

APRIL 2018

OREGON WHEAT

An Official Publication of the Oregon Wheat Industry

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Does the "T" Stand for Trainwreck?

10

Training the Next Generation of Wheat Breeders

12

Collaboration Leads to our next Cereals
Extension Professor



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Oregon Wheat is published bimonthly by Oregon Wheat Growers League, 115 SE 8th Street, Pendleton, Oregon 97801. Oregon Wheat is sent to all Oregon wheat producers through funding provided by the Oregon Wheat Commission. **Receipt of Oregon Wheat magazine does not indicate membership in the Oregon Wheat Growers League.**

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Cover:
OWGL Leaders meet with Congressman Walden to discuss the farm bill and trade policy. More on page 20.



Brent Cheyne
President

Klamath Wheat Country In Spring

Spring is nothing to look forward to in the Klamath Basin, at least this is my theory. Weather goes from not too bad to completely miserable in a matter of minutes and the wind begins to shriek and howl. The feel of “spring in the air” is the snow, sleet, or hail roaring in sideways. This ushers in the beginning of the spring migration and I’m not talking about heading to Arizona to watch spring training. Generally the first thing to start moving are your wheel lines. They like to go visit the neighbors or, with enough wind, the next county is a likely destination. It is somewhat mystifying that this weather makes us all feel compelled to tear the door off the hinges to get out and accomplish our spring work.

No matter how abysmal the weather, the awesome part of living here is watching nature’s unending miracle as the spring migration brings back the millions of ducks, geese, rails and a multitude of other assorted shore birds, including the white pelicans. People come from all over the world to witness this spectacle, but as farmers we see this air show every time we are outside. Feeding the wildlife on our fields has a real cost, but to many of us, the sight of the flocks is a reward that never grows old. We are privileged to see on a daily basis what many have to pay to see.

Many of us also have livestock, and the calving and lambing provides us a chance to bring children and grandchildren out to the field to help. It’s great to give the next generation a chance to learn the ropes and learn how manage and operate the family business.

These are things that keep me going through the spring and early summer. I hope I never start to take them for granted.

Another, less cherished, springtime ritual, is the arrival of our state legislators in Salem. This year we have a short session (35 days), but there is still lots going on that we need to be aware of. The

issue I am worried about the most is cap and trade. Advocates for carbon regulation have been pushing hard to adopt a new state regulatory program to further limit carbon emissions. Major legislation like this isn’t supposed to happen in short sessions, but the minimum wage increase passed in the 2016 short session is an example of what can happen if you have the votes.

Also known as cap and invest or the Clean Energy Jobs bill, the carbon legislation poses major problems for our wheat growers. If passed, it would increase our costs for fuel, electricity, transportation, and other farm inputs, all at a time when we are already struggling with very low wheat prices, harmful trade policy actions, and ever increasing regulatory costs. The costs to our operations are real, but the benefits are minimal because Oregon is such a small part of global carbon emissions already.

The League is very engaged on this and many other issues. Amanda Dalton represents us as our lobbyist and I hope growers are aware of what a great job she is doing on your behalf. It is my opinion that this is the best money spent by the League over the course of the year. We get a good return on our investment in legislative work, both through Amanda and through our donations to the Oregon WheatPAC. These dollars help us make a positive difference in Salem during these challenging times, and I wish to extend a big thank you to those who have supported the League through membership and PAC donations.

That’s enough writing for now. I hear the wind howling with the call of spring. I really should fix the hinges on my door before I head out to do more spring work.



Does the "T" Stand for Train Wreck?

Blake Rowe, CEO, Oregon Wheat



Just two short years ago, leaders from Oregon Wheat traveled to Tokyo to join with our Japanese milling and baking customers to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Oregon founding the first wheat office in Japan. The event was a tribute to those from both countries

who committed to building a relationship that would stand through all the tests that came over 60 years. As those in the room pledged to continue our relationship in the decades to come, I doubt that anyone in their wildest nightmare contemplated that one of our respective governments would embark on a course that would compromise the relationship between Oregon's growers and our customers in Japan.

That was then, this is now. As we all know, one of President Trump's first actions upon taking office was to terminate the United States' involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. His comments at the time about TPP, referring to it as a "ridiculous trade deal" and that the withdrawal from TPP signaled the end of multi-nation trade deals, left little room for coming back to the agreement at some later date.

The remaining eleven TPP countries (TPP-11) continued to negotiate, announcing an agreement on the one-year anniversary of the US withdrawal. The TPP-11 includes major markets for our wheat like Japan, growing markets like Chile, Vietnam, and Malaysia, and major competitors like Australia and Canada. Being outside of the TPP-11 agreement now presents US wheat producers with major problems.

The most direct impact of the new agreement is that Australian and Canadian wheat exports into Japan will benefit from reduced Japanese tariffs compared to US wheat. Over the next nine years, the reduced tariffs will lower the cost of wheat from these two competitors by \$65/metric ton (roughly \$1.75/bushel). The annual tariff reductions are gradual, ranging from about \$5.50/MT initially to about \$7.50/MT in the later years. If you use a current soft white wheat price of \$5/bu, this means we would have to find a way to sell our wheat for as low a price as \$3.25/bu to remain competitive, all other things being equal.

