

1
2 **Washington Association of Wheat Growers**
3 **2022 Resolutions**
4

5 **NATIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**
6

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

13 WAWG supports a loan program that is based on the cost of production for each class of wheat
14 (FAPRI) instead of being based on the market price of wheat.
15

16 WAWG supports Posted County Prices (PCP) that are based on how wheat is marketed.
17 Examples include 14% protein for DNS, 12% protein for Hard White, 11.5% protein for Hard
18 Red Winter wheat, and 10.5% protein for Soft White wheat.
19

20 WAWG encourages USDA to keep the wheat loan rate comparable with competitive crops, so
21 wheat production is not at a farm program disadvantage.
22

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

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

32 WAWG supports allowing producers to form health insurance purchasing cooperatives and/or
33 associations, including across state lines.
34

35 WAWG encourages the buildout of broadband internet infrastructure in rural America.
36

37 WAWG supports organizations, who are working to make the voice of agriculture heard in
38 discussions related to climate change.
39

40 WAWG supports the Growing Climate Solutions Act to provide credible information to growers
41 about voluntary ecosystem service markets and increase farmer engagement in USDA
42 oversight.
43

44 WAWG supports a role for extension and/or other agencies in assisting farmers in making
45 educated decisions on carbon markets, including but not limited to contract review and related
46 information.
47

48 WAWG supports the inclusion of wheat in all production systems including when used as a
49 cover crop.
50

51 As carbon markets are expanded and growers consider voluntary participation, there may be
52 roles for federal government involvement. WAWG believes any government involvement
53 should:

- 54 • Incentivize farming and ranching practices that benefit the environment including but not
55 limited to carbon sequestration and avoided emissions.
- 56 • Provide options for farmers and beginning farmers that may not be able to participate in
57 carbon markets but are undertaking practices that provide carbon sequestration and
58 greenhouse gas reductions and other environmental benefits, such as producers in
59 certain geographical locations and early adopters of those practices through new and
60 existing conservation programs or other USDA initiatives.
- 61 • Complement and enhance but not take away resources – financial and technical – from
62 existing USDA conservation, crop and insurance programs.

63
64 WAWG recommends that USDA NASS in their ending stock surveys, add an additional question
65 on how much is available for sale by the elevator and/or the grower.

66 67 **BARLEY**

68
69 WAWG encourages USDA to keep the barley loan rate comparable with competitive crops, so
70 barley production is not at a farm program disadvantage.

71 72 **FARM PROGRAM**

73
74 WAWG opposes means testing for any Farm Program payment or crop insurance subsidy.

75
76 WAWG does not support any form of government owned reserves.

77
78 WAWG supports the present system of electing farmers to the Farm Service Agency (FSA)
79 County Committee.

80
81 WAWG will work with and lobby appropriate officials to continue the policy that allows the FSA
82 county committee to make “Good Faith Determinations” each year.

83
84 Wheat growers should be able to lock in Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) payment rates for
85 wheat any time after April 1st, or after their wheat is harvested, whichever comes first.

86
87 WAWG supports the implementation of the conservation portion of the farm bill. However, we do
88 not support the use of other program funds to support the conservation part of the program.

89
90 WAWG supports FSA deducting all shipping/handling and quality discounts from all commodity
91 loan proceeds.

92
93 WAWG supports adequate funding for local FSA county offices.

94
95 WAWG supports a consistent ARC floor price with the final PLC reference price.

96
97 WAWG supports a higher statutory reference price for PLC.

98 99 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

100
101 WAWG supports adoption of a consistent USDA wide pack factor when calculating bushels of
102 stored grain to more accurately reflect actual quantity.

103
104 WAWG will continue to work with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to improve the wheat
105 policy and recommends the following changes in the wheat contract:
106
107 1. RMA should allow the regional office the ability to make changes in the final planting
108 dates when agronomic conditions are such that many farmers, while farming using good
109 economical and agronomic practices, cannot meet the final planting date of the policy.
110

111 WAWG urges RMA to allow producers to select different coverage levels and price elections for
112 irrigated and non-irrigated, and different types and classes of wheat.
113

114 WAWG recommends the RMA allow crop insurance proceeds on Schedule F be included as
115 income for whole farm crop insurance purposes.
116

117 WAWG recommends that RMA address the issue of APH adjustments for uninsured causes
118 (such as fire wildlife damage) due to no fault of the grower.
119

120 WAWG recommends that RMA attach full insurance coverage at time of planting for replant
121 payment purposes.
122

123 WAWG supports programs that promote outreach and education concerning RMA programs.
124

125 WAWG opposes linking conservation compliance to crop insurance program participation.
126

127 WAWG supports the option of a new landowner using the APH yield from the previous operator
128 regardless of acreage in the county.
129

