

1
2 **Washington Association of Wheat Growers**
3 **2020 Resolutions**
4

5 **NATIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**
6

7 WAWG opposes mandated climate change policy, such as the "Green New Deal" that would
8 suggest or propose to change farm size, farming practices, or current equipment. Additionally,
9 we oppose regulation of agriculture for social engineering.
10

11 WAWG supports recognizing agricultural practices as a benefit to the environment. Further, any
12 policy or regulation regarding conservation practices and technological advancements that aid
13 in the reduction of carbon emissions should be administered through the farm bill or the private
14 sector. The wheat industry should be fully involved in discussions and development of any
15 policy or legislation relating to climate change.
16

17 WAWG supports a loan program that is based on the cost of production for each class of wheat
18 (FAPRI) instead of being based on the market price of wheat.
19

20 WAWG supports PCPs that are based on how wheat is marketed. Examples include 14%
21 protein for DNS, 12% protein for Hard White, and 11.5% protein for Hard Red Winter wheat.
22

23 WAWG encourages USDA to keep the wheat loan rate comparable with competitive crops, so
24 wheat production is not at a farm program disadvantage.
25

26 WAWG supports refinement to the grower questionnaires from National Ag Statistic Services
27 (NASS) that would reduce the length of surveys with the elimination of redundant questions and
28 the timely use of farm operator level data already reported to Farm Service Agency and Risk
29 Management Agency.
30

31 WAWG recommends that NASS include club wheat as a category in surveys where seeded
32 acres, production and stored bushels are required. Stocks of club wheat shall be reported in the
33 June 1 stocks report, and acres and production in the September 30th Small Grains Report.
34

35 WAWG supports allowing producers to form health insurance purchasing cooperatives and/or
36 associations, including across state lines.
37

38 WAWG encourages the buildout of broadband internet infrastructure in rural America.
39

40 **BARLEY**
41

42 WAWG encourages USDA to keep the barley loan rate comparable with competitive crops, so
43 barley production is not at a farm program disadvantage.
44

45 **FARM PROGRAM**
46

47 WAWG opposes means testing for any Farm Program payment or crop insurance subsidy.
48

49 WAWG does not support any form of government owned reserves.
50

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

53
54 WAWG will work with and lobby appropriate officials to continue the policy that allows the FSA
55 county committee to make “Good Faith Determinations” each year.

56
57 Wheat growers should be able to lock in Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) payment rates for
58 wheat any time after April 1st, or after their wheat is harvested, whichever comes first.

59
60 WAWG supports the implementation of the conservation portion of the farm bill. However, we do
61 not support the use of other program funds to support the conservation part of the program.

62
63 WAWG supports FSA deducting all shipping/handling and quality discounts from all commodity
64 loan proceeds.

65
66 WAWG supports adequate funding for local FSA county offices.

67
68 WAWG supports a consistent ARC floor price with the final PLC reference price.

69
70 WAWG supports a higher statutory reference price for PLC.

71

72 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

73

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

76
77 WAWG will continue to work with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to improve the wheat
78 policy and recommends the following changes in the wheat contract:

79

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

83

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

86

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

89

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

91

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

94

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

97

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

99

100 WAWG opposes linking conservation compliance to crop insurance program participation.

101

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

104

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

107
108 WAWG supports a ten year average APH for insurance purposes if given the option.
109

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

112
113 WAWG opposes quality discounts in the calculation of Actual Production History (APH) values.
114

115 WAWG supports additional flexibility in prevented planting provisions which favor history of
116 participation instead of current year planting requirements for eligibility of the Enterprise Unit
117 structure.

118
119 **TAXES**

120
121 WAWG supports income averaging, Farm Account for Rural and Ranch Management (FARRM),
122 allow investment credits, favor capital gains-type investments, would eliminate federal estate
123 taxes permanently, retain cash basis accounting and would let all types of entities deduct health
124 insurance premiums.