When asked about the impact of this tariff reduction, Japanese milling industry sources estimated that the US share of Japan's wheat market would fall from 3.1 million metric tons to less than 1.4 MMT in only a few years, cutting our market share in Japan from about 50% to 23%. Put in dollar terms, that translates to an annual loss of about \$500 million dollars of wheat sales at today's prices. That unsold wheat will add to stocks and push futures prices down, as much as 50 cents per bushel according to an estimate by US Wheat Associates.

Like a gift that keeps on giving, this grim forecast of the future will impact all parts of our supply chain as well. Lots of lost jobs through the whole chain, reduced wheat volumes handled by our up-country elevators and export terminals, fewer bulk ships carrying wheat, fewer railcars, fewer barges on the river, less work for the tug companies.

Perhaps the hardest impact to quantify is the damage this will cause to our customer relationships, especially in Japan. They are very committed to using our soft white wheat, but a \$65/MT difference in cost will put a huge strain on that loyalty. I hate to think that we may be witness to a grand experiment, where we find out what at what price differential customers shift to other wheat supplies, even alternatives that aren't as good as soft white.

Since we live with trade policy, but don't really control it (though we wish we could), we have limited options to address the TPP problem. Communicating with the public tops the list. Expect to hear about the impacts a lot, in every venue and type of media we can access. Lots of other crops and products will have their own impacts to add to this story, so it won't just be wheat. We will talk with our Congressional delegation and share all the ugly details with them. We'll lobby the Trump Administration at every opportunity.

We will also put the maximum effort toward providing outstanding customer service. Customers in Japan and elsewhere will want to be reassured that we are working the problem with all our resources and that we are committed to finding a way to continue to be their best wheat supplier.

One thing I do know for certain is that we will not give up our wheat markets in Japan or anywhere else without a fight. Too much effort by past generations went into building these markets to let them slip away just because a new President felt it was more important to honor campaign rhetoric than protect vital, hard won markets and customer relationships.



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Oregon Boasts Two Winners in 2017 National Wheat Yield Contest

Since the National Wheat Yield Contest (NWYC) was first announced to growers in February 2015, hundreds of wheat producers nationwide have helped increase U.S. wheat growers' productivity to ensure an ample supply of quality U.S. wheat to reliably meet the needs of the domestic wheat market and our foreign customers.

The contest is divided into two divisions, winter and spring wheat, with subcategories for dryland and irrigated operations in each division.

Oregon proudly announces two winners again this year in the National Wheat Yield Contest.

Dan Mills and his nephew, Travis Carnine, both of Stanfield (Umatilla County) took first place in the National and State Spring Wheat-Irrigated category. They planted Solano, a WestBred variety, which is no longer available. Dan will be using a different variety for the 2018 contest.



Dan noted other growers had higher yields, but the qualification is based on the highest percentage over average county yields. Dan's yield was 112% over the county average with a final yield of 137.85 bu/acre.

He farms with his nephew, Travis Carnine, who did the field prep and planting. They put down 150# of N, 20# of sulfur and planted 150#/acre. Travis traveled to Commodity Classic in Anaheim, California to represent the farm.

Nathan Rea, of Milton-Freewater (Umatilla County) was a multiple winner, taking 5th place in the Winter Wheat Irrigated category at the national level, and first place in the winter wheat dryland and winter wheat irrigated categories at the state level.



In the National Winter Wheat-Irrigated Category, Nathan produced a yield of 161.99 bu/acre – 149.22% above the Umatilla County average with Limagrain's Drive, garnering him a 5th place finish nationally and first place in Oregon.

A second Oregon field entered by Nathan in the Winter Wheat-Irrigated Category placed second in Oregon with a yield of 142.44 bushels per acre, 119.14% above the Umatilla County average. This field was planted to Oregon State University/ Limagrain Norwest Duet.

Nathan also entered a field in Washington's Walla Walla County in the Winter Wheat Dryland Category. This field produced 148.83 bushels per acre – 88.39% above the Walla Walla County, Washington average using the 'Jet' variety produced by Limagrain, good enough to place third in Washington for this category.

Nathan farms with his father, Dennis Rea and brother, Ryan in Northeast Oregon. He spoon-fed fertilizer throughout the year, and chemicals as needed to control weeds and fungi. This year, he

- continued on page 9

What does the OWGL do for you?

- Serves as your voice at the State and National levels of government during the creation and implementation of new laws and regulations.
- Partners with the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and other wheat states to lobby Congress on critical wheat issues.
- Represents Oregon's interests on the NAWG Board of Directors and NAWG committees. (www.wheatworld.org)
- Builds relationships with state and federal agencies to bring favorable changes to administrative rules and/or the creation of new programs.
- Partners with other organizations such as Oregonians for Food and Shelter, Associated Oregon Industries, PNW Waterways Association, and many others on agriculture and business policies.
- Member of the Wheat Foods Council, the national wheat education association, to promote the benefits of wheat based foods (www.wheatfoods.org).
- Publishes regular member communications: the bi-weekly newsletter, and the bi-monthly magazine (which is also mailed to all assessment-paying wheat growers, regardless of membership status).
- Identifies and trains future industry leaders.
- Organizes educational seminars and county grower meetings, and partners with Idaho and Washington for the Tri-State Grain Growers Association.
- Provides staff support for the Oregon Wheat Foundation and Oregon WheatPAC.
- Maintains the industry website and social media sites.



