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**Washington Association of Wheat Growers
2021 Resolutions**

NATIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WAWG supports organizations, like US Farmers and Ranchers in Action, which are working to make the voice of agriculture heard in discussions related to climate change.

BARLEY

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

FARM PROGRAM

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

WAWG does not support any form of government owned reserves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

71 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

72
73 WAWG supports adoption of a consistent USDA wide pack factor when calculating bushels of
74 stored grain to more accurately reflect actual quantity.
75

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

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

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

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

89 WAWG recommends that RMA address the issue of APH adjustments for uninsured causes
90 (such as fire wildlife damage) due to no fault of the grower.
91

92 WAWG recommends that RMA attach full insurance coverage at time of planting for replant
93 payment purposes.
94

95 WAWG supports programs that promote outreach and education concerning RMA programs.
96

97 WAWG opposes linking conservation compliance to crop insurance program participation.
98

99 WAWG supports the option of a new landowner using the APH yield from the previous operator
100 regardless of acreage in the county.
101

102 WAWG supports changes in the federal crop insurance policy to allow all classes of wheat to be
103 insured as separate crops.
104

105 WAWG supports a ten-year average APH for insurance purposes if given the option.
106
107 WAWG supports crop insurance special provisions that allow lower discounts for quality in all
108 classes of wheat.
109
110 WAWG opposes quality discounts in the calculation of Actual Production History (APH) values.
111
112 WAWG supports additional flexibility in prevented planting provisions which favor history of
113 participation instead of current year planting requirements for eligibility of the Enterprise Unit
114 structure.

115 **TAXES**

116
117
118 WAWG supports income averaging, Farm Account for Rural and Ranch Management (FARRM),
119 allow investment credits, favor capital gains-type investments, would eliminate federal estate
120 taxes permanently, retain cash basis accounting and would let all types of entities deduct health
121 insurance premiums.
122
123 WAWG supports the elimination of the Federal estate tax or a minimum level of \$11.4 million
124 per individual estate tax exemption indexed to inflation, retaining a step up in basis.
125
126 WAWG supports the exclusion of farm rental income from self-employment taxes.
127
128 WAWG supports the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) net income (i.e. Schedule F) figures for
129 determining agriculture's financial position.
130
131 WAWG supports reinstatement of the following for C-Corps: the 15% corporate tax rate for the
132 first \$50,000 in taxable income, the 100% deduction for farm meals, and the domestic
133 production activities deductions (199a) for C-Corps with less than \$1 million gross revenue.
134
135 WAWG supports a provision to allow for current year income to be 100% offset by a net
136 operating loss carried forward.
137
138 WAWG supports an increase in the mileage exemption for heavy highway vehicle use tax from
139 7,500 to 20,000 miles for agricultural vehicles, and the simplification of applying for exemption.

140 **MARKETING COMMITTEE**

141 **TRADE**

142
143
144
145 WAWG supports the continued donation of US-produced commodities to meet Food Aid
146 distribution needs, not cash donations.
147
148 WAWG urges international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.
149 WAWG recommends USW and NAWG work to see markets adhere to CODEX standards
150 regarding import specification.
151
152 WAWG supports an exemption for the PNW states relevant to the Jones Act to allow natural
153 gas products, anhydrous ammonia and grain to be delivered by foreign vessels to and from
154 ports on the west coast.
155

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

158
159 WAWG supports increased funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market
160 Development (FMD) and continued funding for the Ag Trade Promotion (ATP) Program.

161
162 WAWG opposes any trade distorting policies that interfere with the international shipment of
163 grain. Examples include but are not limited to: unilateral sanctions, embargoes, violations of
164 contract sanctity, cargo preference laws, Turkish flour dumping, SPS issues, State Trading
165 Enterprises (STE's) and the withholding of food as leverage to achieve political objectives.

166
167 WAWG urges US trade negotiators to protect domestic farm policies from being negotiated
168 away to benefit other sectors of the US economy.

169
170 WAWG calls for an open border with Canada that provides for reciprocal bilateral wheat trade
171 and encourages cooperation with Canadian producers and industry to achieve an open border
172 with reciprocal access.