125
126 WAWG supports the elimination of the Federal estate tax or a minimum level of \$11.4 million
127 per individual estate tax exemption indexed to inflation, retaining a step up in basis.
128

129 WAWG supports the exclusion of farm rental income from self-employment taxes.
130

131 WAWG supports the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) net income (i.e. Schedule F) figures for
132 determining agriculture's financial position.
133

134 WAWG supports reinstatement of the following for C-Corps: the 15% corporate tax rate for the
135 first \$50,000 in taxable income, the 100% deduction for farm meals, and the domestic
136 production activities deductions (199a) for C-Corps with less than \$1 million gross revenue.
137

138 WAWG supports a provision to allow for current year income to be 100% offset by a net
139 operating loss carried forward.
140

141 WAWG supports an increase in the mileage exemption for heavy highway vehicle use tax from
142 7,500 to 20,000 miles for agricultural vehicles, and the simplification of applying for exemption.
143

144 **MARKETING COMMITTEE**

145
146 **TRADE**

147
148 WAWG supports the continued donation of US-produced commodities to meet Food Aid
149 distribution needs, not cash donations.
150

151 WAWG urges international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.
152 WAWG recommends USW and NAWG work to see markets adhere to CODEX standards
153 regarding import specification.
154

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

158
159 WAWG urges Congress, the administration, and the USDA to continue to facilitate and
160 encourage trade with all of our world customers with innovative credit programs.

161
162 WAWG supports increased funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market
163 Development (FMD) and continued funding for the Ag Trade Promotion (ATP) Program.

164
165 WAWG opposes any trade distorting policies that interfere with the international shipment of
166 grain. Examples include but are not limited to: unilateral sanctions, embargoes, violations of
167 contract sanctity, cargo preference laws, Turkish flour dumping, SPS issues, State Trading
168 Enterprises (STE's) and the withholding of food as leverage to achieve political objectives.

169
170 WAWG urges US trade negotiators to protect domestic farm policies from being negotiated
171 away to benefit other sectors of the US economy.

172
173 WAWG calls for an open border with Canada that provides for reciprocal bilateral wheat trade
174 and encourages cooperation with Canadian producers and industry to achieve an open border
175 with reciprocal access.

176
177 WAWG supports protecting non-trade-distorting and minimally trade-distorting domestic farm
178 programs that maintain an adequate safety net.

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

183 WAWG supports bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that are favorable to the U.S. wheat
184 industry as a top priority for USTR (US Trade Representative). WAWG opposes any withdrawal
185 prior to any new trade agreement ratification.

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

188
189 WAWG encourages the Administration and USTR's office to fully comply and enforce WTO
190 rules and regulations, utilizing the trade dispute settlement system as the best way to eliminate
191 foreign trade barriers.

192 **FARM PROGRAM**

193
194
195 WAWG will promote, develop or pursue adequate state or federal funding for any and all farm
196 programs on marketing and export.

197
198 WAWG supports development of a sound agricultural export policy to ensure U.S.
199 competitiveness in the world market.

200
201 WAWG shall encourage reduction of the regulatory and tax burdens on agriculture and
202 supporting industries.

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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.

255 Long-term resource retirement or rental program payments should reflect the productive value
256 of the land, protect its crop history base, and not require additional restrictive measures upon
257 lands returned to production.
258
259 WAWG requests that agricultural representatives and producers be involved in the planning and
260 implementation of government programs and regulations at federal, state and local levels to
261 ensure that regulations are socially and economically feasible for growers.
262
263 WAWG supports NRCS' Local Working Group process to remain in local conservation district
264 control.
265
266 WAWG supports consolidation of conservation programs as long as flexibility in implementation
267 of the program is maintained and/or increased.
268
269 WAWG acknowledges that soil erosion, to some degree, is a naturally occurring event, but
270 through the use of research, technology and BMPs the land will remain productive for
271 generations into the future.
272
273 WAWG urges state and federal agencies to utilize voluntary, incentive-based conservation
274 practices when regulating the Clean Water and Clean Air acts, rather than issuing regional or
275 statewide mandates.
276
277 WAWG recognizes NRCS, Washington State Conservation Commission and local conservation
278 districts as the authorities in conservation technical guidance throughout the state, and urges
279 state and federal regulators to also recognize them as the authorities and support funding them
280 accordingly.
281
282 WAWG opposes a federal or state agency requiring that a landowner install a prescribed
283 practice on their land as a precondition to receiving any other federal or state cost share
284 funding.
285
286 WAWG supports maintaining the trust relationship between USDA and farmers, and opposes
287 NRCS using employees from other organizations that would violate that trust.
288
289 WAWG supports adequate funding for NRCS technical assistance and implementations of Farm
290 Bill conservation programs.
291
292 WAWG supports efforts to implement quality assurances within NRCS programs in a consistent,
293 accountable manner.
294
295 WAWG supports RCPP that enhances the sustainability of wheat production in Washington
296 State.
297
298 WAWG supports identification of roles and responsibilities of USDA agencies through
299 collaboration of data.
300
301 WAWG supports any federal or state agency (except for emergency services) to give notice to
302 the land owner or tenant prior to the inspection of their property.
303
304 WAWG supports transparency from private to public, state and federal agencies, when utilizing
305 drones or other forms of electronic data.
306