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The above dues amounts include a pre-set Oregon WheatPAC donation of \$25. If you wish to opt-out, reduce the above amount by \$25. You may also opt to increase your PAC donation. Oregon State offers a tax credit of up to \$100 for joint filers.

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has planted the same variety under a pivot as last year, which was planted under a wheel line.

Congratulations to these two farms for their efforts!

The top five winners from each category & subcategory, along with the overall high yield winner, will be recognized nationally, including at the winner's reception during the 2019 Commodity Classic to be held Feb. 28 - March 2, 2019 in Orlando, Florida.

Please make sure you are a member in good standing of a recognized state wheat grower association (or NAWG if from a state without a recognized state wheat grower association) before completing and submitting the NWYC Entry Form.

Full details and application can be found at <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/>



2018 National Wheat Yield Contest



Beginning this year, grain from each Contest entry will be analyzed to determine the quality of wheat produced

under high yield management practices used in this wheat yield contest. It is imperative to bring quality top of mind to all wheat growers, and the Foundation believes quality is a necessary part to determine Contest winners. It is also imperative to provide feedback to each grower on the wheat quality achieved from the management practices used in the entry. Quality is a necessary component of wheat production in order for the grower to maximize the value of the grain and improve marketing opportunities. Lack of quality can lead to discounts for farmers and diminish demand for wheat in all classes and all markets. The submission of grain sample will be a requirement to qualify for national recognition. The quality testing will provide a unique dataset of intensively managed wheat fields allowing experts to identify management practices (i.e. N timing, foliar fungicide, and plant population) that can be explored to improve yield and grain quality.

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Kronstad Endowment - Training the Next Generation of Wheat Breeders

Tana Simpson, Assistant Administrator, Oregon Wheat Commission



The Warren Kronstad Wheat Research Endowed Chair, created by grower and industry contributions over 30 years ago, is continuing its mission of keeping Oregon's wheat industry profitable by developing new varieties of wheat and researching other

significant issues of concern to the industry. This endowed chair, created in 1987 and named after the world-renowned wheat breeder following his retirement from OSU in 1998, has a long history of supporting innovative research efforts.

The endowment which once reached \$1.1 million, has declined in recent years to \$880,000 due to reduced rates of return since the recession. Despite the downturn, the OSU Foundation, which manages this fund and many others like it, continues to provide 4% of the fund value annually to an expendable fund managed by OSU Wheat Breeder, Dr. Robert Zemetra, the current holder of the endowed position. In recent years, that 4% has provided around \$35,000 a year in expendable funds.

Dr. Zemetra has focused these funds over the last few years on training the next generation of wheat researchers; specifically to support and educate graduate students who in turn focus their research efforts on important issues facing Oregon growers. Some specific projects include improving end-use quality of soft and hard winter wheat, understanding post-harvest dormancy in PNW wheat varieties in relationship to pre-harvest sprouting and low Falling Numbers, improving methods of breeding for disease resistance and tolerance to climate variation, and exploring glutenin proteins found in the past and current varieties of PNW wheat. These students also participate in the field breeding program to give them a hands-on training in all aspects of cultivar development.

The projects supported by endowment funds provide valuable results for Oregon's wheat growers. One example is a 2017 effort that resulted in a reselection of Bobtail that is awned and has increased seed weight.

Dr. Zemetra is hopeful this reselection will result in increased test weights. Endowment funds are also used to fund travel for students, so they can present their work at the International Wheat Genetics Symposium and for the Chair holder to participate in the National Wheat Improvement Committee effort, which lobbies for research funding.

The ultimate goal of the Kronstad Endowment was to fully fund the Wheat Breeding position at OSU. At current rates of return for the Foundation, that would require a total endowment of \$2 million, far more than the current balance. While we are short of "full" funding, the endowment still provides critical support to the wheat research effort at OSU. If you are interested in supporting this important work, please contact the OSU Foundation.



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Collaboration Leads to the Next Cereals Extension Professor

By Mary Corp, Director, Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center - CBARC; Jay Noller, Department Head - Crop and Soil Science; and Wally Powell, Chair, Oregon Wheat Commission



We teamed up to drop you all a conversational note about progress being made in the filling of the Cereals Extension professor vacancy left by Dr. Mike Flowers departure this past September. We prepared this as a conversation, of sorts, between a couple of Oregon State

University (OSU) administrators (**Mary and Jay; MC & JN**) and your Commission's Chair (**Wally; WP**).

MC & JN: Wally, you know that the Cereals Extension professor is the priority faculty hire we are making at OSU for Oregon's wheat industry. OSU is close to finalizing the hire of Ryan Graebner as the Cereals Extension Professor of Practice. This recruitment process has been made with breath-taking efficiency and speed (at least as far as University hires go). OSU owes a lot to wheat growers who offered an idea that made this possible.