130 WAWG supports changes in the federal crop insurance policy to allow all classes of wheat to be
131 insured as separate crops.
132

133 WAWG supports a ten-year average APH for insurance purposes if given the option.
134

135 WAWG supports crop insurance special provisions that allow lower discounts for quality in all
136 classes of wheat.
137

138 WAWG opposes quality discounts in the calculation of Actual Production History (APH) values.
139

140 WAWG supports additional flexibility in prevented planting provisions which favor history of
141 participation instead of current year planting requirements for eligibility of the Enterprise Unit
142 structure.
143

144 **TAXES**

145
146 WAWG supports income averaging, Farm Account for Rural and Ranch Management (FARRM),
147 allow investment credits, favor capital gains-type investments, would eliminate federal estate
148 taxes permanently, retain cash basis accounting and would let all types of entities deduct health
149 insurance premiums.
150

151 WAWG supports the elimination of the Federal estate tax or a minimum level of \$11.4 million
152 per individual estate tax exemption indexed to inflation, retaining a step up in basis.
153

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

155
156 WAWG supports the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) net income (i.e. Schedule F) figures for
157 determining agriculture's financial position.

158
159 WAWG supports reinstatement of the following for C-Corps: the 15% corporate tax rate for the
160 first \$50,000 in taxable income, the 100% deduction for farm meals, and the domestic
161 production activities deductions (199a) for C-Corps with less than \$1 million gross revenue.

162
163 WAWG supports a provision to allow for current year income to be 100% offset by a net
164 operating loss carried forward.

165
166 WAWG supports an increase in the mileage exemption for heavy highway vehicle use tax from
167 7,500 to 20,000 miles for agricultural vehicles, and the simplification of applying for exemption.

168 169 **MARKETING COMMITTEE**

170 171 **TRADE**

172
173 WAWG supports the continued donation of US-produced commodities to meet Food Aid
174 distribution needs, not cash donations.

175
176 WAWG urges international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.
177 WAWG recommends USW and NAWG work to see markets adhere to CODEX standards
178 regarding import specification.

179
180 WAWG supports an exemption for the PNW states relevant to the Jones Act to allow natural
181 gas products, anhydrous ammonia and grain to be delivered by foreign vessels to and from
182 ports on the west coast.

183
184 WAWG urges Congress, the administration, and the USDA to continue to facilitate and
185 encourage trade with all of our world customers with innovative credit programs.

186
187 WAWG supports increased funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market
188 Development (FMD) and continued funding for the Ag Trade Promotion (ATP) Program.

189
190 WAWG opposes any trade distorting policies that interfere with the international shipment of
191 grain. Examples include but are not limited to: unilateral sanctions, embargoes, violations of
192 contract sanctity, cargo preference laws, Turkish flour dumping, SPS issues, State Trading
193 Enterprises (STE's) and the withholding of food as leverage to achieve political objectives.

194
195 WAWG urges US trade negotiators to protect domestic farm policies from being negotiated
196 away to benefit other sectors of the US economy.

197
198 WAWG calls for an open border with Canada that provides for reciprocal bilateral wheat trade
199 and encourages cooperation with Canadian producers and industry to achieve an open border
200 with reciprocal access.

201
202 WAWG supports protecting non-trade-distorting and minimally trade-distorting domestic farm
203 programs that maintain an adequate safety net.

204
205 WAWG opposes the Turkish government's use of disruptive incentives to its milling industry to
export flour, regardless of price to export markets. Such exports clearly constitute dumping.

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

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

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

213
214 WAWG encourages the Administration and USTR's office to fully comply and enforce WTO
215 rules and regulations, utilizing the trade dispute settlement system as the best way to eliminate
216 foreign trade barriers.

217
218 WAWG supports Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track), to be fully utilized for brokering trade
219 agreements.

220
221 WAWG supports maintaining the FGIS grading requirements for contrasting classes of wheat.

222 **FARM PROGRAM**

223
224
225 WAWG will promote, develop, or pursue adequate state or federal funding for any and all farm
226 programs on marketing and export.

227
228 WAWG supports development of a sound agricultural export policy to ensure U.S.
229 competitiveness in the world market.

230
231 WAWG shall encourage reduction of the regulatory and tax burdens on agriculture and
232 supporting industries.

233 **MARKETING**

234
235
236 Wheat and barley should be marketed on a 12% fixed moisture basis.

237
238 US Grain Standards should reflect and identify end-use characteristics of grain, foreign or
239 domestic, as set and approved by the Federal Grain Inspection Service. An end-use certificate
240 should remain with the grain even though possession or identity may change.

