

FEBRUARY 2019

OREGON WHEAT

An Official Publication of the Oregon Wheat Industry

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Revisiting Grass Weed Management Herbicide
Tools in Oregon Wheat Production

16

2018 Asian Wheat Quality Tour

20

Pay Equity - Are you Ready?



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**Cover: Your 2019
OWGL Executive
Committee**



Alan von Borstel
President

It seems like just yesterday I was elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer and here I am President of the Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL). It is now my turn to write bi-monthly articles for the Oregon Wheat Magazine. I need to thank Darren Padgett, my neighbor and friend, who preceded me by several years in this endeavor and paved the way for being less than completely politically correct.

Let me start by introducing myself. I come from a very large extended family in the Kent area of Sherman County. I have always said anyone that tries to make a living growing dryland wheat near Kent is qualified to park in the handicap parking spot at Morrow County Grain Growers. No one who knows Kent has ever argued with that.

I attended Kent Grade School, graduated from Sherman Union High School, which currently houses the entire Sherman County student body (preschool - 12th grade), and graduated from Oregon State University in 1982 with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering Tech. I returned home to the family farm and met my wife Judy who was working at Emanuel Hospital in Portland as a neonatal intensive care nurse. In 1985 I convinced her to move to a patch of bunch grass on the farm where we drilled a well, started a home and started our life together, raising wheat, cattle and a family.

As my kids say, "behind every successful wheat farmer stands a spouse with a job in town". And so it goes for me. Judy got a job as an OB nurse at the Mid Columbia Medical Center (MCMC) in The Dalles. She has worked there ever since in obstetrics, pediatrics, medical, surgical, float nurse, and currently oncology nursing. We have been blessed with three great children; Jana, a veterinarian at Oregon Trail Vet Clinic in Hermiston; Shelby, an ICU nurse at MCMC; and Nick, who recently graduated last spring from OSU with a Bachelor's degree in Crops and Soil Science and returned to help on our ranch.

I served 12 years on our local school board, where declining population and lack of funding had forced us to close and consolidate schools – not a fun thing to do in any community. I had just retired from the school board and was enjoying my time away from politics, when I

was asked to serve as president of Sherman County for the Oregon Wheat Growers League. It took me a year to say yes but I am glad I did. I knew what the League's mission was but had no idea how important it is to us wheat growers at the state and national levels.

As many of you know, wildfires tried to burn up Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam Counties several times this past summer. I personally had seven different fires threaten our ranch. We only lost two acres to two separate lightning strikes on our ranch, but we lost countless hours, as did our neighbors, battling the flames that threatened our community. Sadly we lost a neighbor who was killed when his tractor got stuck and he was overtaken by the fire. He was on all our minds as we fought those fires and probably made us more conscious of safety on all our operations. The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) conducted an investigation into the incident and issued a fine for insufficient training, which prompted OWGL leaders to begin a discussion with our members about how farmers and farm employees engage in firefighting efforts. With the help of Senator Hansell we set up a meeting with OR-OSHA to clarify exactly what was required under current OSHA regulations.

I find the current language to be somewhat vague and difficult to interpret. Division 4 of the OSHA regulations includes the specific requirements that pertain to Agriculture. However, there are very few specific requirements related to fire, besides those concerning fire extinguishers. In comparison, Division 7, the forestry activities section of OR-OSHA, has a detailed section devoted to fire. It recognizes fire as a tool in prescribed burns and outlines in more detail the equipment and training required to engage in wild land fire activities. We are planning to engage consultants within OR-OSHA and other groups to discuss developing specific regulations for the treatment of fire, both controlled and wild fire for agriculture in Division 4. My hope is to get something like division 7, with more applicable training and safety guidance for farm employers and employees alike. We will keep you posted as these meetings develop. In the meantime, provide some level of wild fire training, document it and above all be careful.



PNW Wheat Growers Gather in Portland for the 2018 Tri-State Convention

Blake Rowe, CEO, Oregon Wheat



For the first time since 2014, the Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) hosted the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention. The four-day session ran from November 14th to the 18th, with over 250 growers, staff, and exhibitors assembling at the

Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. The program was filled with the latest updates on national and state issues, markets, research, new products, technology, agronomic practices, and practical tools to help everyday operations.