WP: All of us are appreciative of the speed involved in completing this process. This is an important position for the wheat industry. I see several steps (ideas) that aided in moving the process forward. The first was the decision to involve the grower community early. The second was to consider shifting the position to CBARC as a Professor of Practice. The third was to consider an individual some growers were already familiar with from his work at the Hermiston Experiment Station. Less important, but of consideration, was Ryan already being married into the wheat community, so to speak, as the husband of our CBARC Plant Pathologist. The fact that Ryan and Christina wish to make the Columbia Plateau their home and future struck a chord with me.

MC & JN: We were in favor of the process as well. It offered an alignment of opportunity with industry need. It would work to bring another top scientist to the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center (CBARC); and build critical mass at this shared state and federal research facility. For us as university administrators, making this idea happen could have been likened to threading a needle in the dark. We, faculty members, live by the mantra of process,

process, and more process; followed by recruitment-to-hire timelines that typically stretch from one-and-a-half to two years, or more. But, with such early industry support, and an opportunity to strengthen the OSU wheat enterprise, we just had to make a go of this.

WP: Jay, you as supervisor of this position in the past know that it had pivoted in focus. Growers are grateful that Mike created the region-wide variety trials as his key vehicle for supporting the Oregon wheat industry. We needed someone who could come in and continue to develop a very successful program. The industry really wasn't focused on a hire with teaching, or other on-campus responsibilities.

JN: Yes, the Cereals Extension professor position had evolved toward a greater focus on field work and industry relevance. Grower interaction increased and the ratio of public to private varieties shifted significantly. Further, the campus role of teaching and graduate student advising had



Ryan Graebner

greatly diminished. Our cereals extension team now needed close to a quarter of their work year just to travel to eastern Oregon in order to maintain the extensive regional wheat trials established by Mike. The budget was being stripped by travel expenses.

MC: Jay and I, along with Joyce Loper and other deans, looked at the opportunity to reallocate University resources to the benefit of all. By moving the new position from Corvallis to CBARC and reassigning University resources (personnel and equipment) to CBARC, day-to-day observances can occur year round locally in the Basin. Additionally, the Wheat Commission gains from stretching its research dollars. Growers are now covering significantly lower travel costs for the cereals extension team.

WP: The Commission is always seeking ways to make better use of Commission funds and time. We can allocate those funds toward other priority needs. I appreciate that

OSU has moved this recruitment along at a quicker clip than expected. How did that happen, Mary?

MC: We got there quickly because of industry support. In November, we were able to get industry folks together for our CBARC Liaison Committee meeting. With 20 grower/industry representatives in attendance, Ryan presented a seminar on his vision for leading the cereal extension team. He also presented future improvements he would make for communicating meaningful results quickly to growers, and the cereal industry. Following the seminar, a small group representing the OWC, the OWGL, the CBARC Committee Chair, and the Vice Chair met with Ryan for a question and answer session. Ryan finished out the day touring the facility; and meeting with faculty and staff at CBARC. The feedback received from growers and leadership from these interactions was very positive and supportive of moving forward with considering Ryan for the extension cereal position.

WP: How was the interview process handled on campus Jay?

JN: We had a full interview with Ryan on the Corvallis campus over the 10th-12th December. This involved meals and meetings with faculty, college deans and extension administrators. A public presentation was offered as well. On December 13th, we had a special department meeting, with faculty calling in from all around the state to discuss the proposal to hire Ryan. The outcome of this is that the Department fully supports this hiring. We will ensure that he is well mentored and provided other faculty-driven supports for success.

WP: As I understand the process, Ryan will be completing his doctoral work toward the end of March. What would be the next step for Ryan prior to climbing on a tractor at CBARC?

MC & JN: Looking ahead, we still have the customary hiring paperwork and all to do. We are looking at a mid-April start date. That announcement should be coming soon.

WP: I would like to welcome Ryan to CBARC. Please swing by CBARC after the 15th of April and say hello to your new Extension specialist.

I also thank Dan, Joyce, Jay, Mary, others at OSU, and all the growers who have contributed to this process.

Walter

Contacts: Mary Corp (mary.corp@oregonstate.edu) and Jay Noller (jay.noller@oregonstate.edu)



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New “Buck” Naked Barley: Food, Feed, Brew

Researchers at Oregon State University (OSU) are giving an ancient grain a new life: this barley is naked, but not in an indecent way.

Most barley grains are covered rather than naked. Covered varieties have a hull—or outer layer—firmly attached to the grain. The hull on ‘Buck’—as in “Buck-naked”—doesn’t hang on to the grain. Instead, the hulls fall off during harvest.

“Even barley geneticists try to have a sense of humor,” said Patrick Hayes, crop scientist. Hayes is part of the OSU Barley Project, a team of barley enthusiasts and breeders.

Food manufacturers using covered barley grind off the unpalatable hull to produce pearled barley. But pearling removes part of the nutrient-rich bran, and pearled barley isn’t considered a whole grain. Naked barley does not require pearling, allowing it to hold onto the bran and whole grain status.

Barley grain is tasty and nutritional. Hayes said that Buck has an optimum level of beta-glucan, a soluble dietary fiber that lowers cholesterol and aids digestion. Whole grain baked goods, porridges, grits, and cereals can all be made from barley. “I started my day today, as I do every day, with a bowl of barley flakes,” he said. “We aren’t trying to make barley a fad diet, but we’re telling people ‘Hey, here’s a modern version of an ancient grain, and it’s good for you!’”