173
174 WAWG supports protecting non-trade-distorting and minimally trade-distorting domestic farm
175 programs that maintain an adequate safety net.

176 WAWG opposes the Turkish government's use of disruptive incentives to its milling industry to
177 export flour, regardless of price to export markets. Such exports clearly constitute dumping.

178 WAWG supports US trade officials working with the impacted nations to impose a reasonable
179 anti-dumping duty on Turkish flour imports.

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

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

185
186 WAWG encourages the Administration and USTR's office to fully comply and enforce WTO
187 rules and regulations, utilizing the trade dispute settlement system as the best way to eliminate
188 foreign trade barriers.

189
190 WAWG supports Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track), to be fully utilized for brokering trade
191 agreements and urges Congress to extend it beyond the July 1, 2021 deadline.

192
193 **FARM PROGRAM**

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.

203
204 **MARKETING**

205
206 Wheat and barley should be marketed on a 12% fixed moisture basis.

207
208 US Grain Standards should reflect and identify end-use characteristics of grain, foreign or
209 domestic, as set and approved by the Federal Grain Inspection Service. An end-use certificate
210 should remain with the grain even though possession or identity may change.

211
212 WAWG encourages grain segregation based on customer needs or market demands.

213 214 **RESEARCH**

215
216 WAWG supports restoring funding for the IMPACT Center (International Marketing Program for
217 Agricultural Commodities & Trade) at Washington State University (WSU) to research
218 international markets, product development, and to assess the implementation of policy
219 changes for the U.S. wheat industry.

220
221 WAWG supports continued funding through the WGC for WSU/USDA-ARS Minimum Quality
222 Standards project - G & E study. ("G" represents the genetic component of wheat quality and
223 "E" represents the environmental component)

224
225 WAWG supports efforts of the Washington State Crop Improvement Association (WSCIA) to
226 control goat grass and urges growers to use caution when purchasing seed from questionable
227 sources.

228
229 WAWG encourages other states to adopt a zero tolerance for goat grass in certified seed.

230
231 WAWG supports research funding for an alternative wheat utilization market and encourages
232 the commercial sale of value-added grain products for export.

233
234 WAWG encourages additional financial support from state and federal agencies to develop new
235 value added industries for the use of straw and grains, including but not limited to tax incentives,
236 building code changes, low interest loans and grants.

237 238 **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

239 240 **CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

241
242 WAWG supports laws and regulations that allow Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
243 (CREP) funds to be used to implement conservation practices for either endangered species
244 recovery or clean water.

245
246 WAWG opposes public acquisition of private land without providing for the loss in property tax
247 revenue to local governments.

248
249 WAWG supports federally sponsored programs promoting all natural resource conservation
250 programs provided they include strong local input and control.

251
252 WAWG supports tax law changes and cost share programs that would provide incentives for
253 producers to invest in equipment that is designed for conservation.

254

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 landowner 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 landowners’ 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 landowners, 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 **CROP PROTECTION**

534
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
564 WAWG will strive to ensure that all BMPs will be written to continue the economic sustainability
565 of current farm units.
566

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

570
571 WAWG will work with agencies to evaluate local BMPs that help protect ground water.
572

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

576
577 Direct seeding is a useful management tool for some circumstances in our state, but it should
578 never be a mandated best management practice for the whole state, or specific regions.
579

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

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

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

590 591 **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

592
593 WAWG strongly encourages the prioritization of wheat and barley research, including Varietal
594 Development, Production and Marketing:

- 595
- 596 1. All aspects of diseases, insects, and weeds management including development
597 of resistant varieties and BMPs to minimize herbicide resistance in weeds.
 - 598 2. Improved adaptation for new varieties, especially for drought, winter hardiness,
599 falling numbers and sprout damage.
 - 600 3. Soil conservation and fertility related to plant nutrition.
 - 601 4. Cropping Systems: Crop rotation and alternative crops.
 - 602 5. Regional Approaches to Climate Change with emphasis on Carbon
603 Sequestration and Drought.
 - 604 6. Marketing (including the restoration of IMPACT funding – WSU's International
605 Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade and the Wheat
606 Marketing Center).
 - 607 7. Agriculture economics
 - 608 8. Varietal testing of all public and private cultivars grown in Washington for
609 performance; adaptation and grain quality across all of Washington's major
610 wheat growing environments.