Leaders of the three grower associations (OWGL, Washington Association of Wheat Growers, and Idaho Grain Producers Association) started things off with a meeting on the 14th to discuss some current issues and logistics for the 2019 (Spokane) and 2020 (Coeur D'Alene or Boise) conventions. That was quickly followed by a joint meeting of the Oregon Wheat Commission (OWC), the Washington Grains Commission, and the Idaho Wheat Commission. Their program included an update on the Port of Portland from Executive Director Curtis Robinhold, a market update from Columbia Grain's Mike Speir, a report on Columbia/Snake River Navigation System from Kristin Meira, Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, and an update on Wheat Marketing Center programs from Managing Director Janice Cooper. As always, some of the most effective discussion was the time allowed for the Commissioners talk among themselves and share ideas and needs for PNW's wheat growers.

Expert Panels Covered National Issues and Markets

Thursday's program included OWGL's Board of Directors meeting, the Annual Meeting of League members, and our Gala Banquet, along with panels of speakers at both breakfast and lunch. The breakfast panel included national updates from officers or

executives from US Wheat Associates (USW), the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), the National Barley Growers Association (NBGA), and the Wheat Foods Council (WFC). USW's comments focused on the importance of getting the new farm bill passed to provide continuing funding for export promotion programs that provide key support for USW's overseas marketing work. NAWG and NBGA also noted the farm bill, along with advances in plant breeding and the importance of better connections between producers and consumers. WFC's comments focused on their work on nutritional guidelines and their outreach program to personal trainers to help promote wheat foods as part of a well-balanced diet.

The second expert panel included Washington State University's Ag Economist Dr. Randy Fortenberry and representatives from three wheat exporters, Kurt Haarmann of Columbia Grain, Brian Leidl of United Grain, and Damon Filan of Tri-Cities Grain, LLC. Fortenberry focused on the overall turmoil in trade policy currently, noting that the U.S. is "in the midst of the most aggressive renegotiation, realignment of trade from the U.S. perspective that we've done since the 1920s." He also noted that, with the expansion of trade and the development of complex, integrated supply chains, it has become difficult to target trade actions on individual countries and to avoid unintended consequences. Haarmann said for the last two years, exports out of the Pacific Northwest have run at record levels in terms of total grains, with the last two years seeing 1.55 and 1.6 billion bushels of grain—roughly 1/3 wheat, 1/3 corn and 1/3 soybeans—moving through the ports. This year, that figure is likely to be closer to 1.3 billion, due to the current trade issues. The closure of the Chinese market to U.S. soybeans has forced U.S. farmers to change their whole market structure, forcing them to store soybeans rather than immediately sell them. Leidl explained to growers that quality is the region's best weapon. "When it comes to quality, nobody can match what we can do here in the PNW, thanks to your efforts and the whole system that has been devised." Filan echoed the quality message and said he hears "quality, quality,

- Continued on page 6

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quality” from customers in just about every country he visits, and that Tri-Cities Grain has changed the way they segregate, store and market wheat as a result. He said Indonesia is probably the next frontier for Pacific Northwest wheat exports, but it will take years to develop.

The agendas for the League Board and Annual meetings were a little different this year. We decided to spend less time on the more traditional topics, export markets, crop insurance, and conservation, enabling us to dig into the issues surrounding wildfire and the role of farmers in fighting wildfires on crop and rangelands. Our first guest speaker was Kyle Williams, the Director of Protection for the Oregon Forest & Industries Council. His presentation focused on the overall fire protection system in Oregon, how it is funded, how responsibility and authority is split between different agencies and entities, differences between the forest protection system and the systems that cover rangelands, and some basics on training requirements for wildland firefighters. He provided an excellent background for the rest of our discussions on fire and how to improve efforts. Williams was followed by Heidi Moawad, Governor Brown’s Public Safety and Military Policy Advisor, who spoke on the 2018 wildfires, what was learned and what we might do better. She expressed the Governor’s appreciation for the role farmers played in helping to control the fires in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and other Columbia Plateau Counties.