241
242 WAWG encourages grain segregation based on customer needs or market demands.

243 **RESEARCH**

244
245
246 WAWG supports restoring funding for the IMPACT Center (International Marketing Program for
247 Agricultural Commodities & Trade) at Washington State University (WSU) to research
248 international markets, product development, and to assess the implementation of policy
249 changes for the U.S. wheat industry.

250
251 WAWG supports continued funding through the WGC for WSU/USDA-ARS Minimum Quality
252 Standards project - G & E study. ("G" represents the genetic component of wheat quality and
253 "E" represents the environmental component)

254

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

258
259 WAWG encourages other states to adopt a zero tolerance for jointed goat grass in certified
260 seed.

261
262 WAWG supports research funding for an alternative wheat utilization market and encourages
263 the commercial sale of value-added grain products for export.

264
265 WAWG encourages additional financial support from state and federal agencies to develop new
266 value added industries for the use of straw and grains, including but not limited to tax incentives,
267 building code changes, low interest loans and grants.

268
269 WAWG supports research to develop uniform, replicable measures of carbon sequestration.

270

271 **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

272

273

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

274

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

278

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

281

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

284

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

287

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

291

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

295

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

298

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

301

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

305

306 WAWG urges state and federal agencies to utilize voluntary, incentive-based conservation
307 practices when regulating the Clean Water and Clean Air acts, rather than issuing regional or
308 statewide mandates.
309
310 WAWG recognizes NRCS, Washington State Conservation Commission and local conservation
311 districts as the authorities in conservation technical guidance throughout the state and urges
312 state and federal regulators to also recognize them as the authorities and support funding them
313 accordingly.
314
315 WAWG opposes a federal or state agency requiring that a landowner install a prescribed
316 practice on their land as a precondition to receiving any other federal or state cost share
317 funding.
318
319 WAWG supports maintaining the trust relationship between USDA and farmers and opposes
320 NRCS using employees from other organizations that would violate that trust.
321
322 WAWG supports adequate funding for NRCS technical assistance and implementations of Farm
323 Bill conservation programs.
324
325 WAWG supports efforts to implement quality assurances within NRCS programs in a consistent,
326 accountable manner.
327
328 WAWG supports RCPP that enhances the sustainability of wheat production in Washington
329 State.
330
331 WAWG supports identification of roles and responsibilities of USDA agencies through
332 collaboration of data.
333
334 WAWG supports any federal or state agency (except for emergency services) to give notice to
335 the landowner or tenant prior to the inspection of their property.
336
337 WAWG supports transparency from private to public, state, and federal agencies, when utilizing
338 drones or other forms of electronic data.
339
340 WAWG supports ensuring that organic producers are held to the same standards as those set
341 for conventional production.
342
343 WAWG supports tax benefits for farmers to encourage ongoing management of conservation
344 practices and options for producers to begin or expand conservation/carbon sequestration and
345 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction efforts.
346

347 **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

348
349
350 WAWG supports the use of EBI score criteria that does not change for the life of the farm bill.
351
352 WAWG supports the establishment of a conservation priority area (CPA) for grouse that is
353 exempt from current state CPA zone acre cap.
354
355 The CRP payment exemptions and the death benefits that apply to the landlord's heirs should
356 also apply to the operator's heirs.
357

358 WAWG supports CRP when it is part of the economic and environmental portfolio of a working
359 farm.
360
361 WAWG supports adjusting EBI numbers to reflect the fact that CRP cover has habitat value for
362 wildlife.
363
364 CRP plant stands should be kept as weed-free as possible.
365
366 CRP plant stand evaluations should be based on original certification standards.
367
368 WAWG supports increased CRP rental rates for water way buffers.
369
370 WAWG supports expanding Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to include
371 intermittent, ephemeral and perennial waters.
372
373 WAWG encourages increased communication with federal and state agencies that are
374 writing rules and regulations, standards and technical guidance that have potential major
375 impacts to our natural resources at the local level without local input.
376
377 WAWG supports CSP being recognized as a conservation practice for CRP bid
378 submission.
379
380 WAWG supports efforts to realign CRP contract duration for continuous and general
381 CRP contracts thus allowing the entire field to be returned to production at the same
382 point in time.
383
384 WAWG supports separate payment limitations between CRP, CBS (Contour Buffer
385 Strips), CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) and SAFE (State Acres
386 for Wildlife Enhancement) among priority areas.
387
388 WAWG supports raising the individual payment limitation for CRP from \$50,000 to
389 \$100,000.
390
391 WAWG supports research into how acreage is determined in the Conservation Priority
392 Area (CPA) area.
393
394 WAWG requests financial accommodation from Farm Service Agency in cases of natural
395 disasters that impair previously established CRP stands.
396
397 WAWG supports the allocation of higher bid points to CRP for farmland that is located in
398 12 inch or below precipitation zones to address air or water quality concerns.
399
400 WAWG supports revising the CRP-TIP program to remove the limitations on payments
401 to the retiring farmer or operator if the "covered farmer" (TIP application) is a family
402 member as defined in section 1001 of the Food Security act of 1985.
403
404 WAWG supports the Secretary of Ag to have the authority to waive the 25% CRP cap in
405 a county that has designated CPA (Critical Priority Areas) in that county.
406
407 WAWG supports the continual maintenance of CRP and the mid management practice
408 cost share.
409