611
612 WAWG, in conjunction with the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and Washington State
613 University (WSU), should work toward greater Pacific Northwest support for USDA/ARS's NW
614 Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit located in Pullman, WA to insure development of
615 acceptable integrated methods of weed control and increased competitiveness of wheat and
616 barley.
617

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

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

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

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

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

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

635
636 WAWG supports restoration of funding in the Washington State Soil Health initiative which
637 provides funding to Washington State University, to conduct research and pilot projects for
638 practices and policies by the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Washington
639 State Conservation Commission that would improve soil health and improve agricultural
640 productivity.

641
642 WAWG supports the use of approved best management practices for addressing weed
643 resistance.

644

645

646 RESEARCH FUNDING

647

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

650

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

654

655 WAWG requests the Washington State Legislature to ensure that funding be maintained at
656 Washington State University in the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource
657 Sciences to prevent further erosion of faculty, staff, and student positions.

658

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

660

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

664

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

667

668 WAWG supports federal funding for the PNW herbicide weed resistance initiative.

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719
720
721

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 FOR CONTINUED VARIETY IMPROVEMENT AND MARKETING

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 based on 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.

722 WAWG opposes state legislation creating collective bargaining for agricultural workers.
723
724 WAWG supports maintaining the integrity of dedicated state funds and accounts. Any
725 associated accrued interest should be appropriated to and used for only their original intent.
726
727 WAWG supports the policy that, if state agriculture programs, including research dollars, are
728 subject to budget cuts to achieve deficit reduction, the same percentage of cuts should apply to
729 all state government programs.
730
731 WAWG opposes state legislation and regulations pertaining to greenhouse gases that are
732 economically disruptive such as cap and trade, carbon tax, or a low carbon fuel standard.
733
734 WAWG supports the use of voluntary incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather
735 than mandates.
736
737 WAWG supports voluntary development and deployment of greenhouse gas reduction
738 technology.
739
740 WAWG supports a guest worker program that secures the borders of the US and provides a
741 legal, affordable, and stable workforce for agriculture.
742
743 WAWG encourages the buildout of broadband internet infrastructure in Washington state.
744
745 WAWG supports an employee's right to earn a competitive wage for his or her productive work.
746
747 WAWG supports legislation clarifying the scope of the recent Washington State Supreme Court
748 Case (Martinez-Cuevas, et al. v. DeRuyter Brothers Dairy) requiring dairy workers to be paid
749 overtime and overturning a state law in place since 1959 that exempted all agriculture from
750 paying overtime.
751
752 WAWG opposes paying workers overtime retroactively when neither state or federal law
753 required payment of overtime for agricultural workers.
754

755 TAXES

756
757 WAWG positions on state tax policy are:

- 758
- 759 1. Support the Open Space Act.
- 760 2. Support tax and spending reform and elimination of the B&O tax.
- 761 3. Oppose taxes and policies that hinder intra-family transfers of family farms.
- 762 4. Oppose removal of lands from local tax rolls through state and federal acquisition
763 without compensation to local taxing jurisdictions. (PILT)
- 764 5. Oppose any changes to any tax preferences that would be harmful to agriculture.
- 765 6. Tax increases must be voted on by affected voters.
- 766 7. Removal of the state portion of the sales tax on all farm equipment.
- 767 8. Support the ag exemption for the overtime payroll rules.
- 768 9. Support raising the state's estate tax exemption to match the federal estate tax
769 exemption.
- 770

771 WAWG supports to promote and continually update the study on the value of ag tax preferences
772 to the state of Washington.
773

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

776

777

REGULATORY REFORM

778

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

781

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

784

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

788

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

791

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

795

STATE AGENCIES

796

Department of Agriculture

799

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

801

- 802 1. Supports continued WSDA administration of the regulation of agricultural chemical use
803 versus Department of Ecology or Department of Health.
- 804 2. Supports continued WSDA administration of the grain inspection program versus federal
805 administration.
- 806 3. Supports funding for the waste pesticide collection programs.
- 807 4. Supports maintaining legislative appropriations to WSDA at levels, which allow the
808 department to perform its legislated responsibilities efficiently and effectively.
- 809 5. Supports funding for pesticide applicator training program which educates handlers and
810 applicators on how to use pesticides safely and effectively.

