and university researchers to study  
455 the origins and effects of naturally occurring fugitive dust.  
456  
457 WAWG opposes any agricultural dust and air quality particle size regulations.  
458  
459 WAWG opposes air quality restrictions that reduce particle size and micron limitations to air  
460 quality that results in a net loss to the Washington agricultural industry.  
461

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

464  
465 WAWG supports the Department of Ecology maintaining a seven day per week agricultural burn  
466 smoke management program.

467  
468 WAWG will work to ensure that air quality standards for ozone will not impact the Agriculture  
469 Burning Task Force agreements.

470  
471 WAWG supports collaboration and clear communication on the notification process for allowed  
472 ag burning between fire districts, Clean Air Authorities, and Department of Ecology.

473

474

## **ENERGY**

475

476 WAWG supports development of alternative sources of energy that benefit small grain  
477 producers.

478

479 WAWG urges that climate change proposals consider production of foodstuffs a national priority  
480 and avoid negative impact upon the costs and adequacy of supplies of essential inputs used to  
481 produce crops.

482

483 WAWG endorses all hydropower as a qualifying renewable resource.

484

485 WAWG supports a change in the Energy Independence Act that would allow utilities to delay  
486 buying power from eligible renewable sources until their demand grows enough that they need  
487 the additional power.

488

489 WAWG opposes increasing the renewable portfolio standard or limiting the ability of utilities to  
490 acquire new power sources as long as hydropower is not considered a qualifying renewable  
491 resource under the Energy Independence Act.

492

493

## **CROP PROTECTION**

494

495 Registrations for agricultural chemicals in the US and Canada should be harmonized.

496

497 WAWG will work with pesticide manufacturers, regulatory agencies and research universities to  
498 gain and maintain pesticide registrations that are recognized by all federal agencies.

499

500 WAWG supports increased federal funding for import food inspections.

501

502 WAWG recommends that imported food inspections be conducted by USDA.

503

504 WAWG supports the professional use of pesticides and best management practices.

505

506 WAWG opposes mandatory reporting of agricultural pesticide use to governmental agencies.

507

508 WAWG will study, comment on, or oppose any efforts, governmental or otherwise, to remove  
509 the labels from commonly used agricultural pesticides in the Pacific Northwest.

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**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)**

Best Management Practices (BMP) and preservation of crop residue for Alternative Conservation Systems (ACS) acreage should reflect local BMPs as developed and revised locally. Conservation District boards should retain the authority to develop ACS.

WAWG will strive to ensure that all BMPs will be written to continue the economic sustainability of current farm units.

WAWG requests federal and state agencies recognize local innovative conservation and BMPs and give farmers credit for using practices that effectively protect the natural resources on their farms.

WAWG will work with agencies to evaluate local BMPs that help protect ground water.

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.
10. Herbicide resistance in weeds.

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

571  
572 WAWG will work with environmental groups to find areas of mutual concern where both groups  
573 can financially support sound science research that focuses on solving environmental quality  
574 problems.

575  
576 WAWG urges all growers to participate in coordinated farm research.

577  
578 WAWG supports full and continued funding of the Ag and Food Research Initiative in the Farm  
579 Bill.

580  
581 WAWG supports a collaborative approach to grain research between Idaho, Oregon, and  
582 Washington.

583  
584 WAWG supports the research of a reliable, consistent, quality-testing method to replace the  
585 existing falling number test as a grading factor on wheat.

586  
587 WAWG supports research to determine if using a lower falling number standard would affect  
588 end-use quality.

589  
590 WAWG supports Washington State Soil Health initiative which provides funding to Washington  
591 State University, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and the Washington State  
592 Conservation Commission to conduct research, pilot projects and incentivize adoption as  
593 practices that improve soil health and improve agricultural productivity.

594  
595 **RESEARCH FUNDING**

596  
597 WAWG supports efforts to fund WSU, Agricultural Research Center and University Extension at  
598 the level of its peer institutions.

599  
600 WAWG supports Plant Variety Protection (PVP) for new publicly released varieties of wheat  
601 developed at WSU that need Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection for varieties  
602 developed with public funds.

603  
604 WAWG requests that technical positions at Washington State University in the College of  
605 Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences be funded by the Washington State  
606 Legislature.

607  
608 WAWG supports stabilized or increased funding to the ARS facilities in Pullman, WA.

609  
610 WAWG supports and encourages the American wheat and barley industry to join National  
611 Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research Initiative (C-FAR), with the rest of the agricultural  
612 industry, to double agricultural research funding.

