

**OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE**115 SE 8th Street 📍 Pendleton, OR 97801 📞 541.276.7330 🌐 www.owgl.org

Oregon Wheat Growers League

2020 POLICIES & PRIORITIES

General Guidance to the Board

The following statements provide general principals which should help guide the development of the League's positions on issues.

1. Regulatory Programs

- a. The OWGL believes regulatory programs affecting agriculture should:
 - i. Provide positive incentives;
 - ii. Not assess fines and penalties on first inspection unless:
 - (1) the violation is serious;
 - (2) clear rules have been provided in a form that is understandable.
 - iii. Have a different schedule of penalties where gross negligence is determined, relative to accidental occurrences which happen in spite of reasonable care and diligence;
 - iv. Provide reasonable education and training to affected parties;
 - v. Promote voluntary compliance.
- b. The OWGL opposes any incentives or regulations which permit or promote third parties filing legal actions and collecting legal fees and costs.

2. Initiative Petition Reform: The OWGL generally supports the initiative petition process. The process should include a method to correct oversights, and form and style mistakes before an initiative may be assigned a ballot title. OWGL actively opposes local initiatives that attempt to change or diminish the state pre-emption of agricultural practices, pesticide regulation, or crop selection.

3. Coordination of Communication: The OWGL recommends coordination of communication efforts between board members and active volunteers when dealing with the state legislature to establish a lead individual on each issue.

4. Economic Development: While Oregon's economy has shifted from a resource-based economy to a manufacturing and information based economy, dramatic regional disparities in growth, income and job-creation are occurring. OWGL should encourage economic development throughout the state to increase the standard of living and the quality of life for all Oregon residents. OWGL encourages maintenance and expansion of transportation infrastructure critical to the support of farming operations.

5. Emergencies: The use of emergency clauses in legislation should be limited to bills that address the consequences of actual man-made or natural disasters. They should not be used to accelerate the

implementation of new legislation or to hinder referrals to voters. When used, an emergency clause should require a 2/3rds majority vote of the legislature.

OWGL 2020 Priorities

Environment and Regulations

1. Insure that pesticide labels and application regulations are consistent with best practices and available scientific research.
 - a. Continue to support full funding from State General Fund for the State's pesticide programs; regulation, reporting, incident response, complaint processing and public information.
 - b. Support continued implementation, training, and grower education on any new Worker Protection Standards.
2. Support Watershed Management Programs
 - a. Ag Water Quality Management Plans including an adequate monitoring plan
 - b. Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships
3. Oppose efforts to modify State pre-emption of seed/crop choice and pesticide regulation.
4. Monitor and react to proposed changes in labor, wage, and benefit requirements for employers that reduce the competitiveness of OR wheat growers in global markets.
5. Continue to expand the adopted definition of "sustainability" by including:
 - a. Method to measure/document sustainability
 - b. A database of sustainable wheat growing practices
6. Monitor and react to other CAA, CWA, ESA, climate change, and invasive species issues
7. Pursue changes in the wildlife damage and compensation programs to make them more effective in managing wildlife populations to reduce damage and to compensate growers when crop damage occurs.
8. Continue to monitor Carbon, Climate and Bio-fuels issues and react as needed. Seek opportunities to reward or incentivize growers for reducing carbon emissions or increasing soil carbon levels through agronomic practices.
9. Support the protection of a landowner's ability to take emergency action to protect their property from flood events and channel erosion.
10. Protect the ability of farmers and their employees to conduct fire prevention, suppression, and control efforts on agricultural and rangelands. Ensure that firefighting entities (federal, state, local) have the maximum ability and authority to coordinate with and utilize farmers and their equipment and resources when fires occur.
11. Oppose efforts to place additional State restrictions on pesticides beyond the EPA labels without clear and convincing scientific evidence that greater restrictions are needed in Oregon.

Research & Technology

1. Advocate for increased state and federal funding for wheat research and extension programs:
 - a. Maintain staff positions in wheat research program

- b. Promptly fill any open positions
2. Work with OSU to accelerate development of suitable wheat varieties for all OR growing regions and conditions, especially new 2-gene Clearfield varieties, varieties with new herbicide tolerance traits, and varieties adapted to low-rainfall areas.
3. Aggressively lobby the 2020 state legislative session for increased research and extension funding.
4. Actively support increased federal funding for the ARS-Pendleton program and continued funding for the Resilient Dryland Farming Initiative.
5. Work with OSU to accelerate development of weed management control options in chem-fallow systems, especially for herbicide resistant weeds.

Farm Policy, Marketing, and Transportation

Farm Policy

1. Support implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill.
2. Support continued crop insurance premium subsidies, expanded conservation programs, and Title 1 shallow loss programs for growers;
3. Support increased funding for overseas marketing programs (MAP and FMD) and maximize allocations of ATP (tariff relief) funding for US Wheat Associates.
4. Support increased funding for ARS facilities and programs
5. Work with RMA to address crop insurance questions from local areas:
 - a. Pursue adjustments to the APH procedures to provide more favorable treatment for growers who suffer wildlife losses
 - b. Support more favorable treatment of falling number adjustments
 - c. Seek elimination of APH penalties for events when no crop insurance claim is filed
6. Support the availability of electronic documents and signatures for RMA and FSA agreements
7. Support the elimination of limits on TIP payments when a direct family member is involved.
8. Support development of crop insurance supplemental coverage that covers the administrative withdrawal of water (man-made drought) for irrigation that isn't triggered by a disaster declaration due to actual drought.
9. Support legislation that would require federal agencies to complete an EIS which includes consideration of agricultural and other human water uses, before making administrative withdrawals of water.

Marketing

1. Support expansion of OWC marketing programs to Asian and Latin American markets.
2. Continue direct funding for projects through USW and/or Tri-State Wheat Commissions

Transportation

1. Advocate for expanded transportation capacity to handle increasing shipments of all types of freight, while improving service and reducing costs for moving grain.
2. Continue to work for consistency between Oregon and neighboring states on regulatory issues, especially for farm vehicles.
3. Actively participate in MAP 21 process to advance the Oregon transportation strategy.
4. Continue to support the operation and maintenance of the Columbia and Snake River Navigation System, including all its existing dams, locks, channels, and jetties. Actively engage with the Corps of Engineers, other commodity groups, shipping interests, and tribes in efforts to expand port facilities and barge and lock capacity of the System.
5. Actively support efforts to communicate the benefits of the dams on the Columbia and Snake River System
 - a. With Board approval on a case-by-case basis provide support for maintaining other dams important to agriculture, irrigation, hydropower, flood control and navigation.
6. Support the restoration of container shipping service at the Port of Portland.

Public Education

1. Improve public education efforts on issues surrounding wheat, agriculture, food, and nutrition with scientific information.
2. Develop student video project with FFA to generate material for website and social media.
3. Update League historical reports to present date.

Miscellaneous

1. Explore options to reduce the cost of health care for farmers, farm families, and employees, especially in rural areas.
2. Continue to expand social media/communications programs for growers and the urban public.