811

812 WAWG supports maintaining the WSDA as a standalone agency and that they take the lead on
813 any agriculture related issue.

814

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

816

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

818

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

821

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

825

826 WAWG supports paying reasonable pesticide registration and licensing fees to maintain a
827 robust pesticide safety program.

828

829 **Department of Ecology**

830

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

833

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

836

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

838

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

840

841 **Department of Employment Security**

842

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

846

847 **Department of Labor and Industries**

848

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

850

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

856

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

860

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

863

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

865

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

868

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

871

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

874

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

877

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

880
881 WAWG opposes DNR utilizing a highest and best use clause allowing early termination of
882 agricultural leases without DNR paying penalties to the lessee for the remaining term of the
883 lease.

884
885 **State Noxious Weed Board**

886
887 WAWG will work with the State Noxious Weed Board and the legislature to ensure that any
888 amendments to the state noxious weed laws and regulations are necessary, practical, and
889 effective.

890
891

892
893 **EDUCATION**

894
895 WAWG encourages its members and leaders to:

- 896
- 897 1. Communicate and cooperate with other agricultural organizations and companies
898 (partnerships) to collectively influence agricultural policy.
 - 899 2. Have an active and frequent presence in Olympia.
 - 900 3. Utilize the expertise of the WAWG lobbyist to inform the membership and help direct
901 WAWG policy in Olympia.
 - 902 4. Individually get involved in local and state political processes and work for the election of
903 candidates favorable to agriculture.
 - 904 5. Inform non-agricultural legislators of the value, needs and importance of agriculture in
905 the state.

906
907 WAWG will monitor attempts to further restrict the freedoms of teaching our trade to interested
908 children and young people.

909
910 WAWG opposes rules and regulations adversely effecting employment of young people on
911 farms as long as adequate safety and educational training measures are maintained

912
913 WAWG support states' efforts that ask county commissioners to formally request in writing that
914 the state and federal governments direct their employees do the following:

- 915
- 916 1. Consult with each respective county prior to implementing any laws, statutes, or US
917 codes;
 - 918 2. Follow and adhere to the afore mentioned laws, statutes, or USCs, which would affect
919 the economy, customs and culture of their county.

920
921 WAWG opposes any state laws or regulations, which are more restrictive than the 1987 federal
922 manual for defining wetlands. Any such laws or regulations must require that all defining factors
923 be present: soil type, water, air, plant type, animal, human, and energy (SWAPAHE).

924
925 **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

926
927 WAWG will pursue all efforts to keep a well-maintained West Coast Trade Corridor. We will do
928 so by helping to maintain or improve roadway, rail, and river (navigation) freight corridors.

929

ROAD

- 930
- 931
- 932 WAWG supports funds collected from any transportation source or mode be allocated back
- 933 solely for transportation uses.
- 934
- 935 WAWG requests the Washington State Transportation Commission and WSDOT develop a
- 936 statewide, long-term Freight Plan for Washington State that incorporates both infrastructure and
- 937 funding plans.
- 938
- 939 WAWG will educate wheat farmers and continue to lobby against additional Interstate and
- 940 Intrastate licensing issues for farm trucks and semi-tractor/trailer vehicles.
- 941
- 942 WAWG supports a farm-to-market exemption from interstate commerce regulatory enforcement
- 943 to allow movement of a commodity from the farm to its first point of in-state delivery where title
- 944 is transferred within the state of origin.
- 945
- 946 WAWG requests the WSDOT and county road departments continue annual roadside spraying
- 947 programs for the abatement of weeds.
- 948
- 949 WAWG encourages the Washington State Patrol and WSDOT to expedite the implementation of
- 950 the MAP-21 federal transportation law, especially the provisions exempting farm vehicles.
- 951
- 952 WAWG opposes road usage charges based on a pay-per-mile system which disproportionately
- 953 impacts rural areas.
- 954