Naked barley has been around for 10,000 years, the result of a natural mutation that was selected at

the dawn of agriculture. But there weren’t naked varieties adapted to the Pacific Northwest. That’s where Buck comes in. It’s the first fall-planted naked barley variety to be bred specifically for the region.



Buck Naked Golden in the glass, photo by Patrick Hayes.



Buck Naked Golden Ale on the tap list, brewed by Natalie Baldwin and Ben Edmunds, at Breakside Brewery in Portland. Photo credit Patrick Hayes.

“Buck” may have broader adaptation: It has done well in field trials in the Upper Midwest, even surviving some Minnesota winters.

The research team behind Buck crossed two barley varieties together, one from Oregon and one from Virginia. The Oregon parent contributed desirable traits like disease resistance, while the Virginian contributed the naked factor. The combined traits enable Buck to achieve high yields and flourish with less fertilizer and water than its more familiar naked cousin, wheat. Best of all, Buck is a multi-use barley. It can be used for human food, animal feed, and beer.

Buck is at the forefront because it has a modest beta-glucan level that meets food, feed, and brewing needs. If beta-glucan is too high, things get complicated for animal nutrition and brewers. Naked barleys can



The Buck harvest crew celebrates their success. Photo provided by Patrick Hayes.



Buck barley is bred to have a hull that falls off easily during harvest. Photo credit Patrick Hayes.

produce more beer per unit of malt used, which means breweries will get more bang for their... buck.

Worldwide, most barley is used for animal feed. However, Hayes noted, “Barley exists as a significant crop today because of its unique advantages for brewing.”

Naked varieties may bring new flavors and processing advantages to brewing. In typical brewing, the hulls are used to make the initial malting process easier and act as filters. Without hulls, this can be addressed in other ways. The most sophisticated is a technology called mash filtration that reduces water use and carbon footprint. Brewers without mash filters can still use naked barley, either as part of their malt blend or by using added rice hulls.



Patrick Hayes

The OSU research team is collaborating with industry and academic colleagues to develop beer recipes based on Buck. The first Buck beer was brewed by Great Western Malting of Vancouver, WA. Coming on tap soon is an experimental Buck malt beer brewed by Breakside Brewing, Portland, OR.

“It’s so satisfying to have a beer made from the barley you’ve helped develop—and to eat it too!” said Hayes.

Read more about the development of Buck in Journal of Plant Registration. The project was funded by the USDA-NIFA-OREI (National Institute of Food and Agriculture-Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative) program.

Author’s note: I am proud to add that the Oregon Wheat Commission is an essential and integral supporter of barley research at Oregon State University.

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Credit: Craft Brewing Business, online: www.craftbrewingbusiness.com, and

Crop Science Society of America, online at <https://www.crops.org/science--news/new-buck-naked-barley-food-feed-brew>



Philippines and Japan – Markets in Contrast

Darren Padget, Oregon Wheat Commission



Every trip overseas – this is number 3 for me – increases my knowledge base of our export markets exponentially. This trip was no exception. Things started out on a positive note as compared to my Colombia venture. Flights went smoothly,

and my underwear and socks showed up when I did! Collin Watters from Montana was not as fortunate, as his luggage made it to Amsterdam prior to reuniting with him the last day we were in the Philippines.

This was my second trip to Manila. The first was on the Wheat Quality Tour in 2013, but this was a much more in-depth look at the Philippines. The most notable takeaways for me were the Philippine economy and their population demographic. Their economy has been growing in the 6% range for some years, and according to Joe Sowers, staff for US Wheat Associates (USW) in Manila, it is estimated to grow at close to 7% annually for the next 5 years at least. This is due in part to the amount of cash flowing into the country from the Philippine people who work outside the country. The cruise industry comes to mind, as an example.



This is the view from the hotel in Manila, Philippines. We met with General Milling Corporation, Pilmico, and attended a Filipino-Chinese Bakery Association function that evening. The Philippines has become a major customer of U.S. Wheat.



We visited the San Miguel flour mill, one of the largest in the Philippines. Note the labor intensive loading, hand stacked, no forklifts. Labor is plentiful. Truck after truck after truck. The top management spent a lot of time with us, very nice people. They have another mill of the same size under construction next door.

Construction is happening at a tremendous pace, mostly due to the lack of red tape, as near as I can figure. As an example, San Miguel, the largest flour miller in the country, has many different holdings, and apparently, is quite profitable. They are planning to build a six-runway international airport south of Manila, to be completed in 3 years, all financed with private pesos. I am guessing no environmental impact study is required. Projects move forward at tremendous speed in that part of the world.

The second thing that is notable, is that the population in the Philippines is still growing, very different than countries like Japan. The vast majority of the population is 25 and under; the population demographic looks like a pyramid, with the base as the young people and the top as the elderly portion. This will be a tremendous market as time passes and the middle class grows. The U.S. has a 97% share of the wheat market and we would be wise not to screw it up.