613  
614 WAWG will seek additional research funding for the land grant schools and USDA ARS for  
615 collaborative research to improve the consistency of the current falling numbers testing protocol  
616 and to study improved late maturity alpha amylase measuring tools for the future.

617

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

620  
621 WAWG supports the Washington Grain Commission, WSU and USDA ARS to secure  
622 sustainable and perpetual funding sources for club wheat research.

## 623 **EDUCATION**

624  
625  
626 WAWG supports and encourages standardization of wheat quality testing protocols,  
627 procedures, and data reporting between the four Pacific Northwest wheat quality testing  
628 laboratories. This includes the USDA-ARS Western Wheat Quality Laboratory located in  
629 Pullman, WA; the Wheat Marketing Center, Inc., located in Portland, OR; and the University of  
630 Idaho Wheat Quality Laboratory, located in Aberdeen, ID, the Oregon State University, and  
631 Wheat Quality Laboratory located in Corvallis, OR.

632  
633 WAWG supports Washington State University retaining full authority to use, manage, buy and  
634 sell research real estate properties that they own and oversee.

## 635 **INNOVATION THROUGH NOVEL BREEDING**

636  
637  
638 Advancing breeding technology holds great promise for the future and the US wheat industry  
639 values these advancements. In preparation for the future commercialization of wheat derived  
640 through these technologies, we take the following positions:

- 641
- 642 1. We support and will work to ensure the ability of wheat producers to make planting and  
643 marketing choices based on economic, agronomic, and market factors.
  - 644 2. We support the ability of our wheat customers to make purchases on the basis of  
645 specific traits. We commit ourselves to the principle that our customers' needs are vitally  
646 important.
  - 647 3. We support and will assist in the development by all segments of the industry of an  
648 orderly marketing system to assure delivery of non-transgenic wheat to markets that  
649 require it.
  - 650 4. We urge the adoption of nationally and internationally accepted definition of generally  
651 accepted breeding technology. We also urge international harmonization of scientific  
652 standards and trade rules.
  - 653 5. We support voluntary labeling of food products derived from specific breeding  
654 technologies provided these technologies are consistent with US law and international  
655 trade agreements and are truthful and not misleading. We support the establishment of a  
656 reasonable threshold level for adventitious or accidental inclusion of transgenic traits in  
657 bulk wheat or wheat food products in both U.S. and international markets.
  - 658 6. We are confident that continued advances in breeding techniques will deliver significant  
659 consumer and producer benefits, and we support continued advanced research and  
660 product and market development. We invite valued and interested customers to join with  
661 us in a working partnership to capitalize on emerging novel wheat breeding  
662 technologies.

## 663 **STATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

### 664 **LEGISLATION**

665  
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667  
668 WAWG supports the WSU CAHNRS budget requests.

669

670 WAWG opposes restrictions on roadside spraying that will compromise fire and weed  
671 management.  
672  
673 WAWG opposes state legislation creating collective bargaining for agricultural workers.  
674  
675 WAWG supports maintaining the integrity of dedicated state funds and accounts. Any  
676 associated accrued interest should be appropriated to and used for only their original intent.  
677  
678 WAWG supports the policy that, if state agriculture programs, including research dollars, are  
679 subject to budget cuts to achieve deficit reduction, the same percentage of cuts should apply to  
680 all state government programs.  
681  
682 WAWG opposes state legislation and regulations pertaining to greenhouse gases that are  
683 economically disruptive such as cap and trade, carbon tax, or a low carbon fuel standard.  
684 WAWG supports the use of voluntary incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather  
685 than mandates.  
686  
687 WAWG supports voluntary development and deployment of greenhouse gas reduction  
688 technology.  
689  
690 WAWG supports a guest worker program that secures the borders of the US and provides a  
691 legal, affordable and stable workforce for agriculture.

## 692 **TAXES**

693  
694  
695 WAWG positions on state tax policy are:

- 696 1. Support the Open Space Act.
- 697 2. Support tax and spending reform and elimination of the B&O tax.
- 698 3. Oppose taxes and policies that hinder intra-family transfers of family farms.
- 699 4. Oppose removal of lands from local tax rolls through state and federal acquisition  
700 without compensation to local taxing jurisdictions. (PILT)
- 701 5. Oppose any changes to any tax preferences that would be harmful to agriculture.
- 702 6. Tax increases must be voted on by affected voters.
- 703 7. Removal of the state portion of the sales tax on all farm equipment.
- 704 8. Support the ag exemption for the overtime payroll rules.
- 705 9. Support raising the state's estate tax exemption to match the federal estate tax  
706 exemption.  
707

708  
709 WAWG supports to promote and continually update the study on the value of ag tax preferences  
710 to the state of Washington.