410 WAWG supports a review of the technical aspects of the CRP program.

411

412 **CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)**

413

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

416

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

419

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

421

422 WAWG supports raising the individual payment limitation for CSP from \$40,000 to
423 \$100,000.

424

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

427

428 WAWG supports working with NRCS to identify potential practices that benefit the environment
429 by agronomic zones.

430

431 **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)**

432

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

435

436 WAWG believes that actions taken because of the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water
437 Act should be economically viable, biologically sound and respect landowners’ rights.

438

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

441

442 WAWG supports an ESA baseline that includes dams.

443

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

447

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

450

451 **WATER**

452

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

455

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

459

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

461

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

465
466 WAWG supports keeping an exempt well statute.

467
468 WAWG opposes any action that would reduce agricultural priorities of any of the state's water or
469 change the first-in-time, first-in-right doctrine, as intended by Western Water Law.

470
471 WAWG urges members of congress and the administration to ensure that CWA permits not be
472 required for labeled applications of labeled crop protection products.

473
474 WAWG opposes changing the definition in the CWA from "navigable waterways" to "all waters"
475 in the US.

476
477 WAWG encourages EPA to use the WSDA Water Monitoring Data results during their rule
478 making on agricultural issues.

479
480 WAWG opposes unreasonable buffer zones that are in excess of label recommendations for
481 waterways that are not based on sound science.

482
483 WAWG actively opposes an increase in water right application fees and opposes instituting an
484 annual water management service fee.

485
486 WAWG will work with the state legislature, agricultural organizations, etc. to explore rewriting
487 the WAC or propose new legislation that improves the potential visual citation process and
488 improves the working relationship with landowners, managers of our natural resources.

489
490 WAWG encourages agricultural group participation in the decision-making process that defines
491 "substantial potential to pollute" in Washington state.

492
493 WAWG encourages the state's water quality authority to continue to participate in the non-point
494 source pollution advisory council.

495
496 WAWG opposes an expansive interpretation of US Army Corps "Waters of the US" (WOTUS).

497
498 WAWG supports a legislative fix to the Washington State Supreme Court Foster decision to
499 allow out-of-kind mitigation to offset environmental impact for water permits.

500
501 **AIR**

502
503 WAWG supports the option of controlled open field burning as a tool in agriculture's effort to
504 implement integrated pest management, manage residue and improve soil conservation
505 practices.

506
507 WAWG opposes changes to the Washington Clean Air Act that will negatively affect agriculture.

508
509 WAWG supports the Department of Ecology's program to educate both the public and growers
510 about smoke management for public health.

511
512 WAWG supports field burning regulations based on Best Management Practices (BMPs)
513 administered at the local level.

514
515 WAWG will work with the appropriate agencies to refine BMPs to reduce emission from ag
516 burning.
517
518 WAWG will continue to work with federal and state agencies and university researchers to study
519 the origins and effects of naturally occurring fugitive dust.
520
521 WAWG opposes any agricultural dust and air quality particle size regulations.
522
523 WAWG opposes air quality restrictions that reduce particle size and micron limitations to air
524 quality that results in a net loss to the Washington agricultural industry.
525
526 WAWG supports that the Agriculture Burning Task Force continue to set the burn permit fee as
527 stated in current law.
528
529 WAWG supports the Department of Ecology maintaining a seven day per week agricultural burn
530 smoke management program.
531
532 WAWG will work to ensure that air quality standards for ozone will not impact the Agriculture
533 Burning Task Force agreements.
534
535 WAWG supports collaboration and clear communication on the notification process for allowed
536 ag burning between fire districts, Clean Air Authorities, and Department of Ecology.
537
538 WAWG does not support any cap and trade, carbon sequestration, or climate change provisions
539 without being a full partner in the development of any policy or legislation. WAWG supports
540 market-based legislation that is fair, affordable, and achievable using the best scientific
541 information, and does not make wheat growers less competitive in the global market or add
542 undue costs.