307 WAWG supports ensuring that organic producers are held to the same standards as those set
308 for conventional production.

309

310

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

311

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

313

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

316

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

319

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

322

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

325

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

327

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

329

330 WAWG supports increased CRP rental rates for water way buffers.

331

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

334

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

338

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

341

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

345

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

349

350 WAWG supports raising the individual payment limitation for CRP from \$50,000 to
351 \$100,000.

352

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

355

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

358

359 WAWG supports the allocation of higher bid points to CRP for farmland that is located in
360 12 inch or below precipitation zones to address air or water quality concerns.

361
362 WAWG supports revising the CRP-TIP program to remove the limitations on payments
363 to the retiring farmer or operator if the “covered farmer” (TIP application) is a family
364 member as defined in section 1001 of the Food Security act of 1985.

365
366 WAWG supports the Secretary of Ag to have the authority to waive the 25% CRP cap in
367 a county that has designated CPA (Critical Priority Areas) in that county.

368
369 WAWG supports the continual maintenance of CRP and the mid management practice
370 cost share.

371
372 **CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)**

373
374 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payment limitation rules should be changed to follow
375 standard FSA “person determination” guidelines.

376
377 WAWG supports a CSP program will be administered by FSA with technical work done by
378 NRCS.

379
380 A producer who farms state and federally owned lands should be eligible to participate in CSP.

381
382 WAWG supports raising the individual payment limitation for CSP from \$40,000 to
383 \$100,000.

384
385 WAWG supports allowing growers to renew CSP contracts to enter into a third CSP contract
386 period.

387
388 WAWG supports continued funding for the CSP program, if the program is cut or phased out we
389 support those funds being redirected to the EQIP programs rather than RCPP and easements.

390
391 **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)**

392
393 WAWG supports modifying the ESA to take into consideration the economic impact of
394 recovering endangered species.

395
396 WAWG believes that actions taken because of the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water
397 Act should be economically viable, biologically sound and respect land owners’ rights.

398
399 WAWG will work for economic stability in counties that have land in CRP and species that are
400 listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

401
402 WAWG supports an ESA baseline that includes dams.

403
404 WAWG supports efforts to update ESA law implementation to protect listed species by
405 developing and providing biologically sound, scientifically based, and cost effective measures
406 implemented in a way that maintains strong regional economies.

407
408 WAWG supports requiring local consultation before the implementation of any action done
409 under the authority of ESA.

410

411 WAWG opposes the listing of sage grouse as endangered.

412

413

WATER

414

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

417

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

421

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

423

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

427

428 WAWG supports keeping an exempt well statute.

429

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

432

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

435

436 WAWG opposes changing the definition in the CWA from “navigable waterways” to “all waters”
437 in the US.

438

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

441

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

444

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

447

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

451

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

454

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

457

458 WAWG supports rescinding the proposed Waters of the US regulation.

459

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

462

463 WAWG supports a legislative fix to the Washington State Supreme Court Foster decision.

464

465

AIR

466

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

470

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

472

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

475

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

478

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

481

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

484

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

486

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

489

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

492

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

495

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

498

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

501

502 WAWG does not support any cap and trade, carbon sequestration, or climate change provisions
503 without being a full partner in the development of any policy or legislation. WAWG supports
504 market-based legislation that is fair, affordable, and achievable using the best scientific
505 information, and does not make wheat growers less competitive in the global market, or add
506 undue costs.