San Miguel in particular values the USW relationship – enough to send their private helicopter to escort half of our team to visit their mill. Unfortunately, the rest of us were deemed too “big” for the helo and had to make the 2 1/2 hour drive. It is notable that at this particular mill site, they process about 50,000 bushels per day and they are in the process of doubling this capacity. We had a very warm welcome from the San Miguel team.



First snowfall in Tokyo in five years.

Our trip ended in Japan – a totally different market. It is fairly mature, as the population demographic is opposite the Philippines, think an inverted pyramid this time. Japan allows no immigration and the younger folks are not having kids at a rate high enough to sustain their population. However, Japan is still our biggest cash customer and maintaining relations are ultra-important. Everywhere we went, the Trans Pacific Partnership was front and center. We assured them that our people are on point and visiting with everyone in Washington, DC who will listen. Since the U.S. has withdrawn, we will be at an increasing competitive disadvantage compared to Australia and Canada in the future. It is very sad to

see this happening as the three previous generations worked so hard to develop this market.

U.S. Wheat has incredible access in Japan. Chairman Mike Miller, President Vince Peterson, and Vice President of Overseas Operations Mark Fowler had dinner with the Emperor's brother, and top management at Nisshin Milling. Impressive. The challenge in Japan will be to maintain market share in the coming years, which will be a heavy lift at best. The Japanese government says they do not wish to negotiate a bilateral agreement and would prefer the US rejoin the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). I really hope something is going on behind the scenes, for our sake.

It snowed for the first time in five years while we were in Tokyo. It was beautiful, and we thanked them for ordering the four inches of snow in honor of our visit. One notable fact, while concerned, we did not witness the pandemonium we see in Portland when it snows as little as ¼ inch. Amazing.

We visited with Nisshin, Nippon, and Showa, which represents 73% of Japan's flour milling capacity. The Japan Flour Millers Association 70th anniversary celebration was well attended, and we were introduced to many, many, people. Representatives from Australia and Canada were in attendance as well. It was quite an event.

As always, USW staff did an excellent job and deserve credit for the fantastic job they perform. To top it off, my underwear and socks made it home with me safely as well.



Representatives from the U.S. wheat industry joined members of the Japan Flour Millers Association to help celebrate the association's 70th anniversary in Tokyo on Jan. 23, 2018. Senior managers from USW, as well as state wheat commission representatives and farmers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana participated in events commemorating the anniversary.

Participating state wheat commissions included: Idaho Wheat Commission; Oregon Wheat; Washington Grain Commission; Washington Association of Wheat Growers; Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.



U.S. Wheat Industry Celebrates Japan Flour Millers Association Anniversary



Umatilla and Morrow County Extension Service District on the May Ballot



On May 15, 2018, citizens in both Umatilla and Morrow Counties have the opportunity to vote on the formation of the 4-H, Extension, and Agricultural Research Service Districts which would stabilize funding, protect and grow 4-H youth programs, and support local farms, food,

and families. If the measure passes, the fixed rate would be .33¢ per \$1000 of assessed value of properties in the two counties. For example, if one owns a home valued at \$125,000, it would cost approximately \$41 to your household per year. If passed, budget committees, made up residents from each county, selected by the county commissioners, will oversee revenue from the bond measures. Similar OSU service districts have already been established in 25 other counties in Oregon.

What is the value of Extension to Umatilla and Morrow Counties farms, families and communities?

Oregon State University (OSU) Extension educators, scientists and researchers work on local problems here in the communities of Umatilla and Morrow Counties. The focus of their energies is about building strong families, farms, ranches, and woodlands. To do this they address important local production challenges, build strong families with 4-H youth development programs, and build strong and healthy food systems at home, in the schools, and in our community by teaching healthy and active lifestyles. Extension also launched new programming one year ago that helps students to graduate from high school and pursue college or technical training after graduation.

All extension activities and agricultural research efforts bring value to our region by connecting talented, world-class educators and researchers together with local growers and key partners to build local solutions. Agricultural researchers help growers bring new crops to market while improving established crops and protecting the environment. A Morrow County farmer, John Luisi, recently described Larry Lutchter, their county extension educator as “a treasure” when he was asked about the value that the local extension program brings to his farm operation.

The Oregon Wheat Growers League supports the Extension Service District proposal for Umatilla and Morrow Counties.

Wheat farmers rely on the research and information provided through the Columbia Basin Ag Research Center and Hermiston Ag Research and Extension Center in Umatilla County, as well as studies conducted in Morrow County through the Morrow County Extension Service.

We encourage voters to support this measure to help keep agriculture research and extension programs viable and growing.

Strong Farms = Strong Economy

Agriculture is the economic engine in Umatilla and Morrow counties. Area producers and consultants help keep local farms and ranches productive, which keeps the local economy strong. They use OSU extension and research personnel regularly for farm production information. Last year alone, the gross sales value of agricultural products produced in the two county area was over a billion dollars. Agriculture production and food manufacturing represent 17,607 jobs, or about 37% of the regional workforce, making agriculture the largest single economic driver.