543 ENERGY

544
545 WAWG supports development of alternative sources of energy that benefit small grain
546 producers.
547 WAWG urges that climate change proposals consider production of foodstuffs a national priority
548 and avoid negative impact upon the costs and adequacy of supplies of essential inputs used to
549 produce crops.
550
551 WAWG endorses all hydropower as a qualifying renewable resource.
552
553 WAWG supports a change in the Energy Independence Act that would allow utilities to delay
554 buying power from eligible renewable sources until their demand grows enough that they need
555 the additional power.
556
557 WAWG opposes increasing the renewable portfolio standard or limiting the ability of utilities to
558 acquire new power sources as long as hydropower is not considered a qualifying renewable
559 resource under the Energy Independence Act.
560
561 WAWG supports opportunities to increase hydropower, nuclear energy, biomass, biogas,
562 hydrogen, renewable natural gas, renewable propane, and other low-carbon emitting sources of
563 energy.
564

565 WAWG supports the continued use of natural gas for grid reliability if the state adopts carbon
566 reduction legislation limiting the type of resources electric utilities are eligible to acquire and
567 serve their customers.

568 **CROP PROTECTION**

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

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

573 WAWG supports increased federal funding for import food inspections.

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

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

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

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

579 WAWG supports the continued use of glyphosate for all applications.

580 WAWG opposes cancelling crop protection product labels or uses unless equivalent
581 replacement products are available.

582 **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

597 WAWG will assist the WACD, Conservation Districts and Pacific Northwest Direct Seed
598 Association to work with NRCS at the state and national level so that the 329 and 345 standards
599

617 use RUSLE Stir Value at 30 and less. This will allow the choices and evaluation of equipment
618 with the grower and local NRCS staff.

619
620 WAWG supports that the NRCS change its rules to allow the counting of green growth (grower's
621 crop) in the calculation of residue for HEL compliance.

622
623 WAWG supports the Washington State Conservation Commission efforts to develop BMP's for
624 nonpoint pollution.

625
626 **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

627
628 WAWG strongly encourages the prioritization of wheat and barley research, including Varietal
629 Development, Production and Marketing:

- 630
631 1. All aspects of diseases, insects, and weeds management including development
632 of resistant varieties and BMPs to minimize herbicide resistance in weeds.
633 2. Improved adaptation for new varieties, especially for drought, winter hardiness,
634 falling numbers and sprout damage.
635 3. Soil conservation and fertility related to plant nutrition.
636 4. Cropping Systems: Crop rotation and alternative crops.
637 5. Regional Approaches to Climate Change with emphasis on Carbon
638 Sequestration and Drought.
639 6. Marketing (including the restoration of IMPACT funding – WSU's International
640 Marketing Program for Agricultural Commodities and Trade and the Wheat
641 Marketing Center).
642 7. Agriculture economics
643 8. Varietal testing of all public and private cultivars grown in Washington for
644 performance; adaptation and grain quality across all of Washington's major
645 wheat growing environments.

646
647 WAWG, in conjunction with the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and Washington State
648 University (WSU), should work toward greater Pacific Northwest support for USDA/ARS's NW
649 Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit located in Pullman, WA to insure development of
650 acceptable integrated methods of weed control and increased competitiveness of wheat and
651 barley.

652
653 WAWG will work with environmental groups to find areas of mutual concern where both groups
654 can financially support sound science research that focuses on solving environmental quality
655 problems.

656
657 WAWG urges all growers to participate in coordinated farm research.

658
659 WAWG supports full and continued funding of the Ag and Food Research Initiative in the Farm
660 Bill.

661
662 WAWG supports a collaborative approach to grain research between Idaho, Oregon, and
663 Washington.

664
665 WAWG supports the research of a reliable, consistent, quality-testing method to replace the
666 existing falling number test as a grading factor on wheat.

667

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

670
671 WAWG supports restoration of funding in the Washington State Soil Health initiative which
672 provides funding to Washington State University, to conduct research and pilot projects for
673 practices and policies by the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Washington
674 State Conservation Commission that would improve soil health and improve agricultural
675 productivity.

676
677 WAWG supports the use of approved best management practices for addressing weed
678 resistance.

679
680 WAWG supports the mission and focus of WSU, Washington's Land Grant University. Essential
681 to fulfilling that mission is fostering the research preeminence of WSU faculty that is
682 fundamental to the future success of Washington's agriculture.

683

684 **RESEARCH FUNDING**

685
686 WAWG supports efforts to fund WSU, Agricultural Research Center and University Extension at
687 the level of its peer institutions.