507

ENERGY

508

509 WAWG supports development of alternative sources of energy that benefit small grain
510 producers.

511

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

515
516 WAWG endorses all hydropower as a qualifying renewable resource.
517
518 WAWG supports a change in the Energy Independence Act that would allow utilities to delay
519 buying power from eligible renewable sources until their demand grows enough that they need
520 the additional power.
521
522 WAWG opposes increasing the renewable portfolio standard or limiting the ability of utilities to
523 acquire new power sources as long as hydropower is not considered a qualifying renewable
524 resource under the Energy Independence Act.
525
526 WAWG supports opportunities to increase hydropower, nuclear energy, biomass, biogas,
527 hydrogen, renewable natural gas, renewable propane, and other low-carbon emitting sources of
528 energy.
529
530 WAWG supports the continued use of natural gas for grid reliability if the state adopts carbon
531 reduction legislation limiting the type of resources electric utilities are eligible to acquire and
532 serve their customers.
533

534 **CROP PROTECTION**

535
536 Registrations for agricultural chemicals in the US and Canada should be harmonized.
537
538 WAWG will work with pesticide manufacturers, regulatory agencies and research universities to
539 gain and maintain pesticide registrations that are recognized by all federal agencies.
540
541 WAWG supports increased federal funding for import food inspections.
542
543 WAWG recommends that imported food inspections be conducted by USDA.
544
545 WAWG supports the professional use of pesticides and best management practices.
546
547 WAWG opposes mandatory reporting of agricultural pesticide use to governmental agencies.
548
549 WAWG will study, comment on, or oppose any efforts, governmental or otherwise, to remove
550 the labels from commonly used agricultural pesticides in the Pacific Northwest.
551
552 WAWG supports the continued use of glyphosate for all applications.
553
554 WAWG opposes cancelling crop protection product labels or uses unless equivalent
555 replacement products are available.
556

557 **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)**

558
559 Best Management Practices (BMP) and preservation of crop residue for Alternative
560 Conservation Systems (ACS) acreage should reflect local BMPs as developed and revised
561 locally. Conservation District boards should retain the authority to develop ACS.
562
563 WAWG will strive to ensure that all BMPs will be written to continue the economic sustainability
564 of current farm units.
565

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

569
570 WAWG will work with agencies to evaluate local BMPs that help protect ground water.
571

572 WAWG will work with all agricultural organizations to educate the DOE so that they adopt local
573 BMPs, farm plans, and continue to use the NRCS technical guidelines that will result in the
574 protection of the natural resources and water quality.

575
576 Direct seeding is a useful management tool for some circumstances in our state, but it should
577 never be a mandated best management practice for the whole state, or specific regions.
578

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

583
584 WAWG supports that the NRCS change its rules to allow the counting of green growth (grower's
585 crop) in the calculation of residue for HEL compliance.
586

587 WAWG supports the Washington State Conservation Commission efforts to develop BMP's for
588 nonpoint pollution.
589

590 **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

591
592 WAWG strongly encourages the prioritization of wheat and barley research, including
593 discussions with all interested parties, in the following areas:
594

- 595 1. Production and varietal development.
- 596 2. All aspects of diseases, insects, weeds, winter hardiness, and sprout damage.
- 597 3. Soil fertility and plant nutrition.
- 598 4. Crop rotation and alternative crops.
- 599 5. Soil conservation (including continuation of the (Regional Approaches to Climate
600 Change).
- 601 6. Marketing (including the restoration of IMPACT – WSU's International Marketing
602 Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade and the Wheat Marketing
603 Center).
- 604 7. Agriculture economics
- 605 8. Grain quality and varietal testing of all public and private cultivars grown in
606 Washington.
- 607 9. Carbon sequestration.
- 608 10. Explore and develop new weed control strategies that minimize development of
609 herbicide resistance in weeds.
610

611 WAWG, in conjunction with the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and Washington State
612 University (WSU), should work toward greater Pacific Northwest support for USDA/ARS's NW
613 Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit located in Pullman, WA to insure development of
614 acceptable integrated methods of weed control and increased competitiveness of wheat and
615 barley.
616

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

620
621 WAWG urges all growers to participate in coordinated farm research.