711  
712 WAWG supports efforts to retain or improve our agriculture tax preferences which assist us in  
713 competing in a domestic and international marketplace.

## 714 **REGULATORY REFORM**

715  
716  
717 WAWG supports legislative and administrative efforts to enact and implement state regulatory  
718 reforms that would reduce regulatory burdens on individuals and businesses.

719  
720 WAWG supports the concept that whenever governmental actions adversely affect the value or  
721 use of private property, the owner must be fairly compensated.

722  
723 WAWG will work with all organized user groups, state agencies and the legislature to ensure  
724 departmental rule making is consistent with legislative intent and to promote an efficient and  
725 responsive management process in the state of Washington.

726  
727 WAWG supports the public right to know who has filed an environmental quality management  
728 complaint.

729  
730 WAWG supports efforts to enact legislation requiring review of all agency budget programs or  
731 minimum of once every ten years, in efforts to cut wasteful spending and programs not meeting  
732 their intended reasons for implementations.

733  
734 **STATE AGENCIES**

735  
736 **Department of Agriculture**

737  
738 WAWG positions on Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) issues are:

- 739  
740 1. Supports continued WSDA administration of the regulation of agricultural chemical use  
741 versus Department of Ecology or Department of Health.  
742 2. Supports continued WSDA administration of the grain inspection program versus federal  
743 administration.  
744 3. Supports funding for the waste pesticide collection programs.  
745 4. Supports maintaining legislative appropriations to WSDA at levels, which allow the  
746 department to efficiently and effectively perform its legislated responsibilities.  
747 5. Supports funding for pesticide applicator training program which educates handlers and  
748 applicators on how to use pesticides safely and effectively.

749  
750 WAWG supports maintaining the WSDA as a standalone agency.

751  
752 WAWG supports the Conservation Commission to remain as an independent agency.

753  
754 WAWG supports the funding of Washington State trade promotion for expanding grain markets.

755  
756 **Department of Ecology**

757  
758 WAWG supports funding for conservation districts to assist landowners and operators to  
759 implement necessary conservation practices to maintain clean water.

760  
761 WAWG believes Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) should be determined by landowners,  
762 operators and local conservation experts.

763  
764 WAWG supports a MOA between the DOE and local conservation districts.

765  
766 WAWG supports participation in the DOE Ag and Water Quality Advisory Committee.

767  
768 **Department of Employment Security**

769  
770 WAWG supports cutting Employment Security unemployment insurance (UI) rates to reduce  
771 any excessive surpluses in the UI account and opposes increased spending on training and  
772 benefits programs.

773

774 **Department of Labor and Industries**

775

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

777

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

783

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

787

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

790

791 **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

792

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

795

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

798

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

801

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

804

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

807

808 WAWG opposes DNR utilizing a highest and best use clause allowing early termination of  
809 agricultural leases without DNR paying penalties to the lessee for the remaining term of the  
810 lease.

811

812 **State Noxious Weed Board**

813

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

817

818 **EDUCATION**

819

820 WAWG encourages its members and leaders to:

821

- 822 1. Communicate and cooperate with other agricultural organizations and companies  
823 (partnerships) to collectively influence agricultural policy.  
824 2. Have an active and frequent presence in Olympia.



- 825 3. Utilize the expertise of the WAWG lobbyist to inform the membership and help direct  
826 WAWG policy in Olympia.  
827 4. Individually get involved in local and state political processes and work for the election of  
828 candidates favorable to agriculture.  
829 5. Inform non-agricultural legislators of the value, needs and importance of agriculture in  
830 the state.

831  
832 WAWG will monitor attempts to further restrict the freedoms of teaching our trade to interested  
833 children and young people.

834  
835 WAWG opposes rules and regulations adversely effecting employment of young people on  
836 farms as long as adequate safety and educational training measures are maintained

837  
838 WAWG support states' efforts that ask county commissioners to formally request in writing that  
839 the state and federal governments direct their employees do the following:

- 840  
841 1. Consult with each respective county prior to implementing any laws, statutes, or US  
842 codes;  
843 2. Follow and adhere to the aforementioned laws, statutes, or USCs, which would affect  
844 the economy, customs and culture of their county.