688

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

692

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

696

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

698

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

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

704

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

706

707 WAWG encourages WSU to fully fund and replace open county extension positions.

708

709 **EDUCATION**

710

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

717

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

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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.

WAWG opposes state legislation creating collective bargaining for agricultural workers.

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

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

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

771 WAWG supports the use of voluntary incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather
772 than mandates.

773
774 WAWG supports voluntary development and deployment of greenhouse gas reduction
775 technology.

776
777 WAWG supports a guest worker program that secures the borders of the US and provides a
778 legal, affordable, and stable workforce for agriculture.

779
780 WAWG encourages the buildout of broadband internet infrastructure in Washington state.

781
782 WAWG supports an employee's right to earn a competitive wage for his or her productive work.

783
784 WAWG supports legislation to provide seasonal flexibility from paying overtime for agriculture
785 workers.

786

787

TAXES

788

789 WAWG positions on state tax policy are:

790

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

802

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

805

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

808

809 WAWG supports repealing or making the mandatory long term care tax voluntary.

810

811

REGULATORY REFORM

812

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

815

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

818

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

822

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

825
826 WAWG supports efforts to enact legislation requiring review of all agency budget programs or
827 minimum of once every ten years, in efforts to cut wasteful spending and programs not meeting
828 their intended reasons for implementations.

829
830 **STATE AGENCIES**

831
832 **Department of Agriculture**

833
834 WAWG positions on Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) issues are:

- 835
- 836 1. Supports continued WSDA administration of the regulation of agricultural chemical use
837 versus Department of Ecology or Department of Health.
 - 838 2. Supports continued WSDA administration of the grain inspection program versus federal
839 administration.
 - 840 3. Supports funding for the waste pesticide collection programs.
 - 841 4. Supports maintaining legislative appropriations to WSDA at levels, which allow the
842 department to perform its legislated responsibilities efficiently and effectively.
 - 843 5. Supports funding for pesticide applicator training program which educates handlers and
844 applicators on how to use pesticides safely and effectively.

845
846 WAWG supports maintaining the WSDA as a standalone agency and that they take the lead on
847 any agriculture related issue.

848
849 WAWG supports the Conservation Commission to remain as an independent agency.

850
851 WAWG supports the funding of Washington State trade promotion for expanding grain markets.

852
853 WAWG supports WSDA/WSU/WSCIA wheat seed quality assurance program that includes
854 continued screening to validate the integrity of our certified seed supply.

855
856 WAWG supports legislation to allow a producer to choose to have their submitted grain sample
857 inspected and graded by Washington State Department of Agriculture when delivering to
858 warehouse operator or commodity dealer for storage or sale.

859
860 WAWG supports paying reasonable pesticide registration and licensing fees to maintain a
861 robust pesticide safety program.

862
863 **Department of Ecology**

864
865 WAWG supports funding for conservation districts to assist landowners and operators to
866 implement necessary conservation practices to maintain clean water.

867
868 WAWG believes Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) should be determined by landowners,
869 operators and local conservation experts.

870
871 WAWG supports a MOA between the DOE and local conservation districts.

872
873 WAWG supports participation in the DOE Ag and Water Quality Advisory Committee.

874

875 **Department of Employment Security**

876

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

880

881 **Department of Labor and Industries**

882

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

884

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

890

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

894

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

897

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

899

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

902

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

905

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

908

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

911

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

914

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

918

919 **State Noxious Weed Board**

920

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

924

925

926

EDUCATION

927 WAWG encourages its members and leaders to:
928

- 929 1. Communicate and cooperate with other agricultural organizations and companies
930 (partnerships) to collectively influence agricultural policy.
931 2. Have an active and frequent presence in Olympia.
932 3. Utilize the expertise of the WAWG lobbyist to inform the membership and help direct
933 WAWG policy in Olympia.
934 4. Individually get involved in local and state political processes and work for the election of
935 candidates favorable to agriculture.
936 5. Inform non-agricultural legislators of the value, needs and importance of agriculture in
937 the state.
938

939 WAWG will monitor attempts to further restrict the freedoms of teaching our trade to interested
940 children and young people.
941

942 WAWG opposes rules and regulations adversely effecting employment of young people on
943 farms as long as adequate safety and educational training measures are maintained
944

945 WAWG support states' efforts that ask county commissioners to formally request in writing that
946 the state and federal governments direct their employees do the following:
947

- 948 1. Consult with each respective county prior to implementing any laws, statutes, or US
949 codes;
950 2. Follow and adhere to the afore mentioned laws, statutes, or USCs, which would affect
951 the economy, customs and culture of their county.
952