622
623 WAWG supports full and continued funding of the Ag and Food Research Initiative in the Farm
624 Bill.

625
626 WAWG supports a collaborative approach to grain research between Idaho, Oregon, and
627 Washington.

628
629 WAWG supports the research of a reliable, consistent, quality-testing method to replace the
630 existing falling number test as a grading factor on wheat.

631
632 WAWG supports research to determine if using a lower falling number standard would affect
633 end-use quality.

634
635 WAWG supports Washington State Soil Health initiative which provides funding to Washington
636 State University, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and the Washington State
637 Conservation Commission to conduct research, pilot projects and incentivize adoption as
638 practices that improve soil health and improve agricultural productivity.

639
640 **RESEARCH FUNDING**

641
642 WAWG supports efforts to fund WSU, Agricultural Research Center and University Extension at
643 the level of its peer institutions.

644
645 WAWG supports Plant Variety Protection (PVP) for new publicly released varieties of wheat
646 developed at WSU that need Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection for varieties
647 developed with public funds.

648
649 WAWG requests that technical positions at Washington State University in the College of
650 Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences be funded by the Washington State
651 Legislature.

652
653 WAWG supports stabilized or increased funding to the ARS facilities in Pullman, WA.

654
655 WAWG supports and encourages the American wheat and barley industry to join National
656 Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research Initiative (C-FAR), with the rest of the agricultural
657 industry, to double agricultural research funding.

658
659 WAWG will seek additional research funding for the land grant schools and USDA ARS for
660 collaborative research to improve the consistency of the current falling numbers testing protocol
661 and to study improved late maturity alpha amylase measuring tools for the future.

662
663 WAWG supports the Washington Grain Commission, WSU and USDA ARS to secure
664 sustainable and perpetual funding sources for club wheat research.

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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 opposes state legislation creating collective bargaining for agricultural workers.

721 WAWG supports maintaining the integrity of dedicated state funds and accounts. Any
722 associated accrued interest should be appropriated to and used for only their original intent.
723

724 WAWG supports the policy that, if state agriculture programs, including research dollars, are
725 subject to budget cuts to achieve deficit reduction, the same percentage of cuts should apply to
726 all state government programs.
727

728 WAWG opposes state legislation and regulations pertaining to greenhouse gases that are
729 economically disruptive such as cap and trade, carbon tax, or a low carbon fuel standard.
730

731 WAWG supports the use of voluntary incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather
732 than mandates.
733

734 WAWG supports voluntary development and deployment of greenhouse gas reduction
735 technology.
736

737 WAWG supports a guest worker program that secures the borders of the US and provides a
738 legal, affordable and stable workforce for agriculture.
739

740 WAWG encourages the buildout of broadband internet infrastructure in Washington state.
741

742 **TAXES**

743
744 WAWG positions on state tax policy are:
745

- 746 1. Support the Open Space Act.
- 747 2. Support tax and spending reform and elimination of the B&O tax.
- 748 3. Oppose taxes and policies that hinder intra-family transfers of family farms.
- 749 4. Oppose removal of lands from local tax rolls through state and federal acquisition
750 without compensation to local taxing jurisdictions. (PILT)
- 751 5. Oppose any changes to any tax preferences that would be harmful to agriculture.
- 752 6. Tax increases must be voted on by affected voters.
- 753 7. Removal of the state portion of the sales tax on all farm equipment.
- 754 8. Support the ag exemption for the overtime payroll rules.
- 755 9. Support raising the state's estate tax exemption to match the federal estate tax
756 exemption.
757