845  
846 WAWG opposes any state laws or regulations, which are more restrictive than the 1987 federal  
847 manual for defining wetlands. Any such laws or regulations must require that all defining factors  
848 be present: soil type, water, air, plant type, animal, human, and energy (SWAPAHE).

849  
850 **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

851  
852 WAWG will pursue all efforts to keep a well-maintained West Coast Trade Corridor. We will do  
853 so by helping to maintain or improve roadway, rail, and river (navigation) freight corridors.

854  
855 **ROAD**

856  
857 WAWG requests that any funds collected from any transportation source or mode be allocated  
858 back to transportation uses.

859  
860 WAWG requests the Washington State Transportation Commission and WSDOT develop a  
861 statewide, long-term Freight Plan for Washington State that incorporates both infrastructure and  
862 funding plans.

863  
864 WAWG will educate wheat farmers and continue to lobby against additional Interstate and  
865 Intrastate licensing issues for farm trucks and semi-tractor/trailer vehicles.

866  
867 WAWG supports a farm-to-market exemption from interstate commerce regulatory enforcement  
868 to allow movement of a commodity from the farm to its first point of in-state delivery where title  
869 is transferred within the state of origin.

870  
871 WAWG requests the WSDOT and county road departments continue annual roadside spraying  
872 programs for the abatement of weeds.

873  
874 WAWG encourages the Washington State Patrol and WSDOT to expedite the implementation of  
875 the MAP-21 federal transportation law, especially the provisions exempting farm vehicles.

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**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.

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

930  
931 WAWG opposes the removal or breaching of any dams, and excessive spill and flow  
932 augmentation within the Columbia/Snake River system.

933  
934 WAWG supports development of biologically effective salmon recovery measures that  
935 maintain the existing federally authorized, multiple-use river system.

936  
937 WAWG strongly endorses the routine maintenance of the Columbia-Snake River  
938 Navigational Channel at authorized depth via dredging and/or by adjusting reservoir pool  
939 levels.

940  
941 WAWG supports funding for short- and long-term repair needs of jetties at the mouth of  
942 the Columbia River.

943  
944 WAWG supports Columbia River Treaty efforts which protect the viability of US  
945 navigation, hydropower, irrigation, and flood control.

946  
947 WAWG supports a flood control approach that does not cause impacts to the safety or  
948 efficiency of navigation on the Columbia or Snake rivers.

949  
950 **MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

951  
952 **EDUCATION**

953  
954 WAWG shall actively produce public information and educational programs in order to increase  
955 the awareness of wheat and agriculture's importance to the state and nation's economy.

956  
957 WAWG encourages the Washington Grain Commission and Washington Wheat Foundation to  
958 continue funding public informational programs.

959  
960 WAWG urges the WGC to continue to fund and assist the Wheat Foods Council and other  
961 organizations dedicated to addressing the public regarding wheat's nutritional value.

962  
963 Each county association of wheat growers is encouraged to annually help fund agriculture  
964 education programs such as Agriculture in Washington Resources for Educators.

965  
966 WAWG will maintain an active website, linked to other wheat industry sites for complete  
967 information and education for members and the public.

968  
969 **VALUE ADDED SERVICE, PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

970  
971 WAWG will engage various companies to offer optional value-added services to individual  
972 WAWG members and associates. Officers, Executive Committee, staff and the WAWG  
973 Membership Committee will review and make recommendations to the WAWG Board of  
974 Directors for final approval.

975  
976 **MEMBERSHIP**

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978 WAWG encourages each county to:

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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.

1031 The state association shall retain eighty-five (85%) percent of membership payments and fifteen  
1032 (15%) percent shall be returned to the counties for their efforts towards membership. Lifetime  
1033 member fees are excluded from the 85/15% amounts to be retained by the state and counties  
1034 respectfully. County paybacks will be paid approximately twice a year.

1035

1036 Members are encouraged to donate to Legislative Action Fund, Washington Wheat PAC and  
1037 Barley Boosters for state and national legislative lobbying, and to the Environment Stewardship  
1038 Fund for fighting environmental issues that arise and directly affect growers.

1039

1040 ***2019 WAWG Resolutions passed at the 2018 Washington Association of Wheat***  
1041 ***Growers Annual Meeting at the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention on November,***  
1042 ***15th, 2018.***

1043