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### **Cox Hired as WAWG's New Conservation Coordinator**

(Ritzville, Wash., April 15, 2024) The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) is pleased to announce Andrea Cox has been hired as the Conservation Coordinator. Her role will assist Washington small grain farmers in learning more about the additional NRCS funding opportunities provided through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

"I'm thrilled to be part of the WAWG team and have the opportunity to utilize my background and passion for agriculture in addition to my experience in conservation. I'm looking forward to collaborating with both our Eastern Washington producers and NRCS counterparts and serving as a liaison between the two to build relationships to increase awareness and utilization of available programs," Cox said.

Cox grew up on a dryland wheat and barley farm and spent her career in a variety of roles supporting agriculture – from Farm Service Agency, WSU's CAHNRS recruitment as well as working with farmers in her past role in Northwest Farm Credit Services (now known as AgWest Farm Credit). She assists in coaching her children's sports teams and serves on the Pasco and Kennewick Ag Education Advisory Committees. She and husband Ben and their three children live in Kennewick.

"We are so excited to have Andrea join our team. She comes with a wealth of ag experience and will be able to hit the ground running in this new role. This is a position WAWG has looked forward to filling to provide grassroots education to our membership on NRCS conservation practices" WAWG Executive Director Michelle Hennings explained. "I'm looking forward to introducing her to our wheat growers. These new conservation funds are in addition to NRCS' farm bill funding and are targeted at climate-smart mitigation activities and other voluntary conservation activities that facilitate them."

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*About WAWG: Education and outreach are the heart of Washington Association of Wheat Growers activity, all of which is aimed at helping Washington wheat families. Since 1954, WAWG has been dedicated to the enrichment of the Washington wheat industry as a nonprofit trade association, which depends on volunteers, membership dues and donations to carry out activities as representatives on the state and national levels. WAWG monitors state, transportation, research and natural resources policy and partners with the National Association of Wheat Growers to monitor national farm policy. Visit [wawg.org](http://wawg.org) for more information.*