758 WAWG supports to promote and continually update the study on the value of ag tax preferences
759 to the state of Washington.
760

761 WAWG supports efforts to retain or improve our agriculture tax preferences which assist us in
762 competing in a domestic and international marketplace.
763

764 **REGULATORY REFORM**

765
766 WAWG supports legislative and administrative efforts to enact and implement state regulatory
767 reforms that would reduce regulatory burdens on individuals and businesses.
768

769 WAWG supports the concept that whenever governmental actions adversely affect the value or
770 use of private property, the owner must be fairly compensated.
771

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

775
776 WAWG supports the public right to know who has filed an environmental quality management
777 complaint.

778
779 WAWG supports efforts to enact legislation requiring review of all agency budget programs or
780 minimum of once every ten years, in efforts to cut wasteful spending and programs not meeting
781 their intended reasons for implementations.

782

783 **STATE AGENCIES**

784

785 **Department of Agriculture**

786

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

788

- 789 1. Supports continued WSDA administration of the regulation of agricultural chemical use
790 versus Department of Ecology or Department of Health.
- 791 2. Supports continued WSDA administration of the grain inspection program versus federal
792 administration.
- 793 3. Supports funding for the waste pesticide collection programs.
- 794 4. Supports maintaining legislative appropriations to WSDA at levels, which allow the
795 department to efficiently and effectively perform its legislated responsibilities.
- 796 5. Supports funding for pesticide applicator training program which educates handlers and
797 applicators on how to use pesticides safely and effectively.

798

799 WAWG supports maintaining the WSDA as a standalone agency.

800

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

802

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

804

805 WAWG supports WSDA/WSU/WSCIA wheat seed quality assurance program that includes
806 continued screening to validate the integrity of our certified seed supply.

807

808 WAWG supports legislation to allow a producer to choose to have their submitted grain sample
809 inspected and graded by Washington State Department of Agriculture when delivering to
810 warehouse operator or commodity dealer for storage or sale.

811

812 **Department of Ecology**

813

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

816

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

819

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

821

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

823

824 **Department of Employment Security**

825

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

829

830 **Department of Labor and Industries**

831

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

833

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

839

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

843

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

846

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

848

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

851

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

854

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

857

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

860

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

863

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

867

868 **State Noxious Weed Board**

869

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

873

874

875

876 **EDUCATION**

877
878 WAWG encourages its members and leaders to:

- 879
- 880 1. Communicate and cooperate with other agricultural organizations and companies
881 (partnerships) to collectively influence agricultural policy.
 - 882 2. Have an active and frequent presence in Olympia.
 - 883 3. Utilize the expertise of the WAWG lobbyist to inform the membership and help direct
884 WAWG policy in Olympia.
 - 885 4. Individually get involved in local and state political processes and work for the election of
886 candidates favorable to agriculture.
 - 887 5. Inform non-agricultural legislators of the value, needs and importance of agriculture in
888 the state.
- 889

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

892
893 WAWG opposes rules and regulations adversely effecting employment of young people on
894 farms as long as adequate safety and educational training measures are maintained

895
896 WAWG support states' efforts that ask county commissioners to formally request in writing that
897 the state and federal governments direct their employees do the following:

- 898
- 899 1. Consult with each respective county prior to implementing any laws, statutes, or US
900 codes;
 - 901 2. Follow and adhere to the aforementioned laws, statutes, or USCAs, which would affect
902 the economy, customs and culture of their county.
- 903

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

907
908 **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

909
910 WAWG will pursue all efforts to keep a well-maintained West Coast Trade Corridor. We will do
911 so by helping to maintain or improve roadway, rail, and river (navigation) freight corridors.

912
913 **ROAD**

914
915 WAWG requests that any funds collected from any transportation source or mode be allocated
916 back to transportation uses.

917
918 WAWG requests the Washington State Transportation Commission and WSDOT develop a
919 statewide, long-term Freight Plan for Washington State that incorporates both infrastructure and
920 funding plans.

921
922 WAWG will educate wheat farmers and continue to lobby against additional Interstate and
923 Intrastate licensing issues for farm trucks and semi-tractor/trailer vehicles.