953 WAWG opposes any state laws or regulations, which are more restrictive than the 1987 federal
954 manual for defining wetlands. Any such laws or regulations must require that all defining factors
955 be present: soil type, water, air, plant type, animal, human, and energy (SWAPAHE).
956

957 **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

958

959 WAWG will pursue all efforts to keep a well-maintained West Coast Trade Corridor. We will do
960 so by helping to maintain or improve roadway, rail, and river (navigation) freight corridors.
961

962 **ROAD**

963

964 WAWG supports funds collected from any transportation source or mode be allocated back
965 solely for transportation uses.
966

967 WAWG requests the Washington State Transportation Commission and WSDOT develop a
968 statewide, long-term Freight Plan for Washington State that incorporates both infrastructure and
969 funding plans.
970

971 WAWG will educate wheat farmers and continue to lobby against additional Interstate and
972 Intrastate licensing issues for farm trucks and semi-tractor/trailer vehicles.
973

974 WAWG supports a farm-to-market exemption from interstate commerce regulatory enforcement
975 to allow movement of a commodity from the farm to its first point of in-state delivery where title
976 is transferred within the state of origin.
977

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

980
981 WAWG encourages the Washington State Patrol and WSDOT to expedite the implementation of
982 the MAP-21 federal transportation law, especially the provisions exempting farm vehicles.

983
984 WAWG opposes road usage charges based on a pay-per-mile system which disproportionately
985 impacts rural areas.

986
987 **RAIL**

988
989 WAWG supports the Palouse River Coulee City Rail Authority efforts to rebuild, refurbish,
990 maintain and reconnect the short line rail system.

991
992 WAWG supports federal and state assistance for branch line track rehabilitation.

993
994 WAWG continues to encourage WSDOT to ensure the return and use of Washington Grain
995 Train cars primarily on short lines in the Pacific Northwest AND to purchase additional Grain
996 Train Cars when economically feasible.

997
998 WAWG encourages the state of Washington to ensure the mainline rail carriers provide grain
999 cars to shippers in an economically fair and timely manner to ensure that state investment in
1000 short line infrastructure is not marginalized.

1001
1002 WAWG urges members of Congress, the Surface Transportation Board and other responsible
1003 government entities, to prevent America's railroads from implementing unnecessary new railcar
1004 standards that would impede the timely and economical transportation of anhydrous ammonia,
1005 an essential fertilizer for wheat and the feedstock used to produce other nitrogen products.

1006
1007 WAWG asks the legislature and WSDOT to use their influence to maintain trackage rights and
1008 access to the rail line to Wallula for future use.

1009
1010 WAWG supports increased Surface Transportation Board monitoring of railroad maintenance
1011 and improvements.

1012
1013 WAWG opposes the use of inverse rate structures by railroads and supports the
1014 nondiscriminatory geographic rates.

1015
1016 WAWG shall pursue all facets of rail issues that will provide relief to wheat growers on rail rates
1017 and service.

1018
1019 WAWG supports maintenance and expansion of intermodal services that service
1020 agricultural products.

1021
1022 **RIVERS**

1023
1024 WAWG will continue membership of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and will hold
1025 a position on its board of directors.

1026
1027 WAWG supports a strong barge, river, and port system with continued federal and state
1028 funding for operations, maintenance and improvement of the region's inland waterways,

1029 infrastructure, and coastal harbor channels. WAWG will work with other groups to
1030 reduce the impact of the river closure maintenance.

1031
1032 WAWG encourages Washington State legislators to actively support and pursue rivers
1033 (navigation) as an integral part of freight mobility in relieving rail and road congestion.

1034
1035 WAWG supports retaining congressional authority over navigation and the other
1036 congressionally authorized purposes of the federal Columbia-Snake River System
1037 projects.

1038
1039 WAWG opposes the removal or breaching of any dams, and excessive spill and flow
1040 augmentation within the Columbia/Snake River system.

1041
1042 WAWG supports development of biologically effective salmon recovery measures that
1043 maintain the existing federally authorized, multiple-use river system.

1044
1045 WAWG strongly endorses the routine maintenance of the Columbia-Snake River
1046 Navigational Channel at authorized depth via dredging and/or by adjusting reservoir pool
1047 levels.

1048
1049 WAWG supports funding for short- and long-term repair needs of jetties at the mouth of
1050 the Columbia River.

1051
1052 WAWG supports Columbia River Treaty efforts which protect the viability of US
1053 navigation, hydropower, irrigation, and flood control.

1054
1055 WAWG supports a flood control approach that does not cause impacts to the safety or
1056 efficiency of navigation on the Columbia or Snake rivers.