OSU scientists and staff provide expertise in a wide variety of agricultural disciplines to ensure the latest and best information is readily available to producers. This is particularly important given over 200 different crops are grown in the Columbia Basin. OSU entomologists help identify and manage insects that can literally destroy crops overnight. Plant pathologists bring the latest molecular techniques to diagnose plants diseases



caused by viruses, bacteria and fungi. Plant breeders make thousands of crosses annually, using old and proven methods, looking for new cultivars of grains and potatoes that are suited for our region, while both breeders and molecular biologists help to bring about new lines that are more nutritious and taste better to the buyer/consumer. OSU scientists work with native bees, others help to understand how to control unwanted and damaging introduce invasive species, while still others support livestock producers breed animals with better characteristics. This is only a partial list of how OSU works in Morrow and Umatilla Counties to maintain a strong agricultural economy.

All this work is done by OSU staff from local experiment stations in Pendleton and Hermiston and from local extension offices in Heppner, Pendleton, Irrigon, Milton-Freewater and Hermiston. Much of the information they provide is new, obtained from research done locally. Modern laboratories, with modern equipment not only support research that develops new information, but these laboratories, with their state of the art equipment, can identify problems in a matter of

a few hours, using the latest and best techniques. Field days held regularly in both counties show firsthand the new information and allow interaction between agriculturalists and research and extension personnel.

Strong Extension = Strong Families

Extension is more than just agriculture. Building strong families and excellent future citizens are also key areas of focus. The Extension 4-H Youth Development program which currently helps thousands of youth through clubs, after-schools activities, camps, fairs and events, to be successful in school and to prepare them for future science, technology, engineering and math careers, all while developing life skills. A national study shows that 4-H participants are more likely to finish high school and more likely to go to college than their peers.

Healthy foods, nutrition and healthy lifestyles are a big part of the work of extension in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. In 2017, more than 19,000 individuals received nutritional education in schools, in after-school programs, in cooking workshops and at the annual health fair. Master Gardener volunteers contributed about 1,000 hours of their time, answering home gardening questions, working to establish and tend to community gardens, and conducting informational outreach at farmers markets and garden shows.

Citizen advisors and stakeholder leaders have been meeting for several years, looking for strong and sustainable solutions to keep our communities strong, with positive youth development programs, strong farms, ranches, and forests, a trained workforce, and healthy families. Extension has been leading and shaping our communities for the last 100 years and we want to see it remain a strong and vital part of our communities over the next 100 plus years.

As spring arrives in the Columbia Basin citizens will be able to cast their ballots in May to decide on the creation of the 4-H, Extension and Agricultural Research Service Districts in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. The districts, if approved, will provide stable dedicated funding for Extension, 4-H, and extension related agricultural research.

For more information about Umatilla Morrow Friends of Extension visit: <http://friendsofextension.blogspot.com/>



County field days and crop tours offered by Extension and Research provide valuable information specific to varieties and farming practices for local growers.

Oregon Wheat Advocacy - Representing You in Salem and Washington, D.C.

Salem Capitol

Continuing a long tradition, OWGL Leaders journeyed to Salem on Valentine's Day to help celebrate the Oregon's 159th birthday as a State. Past President Dana Tuckness, Vice President Alan von Borstel, Secretary/Treasurer Clint Carlson, and North Valley President Tom Duyck, joined CEO Blake Rowe, Lobbyist Amanda Dalton, and Membership Director Sally Christensen, to greet guests and visit with legislators. Governor Kate Brown provided introductory remarks before the ceremonial cutting of the first piece of cake. The growers had a chance to present League awards to Senators Bill Hansell and Cliff Bentz and meet with 3 newly appointed legislators, Senator Rob Wagner, Representative Lynn Findley, and Representative Daniel Bonham.



Past President Dana Tuckness presents Senator Bill Hansell with OWGL's Voice of the Industry award in recognition of his long service, integrity, and support for Oregon wheat.



Senator Cliff Bentz is presented with the Friend of Oregon Wheat award for his efforts in the 2017 Legislative session to advocate for agriculture and promote the interests of rural Oregon.



The cake is presented each year to the State of Oregon by the League in honor of the State's birthday.

Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Alexis Taylor visited briefly with OWGL leaders.



Governor Kate Brown greets the guests in the Capitol Galleria for the celebration of Oregon's statehood.

Governor Kate Brown made the first cut, presented the first piece for the audience.



Exchange students from around the world enjoy the celebration and learn a little about Oregon wheat.

Washington, DC

In early February, grower leaders and staff from the Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) and the Oregon Wheat Commission (OWC) headed again for Washington, DC to attend the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and US Wheat Associates Winter Conference and spend some time lobbying our Congressional delegation and key federal agencies. The League team was led by President Brent Cheyne and included Past President Dana Tuckness, Vice President Alan von Borstel, Secretary Clint Carlson, and Umatilla County President Ben Maney, who attended courtesy of the Oregon Wheat Foundation's Future Leaders of Agriculture (FLAG) scholarship. The OWC was represented by Commissioners Bob Newton and Darren Padget.

The main topics for both the Conference and our Congressional visits were the next farm bill and what is happening in the trade policy arena. On the Farm Bill, across-the-board statements of support for getting a new farm bill done this year became troubling as we dug into the details about likely changes to the programs we depend on. On the trade policy front, there was very little good news, as predictions of dire consequences for ag exports colored every discussion of NAFTA, TPP, and other trade negotiations and policies.