924
925 WAWG supports a farm-to-market exemption from interstate commerce regulatory enforcement
926 to allow movement of a commodity from the farm to its first point of in-state delivery where title
927 is transferred within the state of origin.

928
929 WAWG requests the WSDOT and county road departments continue annual roadside spraying
930 programs for the abatement of weeds.

931
932 WAWG encourages the Washington State Patrol and WSDOT to expedite the implementation of
933 the MAP-21 federal transportation law, especially the provisions exempting farm vehicles.

934
935 WAWG opposes road usage charges based on a pay-per-mile system which disproportionately
936 impacts rural areas.

937
938 **RAIL**

939
940 WAWG supports the Palouse River Coulee City Rail Authority efforts to rebuild, refurbish,
941 maintain and reconnect the short line rail system.

942
943 WAWG supports federal and state assistance for branch line track rehabilitation.

944
945 WAWG continues to encourage WSDOT to ensure the return and use of Washington Grain
946 Train cars primarily on short lines in the Pacific Northwest AND to purchase additional Grain
947 Train Cars when economically feasible.

948
949 WAWG encourages the state of Washington to ensure the mainline rail carriers provide grain
950 cars to shippers in an economically fair and timely manner to ensure that state investment in
951 short line infrastructure is not marginalized.

952
953 WAWG urges members of Congress, the Surface Transportation Board and other responsible
954 government entities, to prevent America's railroads from implementing unnecessary new railcar
955 standards that would impede the timely and economical transportation of anhydrous ammonia,
956 an essential fertilizer for wheat and the feedstock used to produce other nitrogen products.

957
958 WAWG asks the legislature and WSDOT to use their influence to maintain trackage rights and
959 access to the rail line to Wallula for future use.

960
961 WAWG supports increased Surface Transportation Board monitoring of railroad maintenance
962 and improvements.

963
964 WAWG opposes the use of inverse rate structures by railroads and supports the
965 nondiscriminatory geographic rates.

966
967 WAWG shall pursue all facets of rail issues that will provide relief to wheat growers on rail rates
968 and service.

969
970 WAWG supports maintenance and expansion of intermodal services that service
971 agricultural products.

972
973 **RIVERS**

974
975 WAWG will continue membership of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and will hold
976 a position on its board of directors.

977
978 WAWG supports a strong barge, river and port system with continued federal and state
979 funding for operations, maintenance and improvement of the region's inland waterways,

980 infrastructure, and coastal harbor channels. WAWG will work with other groups to
981 reduce the impact of the river closure maintenance.

982
983 WAWG encourages Washington State legislators to actively support and pursue rivers
984 (navigation) as an integral part of freight mobility in relieving rail and road congestion.
985

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

989
990 WAWG opposes the removal or breaching of any dams, and excessive spill and flow
991 augmentation within the Columbia/Snake River system.

992
993 WAWG supports development of biologically effective salmon recovery measures that
994 maintain the existing federally authorized, multiple-use river system.
995

996 WAWG strongly endorses the routine maintenance of the Columbia-Snake River
997 Navigational Channel at authorized depth via dredging and/or by adjusting reservoir pool
998 levels.
999

1000 WAWG supports funding for short- and long-term repair needs of jetties at the mouth of
1001 the Columbia River.

1002
1003 WAWG supports Columbia River Treaty efforts which protect the viability of US
1004 navigation, hydropower, irrigation, and flood control.
1005

1006 WAWG supports a flood control approach that does not cause impacts to the safety or
1007 efficiency of navigation on the Columbia or Snake rivers.
1008

1009 **MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

1010
1011 **EDUCATION**
1012

1013 WAWG shall actively produce public information and educational programs in order to increase
1014 the awareness of wheat and agriculture's importance to the state and nation's economy.
1015

1016 WAWG encourages the Washington Grain Commission and Washington Wheat Foundation to
1017 continue funding public informational programs.
1018

1019 WAWG urges the WGC to continue to fund and assist the Wheat Foods Council and other
1020 organizations dedicated to addressing the public regarding wheat's nutritional value.
1021