RAIL

- 955
- 956
- 957 WAWG supports the Palouse River Coulee City Rail Authority efforts to rebuild, refurbish,
- 958 maintain and reconnect the short line rail system.
- 959
- 960 WAWG supports federal and state assistance for branch line track rehabilitation.
- 961
- 962 WAWG continues to encourage WSDOT to ensure the return and use of Washington Grain
- 963 Train cars primarily on short lines in the Pacific Northwest AND to purchase additional Grain
- 964 Train Cars when economically feasible.
- 965
- 966 WAWG encourages the state of Washington to ensure the mainline rail carriers provide grain
- 967 cars to shippers in an economically fair and timely manner to ensure that state investment in
- 968 short line infrastructure is not marginalized.
- 969
- 970 WAWG urges members of Congress, the Surface Transportation Board and other responsible
- 971 government entities, to prevent America's railroads from implementing unnecessary new railcar
- 972 standards that would impede the timely and economical transportation of anhydrous ammonia,
- 973 an essential fertilizer for wheat and the feedstock used to produce other nitrogen products.
- 974
- 975 WAWG asks the legislature and WSDOT to use their influence to maintain trackage rights and
- 976 access to the rail line to Wallula for future use.
- 977
- 978 WAWG supports increased Surface Transportation Board monitoring of railroad maintenance
- 979 and improvements.
- 980

981 WAWG opposes the use of inverse rate structures by railroads and supports the
982 nondiscriminatory geographic rates.
983
984 WAWG shall pursue all facets of rail issues that will provide relief to wheat growers on rail rates
985 and service.
986
987 WAWG supports maintenance and expansion of intermodal services that service
988 agricultural products.
989

990 RIVERS

991
992 WAWG will continue membership of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and will hold
993 a position on its board of directors.
994
995 WAWG supports a strong barge, river, and port system with continued federal and state
996 funding for operations, maintenance and improvement of the region's inland waterways,
997 infrastructure, and coastal harbor channels. WAWG will work with other groups to
998 reduce the impact of the river closure maintenance.
999

1000 WAWG encourages Washington State legislators to actively support and pursue rivers
1001 (navigation) as an integral part of freight mobility in relieving rail and road congestion.
1002

1003 WAWG supports retaining congressional authority over navigation and the other
1004 congressionally authorized purposes of the federal Columbia-Snake River System
1005 projects.
1006

1007 WAWG opposes the removal or breaching of any dams, and excessive spill and flow
1008 augmentation within the Columbia/Snake River system.
1009

1010 WAWG supports development of biologically effective salmon recovery measures that
1011 maintain the existing federally authorized, multiple-use river system.
1012

1013 WAWG strongly endorses the routine maintenance of the Columbia-Snake River
1014 Navigational Channel at authorized depth via dredging and/or by adjusting reservoir pool
1015 levels.
1016

1017 WAWG supports funding for short- and long-term repair needs of jetties at the mouth of
1018 the Columbia River.
1019

1020 WAWG supports Columbia River Treaty efforts which protect the viability of US
1021 navigation, hydropower, irrigation, and flood control.
1022

1023 WAWG supports a flood control approach that does not cause impacts to the safety or
1024 efficiency of navigation on the Columbia or Snake rivers.
1025

1026 MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS INFORMATION COMMITTEE

1027 EDUCATION

1028
1029
1030 WAWG shall actively produce public information and educational programs in order to increase
1031 the awareness of the wheat industry that drives agriculture's importance to the state and
1032 nation's economy.

1033 WAWG encourages the Washington Grain Commission and Washington Wheat Foundation to
1034 continue funding public informational programs.

1035
1036 WAWG urges the WGC to continue to fund and assist the Wheat Foods Council and other
1037 organizations dedicated to addressing the public regarding wheat's nutritional value.