1057
1058 **MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

1059
1060 **EDUCATION**

1061
1062 WAWG shall actively produce public information and educational programs in order to increase
1063 the awareness of the wheat industry that drives agriculture's importance to the state and
1064 nation's economy.

1065
1066 WAWG encourages the Washington Grain Commission and Washington Wheat Foundation to
1067 continue funding public informational programs.

1068
1069 WAWG urges the WGC to continue to fund and assist the Wheat Foods Council and other
1070 organizations dedicated to addressing the public regarding wheat's nutritional value.

1071
1072 Each county association of wheat growers is encouraged to annually help fund agriculture
1073 education programs.

1074
1075 WAWG will maintain an active website, linked to other wheat industry sites for complete
1076 information and education for members and the public.

1077
1078
1079
1080

1081 **VALUE ADDED SERVICE, PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

1082
1083 WAWG will engage various companies to offer optional value-added services to individual
1084 WAWG members and associates. Officers, Executive Committee, staff and the WAWG
1085 Membership Committee will review and make recommendations to the WAWG Board of
1086 Directors for final approval.

1087
1088 **MEMBERSHIP**

1089 WAWG encourages each county to:

- 1090
1091
- 1092 1. Recruit all wheat producers as members and associate partners.
 - 1093 2. Upgrade individual membership levels.

1094
1095 Optimize levels of communication on the national, state, and local county level through
1096 newsletters, websites, Wheat Life and email.

1097
1098 State committees should maintain continuity in their plans and goals:

- 1099
- 1100 1. Each county should have a member assigned to each state
1101 committee.
 - 1102 2. Committee chairmen shall receive a job description, instruction
1103 and budget.

1104
1105 As representatives of WAWG, state officers and executive committee members should not
1106 publicly endorse political candidates.

1107
1108 Membership is the grassroots of WAWG.

1109
1110 Membership fees can change with growers needs. The following membership levels will be
1111 current until such time as the membership with proper procedure shall choose to change
1112 amounts (as outlined in Article X – Conventions or by Board motion to be reconfirmed at state
1113 annual meeting.)

1114
1115 Lifetime member dues remain as a permanent endowment (regardless of death) and only the
1116 interest from the permanent endowment may be used as non-restricted funds.

1117 Only those lifetime members joining WAWG prior to November 21, 2009, shall receive a
1118 complimentary convention registration.

1119
1120 Harvest Plus Lifetime Membership dues will be 20 times that of the grower membership level.
1121 As of 11/21/2009 the amount is \$2,500 and payments over a three-year billing period is allowed
1122 and is non-refundable.

1123
1124 The dues for regular membership (voting) shall be:

- 1125
- 1126 • Grower/Landlord- \$125 per person per annum,
 - 1127 • Family - \$200 for up to 2 people per annum.
 - 1128 • Partnership - \$500 for up to 5 people per annum.
 - 1129 • Convention – \$600 for 2 individuals, membership, and convention registration

1130 The dues for student nonvoting membership

- 1131
- 1132 • Education - \$75.00 per annum, Wheat Life magazine and Green Sheet

- 1133 The designated dues for Associate Members (non-voting) shall be:
1134 • Level 1 Industry Supporter - \$150 per annum membership
1135 • Level 2 VIP - \$500 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit \$250
1136 • Level 3 CEO - \$1,800 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit
1137 \$1,050, AMMO \$500
1138 • Level 4 Convention Sponsor - \$6,000 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life
1139 credit \$2,750, AMMO \$1,000, Convention Silver \$2,000
1140 • Level 5 Platinum Sponsor - \$10,000 per annum, Membership \$250, Wheat Life credit
1141 \$2,750, AMMO \$1,000, Convention Platinum \$6,000

1142 The state association will provide Wheat Life magazine and either Green Sheet Alert via email
1143 or Green Sheet newsletter at all levels of membership.
1144

1145 The state association shall retain eighty-five (85%) percent of membership payments and fifteen
1146 (15%) percent shall be returned to the counties for their efforts towards membership. Lifetime
1147 member fees are excluded from the 85/15% amounts to be retained by the state and counties
1148 respectfully. County paybacks will be paid approximately twice a year.
1149

1150 Members are encouraged to donate to Legislative Action Fund, Washington Wheat PAC and
1151 Barley Boosters for state and national legislative lobbying, and to the Environment Stewardship
1152 Fund for fighting environmental issues that arise and directly affect growers.
1153

1154 ***2022 WAWG Resolutions passed at the 2021 Washington Association of Wheat***
1155 ***Growers Annual Meeting December 1, 2021.***
1156