1022 Each county association of wheat growers is encouraged to annually help fund agriculture
1023 education programs such as Agriculture in Washington Resources for Educators.
1024

1025 WAWG will maintain an active website, linked to other wheat industry sites for complete
1026 information and education for members and the public.
1027

1028 **VALUE ADDED SERVICE, PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS**
1029

1030 WAWG will engage various companies to offer optional value-added services to individual
1031 WAWG members and associates. Officers, Executive Committee, staff and the WAWG

1032 Membership Committee will review and make recommendations to the WAWG Board of
1033 Directors for final approval.

1034 MEMBERSHIP

1035
1036
1037 WAWG encourages each county to:

- 1038 1. Recruit all wheat producers as members.
- 1039 2. Upgrade individual membership levels.

1040
1041
1042 Optimize levels of communication on the national, state and local county level through
1043 newsletters, websites, Wheat Life and email.

1044
1045 State committees should maintain continuity in their plans and goals:

- 1046 1. Each county should have a member assigned to each state committee.
- 1047 2. Committee chairmen shall receive a job description, instruction and budget.

1048
1049
1050 As representatives of WAWG, state officers and executive committee members should not
1051 publicly endorse political candidates.

1052
1053 Membership is the grassroots of WAWG.

1054
1055 Membership fees can change with growers needs. The following membership levels will be
1056 current until such time as the membership with proper procedure shall choose to change
1057 amounts (as outlined in Article X – Conventions or by Board motion to be reconfirmed at state
1058 annual meeting.)

1059
1060 Lifetime member dues remain as a permanent endowment (regardless of death) and only the
1061 interest from the permanent endowment may be used as non-restricted funds.

1062 Only those lifetime members joining WAWG prior to November 21, 2009, shall receive a
1063 complimentary convention registration.

1064
1065 Harvest Plus Lifetime Membership dues will be 20 times that of the grower membership level.
1066 As of 11/21/2009 the amount is \$2,500 and payments over a three-year billing period is allowed
1067 and is non-refundable.

1068
1069 The dues for regular membership (voting) shall be:

- 1070 • Grower/Landlord- \$125 per person per annum,
- 1071 • Family - \$200 for up to 2 people per annum.
- 1072 • Partnership - \$500 for up to 5 people per annum.
- 1073 • Convention – \$600 for 2 individuals, membership and convention registration

1074
1075 The dues for student nonvoting membership

- 1076 • Education - \$75.00 per annum, Wheat Life magazine and Green Sheet

1077
1078 The designated dues for Associate Members (non-voting) shall be:

- 1079 • Level 1 Industry Supporter - \$150 per annum membership
- 1080 • Level 2 VIP - \$500 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit \$250
- 1081 • Level 3 CEO - \$1,800 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit
- 1082 \$1,050, AMMO \$500

- 1083 • Level 4 Convention Sponsor - \$6,000 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life
1084 credit \$2,750, AMMO \$1,000, Convention Silver \$2,000
- 1085 • Level 5 Platinum Sponsor - \$10,000 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit
1086 \$2,750, AMMO \$1,000, Convention Platinum \$6,000

1087 The state association will provide Wheat Life magazine and either Green Sheet Alert via email
1088 or Green Sheet newsletter at all levels of membership.

1089
1090 The state association shall retain eighty-five (85%) percent of membership payments and fifteen
1091 (15%) percent shall be returned to the counties for their efforts towards membership. Lifetime
1092 member fees are excluded from the 85/15% amounts to be retained by the state and counties
1093 respectfully. County paybacks will be paid approximately twice a year.

1094
1095 Members are encouraged to donate to Legislative Action Fund, Washington Wheat PAC and
1096 Barley Boosters for state and national legislative lobbying, and to the Environment Stewardship
1097 Fund for fighting environmental issues that arise and directly affect growers.

1098
1099 ***2020 WAWG Resolutions passed at the 2019 Washington Association of Wheat***
1100 ***Growers Annual Meeting at the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention on November***
1101 ***14th, 2019.***
1102