1038
1039 Each county association of wheat growers is encouraged to annually help fund agriculture
1040 education programs.

1041
1042 WAWG will maintain an active website, linked to other wheat industry sites for complete
1043 information and education for members and the public.

1044
1045 **VALUE ADDED SERVICE, PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

1046
1047 WAWG will engage various companies to offer optional value-added services to individual
1048 WAWG members and associates. Officers, Executive Committee, staff and the WAWG
1049 Membership Committee will review and make recommendations to the WAWG Board of
1050 Directors for final approval.

1051
1052 **MEMBERSHIP**

1053
1054 WAWG encourages each county to:

- 1055
1056
 1. Recruit all wheat producers as members.
 - 1057 2. Upgrade individual membership levels.

1058
1059 Optimize levels of communication on the national, state, and local county level through
1060 newsletters, websites, Wheat Life and email.

1061
1062 State committees should maintain continuity in their plans and goals:

- 1063
1064
 1. Each county should have a member assigned to each state
1065 committee.
 - 1066 2. Committee chairmen shall receive a job description, instruction
1067 and budget.

1068
1069 As representatives of WAWG, state officers and executive committee members should not
1070 publicly endorse political candidates.

1071
1072 Membership is the grassroots of WAWG.

1073
1074 Membership fees can change with growers needs. The following membership levels will be
1075 current until such time as the membership with proper procedure shall choose to change
1076 amounts (as outlined in Article X – Conventions or by Board motion to be reconfirmed at state
1077 annual meeting.)

1078
1079 Lifetime member dues remain as a permanent endowment (regardless of death) and only the
1080 interest from the permanent endowment may be used as non-restricted funds.

1081 Only those lifetime members joining WAWG prior to November 21, 2009, shall receive a
1082 complimentary convention registration.

1083

1084 Harvest Plus Lifetime Membership dues will be 20 times that of the grower membership level.
1085 As of 11/21/2009 the amount is \$2,500 and payments over a three-year billing period is allowed
1086 and is non-refundable.

1087
1088 The dues for regular membership (voting) shall be:

- 1089 • Grower/Landlord- \$125 per person per annum,
- 1090 • Family - \$200 for up to 2 people per annum.
- 1091 • Partnership - \$500 for up to 5 people per annum.
- 1092 • Convention – \$600 for 2 individuals, membership, and convention registration

1093
1094 The dues for student nonvoting membership

- 1095 • Education - \$75.00 per annum, Wheat Life magazine and Green Sheet

1096
1097 The designated dues for Associate Members (non-voting) shall be:

- 1098 • Level 1 Industry Supporter - \$150 per annum membership
- 1099 • Level 2 VIP - \$500 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit \$250
- 1100 • Level 3 CEO - \$1,800 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit
1101 \$1,050, AMMO \$500
- 1102 • Level 4 Convention Sponsor - \$6,000 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life
1103 credit \$2,750, AMMO \$1,000, Convention Silver \$2,000
- 1104 • Level 5 Platinum Sponsor - \$10,000 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit
1105 \$2,750, AMMO \$1,000, Convention Platinum \$6,000

1106 The state association will provide Wheat Life magazine and either Green Sheet Alert via email
1107 or Green Sheet newsletter at all levels of membership.

1108
1109 The state association shall retain eighty-five (85%) percent of membership payments and fifteen
1110 (15%) percent shall be returned to the counties for their efforts towards membership. Lifetime
1111 member fees are excluded from the 85/15% amounts to be retained by the state and counties
1112 respectfully. County paybacks will be paid approximately twice a year.

1113
1114 Members are encouraged to donate to Legislative Action Fund, Washington Wheat PAC and
1115 Barley Boosters for state and national legislative lobbying, and to the Environment Stewardship
1116 Fund for fighting environmental issues that arise and directly affect growers.

1117
1118 ***2021 WAWG Resolutions passed at the 2020 Washington Association of Wheat***
1119 ***Growers Annual Virtual Meeting December 1, 2020.***

1120