Consistent with League policy, our farm Bill priorities continued to emphasize maintaining the crop insurance program, improving the ARC and PLC shallow loss programs in Title 1 of the Farm Bill, expanding funding for the export promotion programs (MAP and



A scary moment as League VP Alan von Borstel gets into the DC spirit while visiting USDA agency representatives.

FMD), research funding, and maintaining conservation programs, especially the working farm programs (CSP and EQIP). It appears that harmful changes to crop insurance and CSP may be hard to block in the House, but until an actual bill is released it will be hard to know for certain.

The growers also met with USDA agency representatives including RMA, FSA, NRCS, and ARS to discuss a variety of local issues and questions with USDA programs.

A high point at the US Wheat Associates meeting was the election of Commissioner Darren Padget as Secretary-Treasurer. Hopefully this will be the first step in Darren's journey through the "chairs" at US Wheat.



OWGL Leaders meet with Congressman Walden to discuss the farm bill and trade policy. They presented him with the League's Above and Beyond award in recognition of his long and dedicated service to Oregon and Oregon's wheat growers. League President Brent Cheyne took the Rep. Walden's desk for a trial run.

Safety Reminder: Stay SAFE Around Overhead Power Lines

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) is working in partnership with Idaho Power, Pacific Power and Portland General Electric, the three major regulated electric utility service providers in Oregon, to remind the agricultural community of important tips to ensure they stay SAFE when working near power lines.

Those working in the agricultural industry are reminded to stay SAFE:

- Scan the area – always look around and look up to check for power lines and other potential hazards before starting work.
- Avoid extending farm equipment, including irrigation pipes, within 10 feet of overhead power lines. Keep in mind that overhead lines can be as low as 18 feet off the ground, so always carry irrigation pipes, which are 30-40 feet long, horizontally. If required to tip up to discharge water or dirt build-up, scan for power lines overhead.
- Frequently re-evaluate the area for changing safety hazards.

- Educate family members and employees to ensure safety throughout the agricultural community.

Serious injury or fatal electrocution can occur if farm equipment, including irrigation pipes, gets too close or accidentally touches a live power line,” said Lori Koho, PUC Utility Safety and Reliability Administrator.

Overhead distribution power lines can carry up to 13,000 volts of electricity and objects such as trees and water can conduct electricity.

“Reminding our agricultural community to stay SAFE and be vigilant around overhead power lines in an important message, said Koho. “We encourage the community to work directly with their electricity service provider on any safety concerns or for additional tips and information on how to work safely around electricity.”

More information can be found online at: Idaho Power’s Overhead Power Line Safety, Pacific Power’s Farm and Ranch Safety, and Portland General Electric’s Look Up and Live – Power Line Safety.



ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

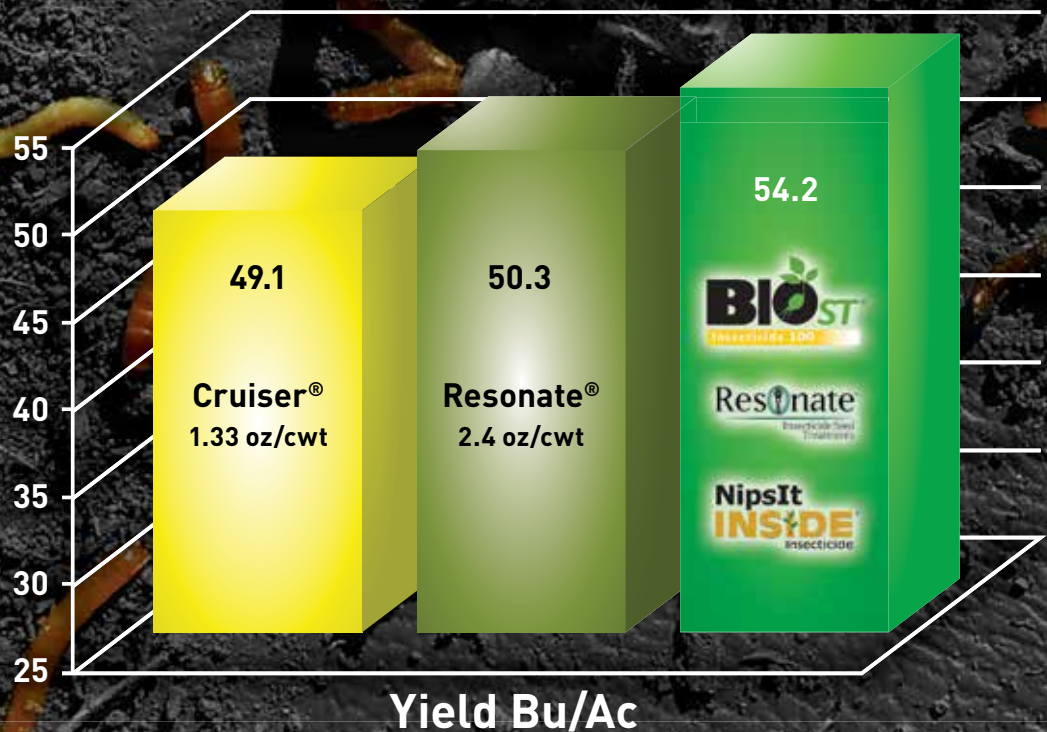
1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.



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