We continued the fire focus during our Annual Meeting. In addition to the standard administrative actions, electing the 2019 OWGL Board and Officers, reports from OWC and the Oregon Wheat Foundation, elections and legislative report from Amanda Dalton, we invited Senator Bill Hansell to review several fire related legislative proposals he is developing for the 2019 session. All are intended to improve the ability to respond to fires, increase available resources, and to help provide first responders to fires from liability. He took questions and feedback from growers on each of the proposals.

Thursday night’s Gala Banquet was a lively affair, featuring several special recognitions, a variety of awards, and a good speaker. Special recognition was given to retiring Board Member Brent Martin, Past President Dana Tuckness and to retiring staff members Diana Thompson (OWC) and Marilyn Blagg (OWGL) for their service. Diana and Marilyn received an extended and well-deserved standing ovation and many expressions of thanks from the crowd. The keynote speech was provided

by Senator Betsy Johnson, who shared her thoughts about conditions in Oregon and concerns about the upcoming legislative session. Sen. Johnson has been a frequent ally on ag and natural resource issues and has worked closely with Sen. Hansell on fire issues.

OWGL President Brent Cheyne on behalf of the Board of Directors announced four League awards during the banquet, honoring the work and contributions of Senator Betsy Johnson with the Friend of Oregon Wheat Award, Larry Lutchter with the Distinguished Service Award, and Sterling Allen with the Voice of the Industry Award. The final presentation was a more solemn moment, as John Ruby (posthumously) and his family were given the Above and Beyond Award in honor of John’s actions and sacrifice fighting the Substation fire last summer. Details on the awards and recipients can be found in another article in this issue.

Three breakout sessions on Friday provided growers with the chance to select from a variety of presentations including; market update, status of the 2018 Farm Bill, Columbia/Snake river navigation system, organic certification, new CoAxiom wheat trait, budgeting and a long-range weather forecast. In addition, tours of the Wheat Marketing Center and United Grain’s Vancouver Export Terminal were included as breakout options. These sessions were separated by opportunities to interact with a wide variety of vendors in the Exhibit Hall.

The Friday and Saturday programs also included three more excellent speakers. Jason Hafemeister, USDA’s Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Foreign Agricultural Services and Ambassador Gregg Doud, the Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative both spoke on trade policy challenges and tariff impacts. They provided background on the justification for the steel and aluminum tariffs enacted by the US, the improvements offered by the USMCA (renegotiated NAFTA), issues with China and about their hopes for negotiating a new agreement with Japan that may help us deal with the impacts of the CPTPP. We also heard a very inspiring presentation on leadership by Keni Thomas, a decorated US Army veteran who served in the 1993 battle in Mogadishu.

All in all, the Convention was a great success; excellent content, great exhibits, very good speakers, a good venue, and lots of networking time for growers and staff. Thanks to all who attended and who helped make the 2018 Convention such a successful event.



Oregon Wheat Growers League Recognizes Outstanding Leaders At Annual Convention



President Brent Cheyne presented the annual wheat industry awards to individuals who've made a significant contribution to the League and the wheat industry this year. The awards ceremony was held during the OWGL Gala on November 15th in Portland, Oregon.

Brent presented awards on behalf of the OWGL leadership for Distinguished Service, Voice of the Industry, Friend of Oregon Wheat, and Above and Beyond.



Larry Lutcher, OSU Morrow County Extension agent, was chosen to receive the **Distinguished Service Award**. Larry's position as the ag and crops specialist in Morrow County brings him into contact with wheat growers across the Columbia Plateau. Ask a dryland wheat grower in Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, Umatilla, and other areas who they call when they have questions and the answer will likely be Larry Lutcher. His practical research to find the best varieties for low rainfall areas, and his work on fertilizations and herbicide treatments to control resistant weeds like Russian thistle are of tremendous value to growers. This award is in recognition of his years of outstanding service to Oregon's wheat growers.



OWGL Leadership chose to honor Senator Betsy Johnson with the **Friend of Oregon Wheat Award**. Senator Johnson is a strong advocate for agriculture and natural resources. Her leadership on important issues to Oregon wheat farmers is invaluable. Senator Johnson is an important voice in the legislature, and a key supporter of Oregon's economy — especially the economy of rural Oregon. She is one of our "go-to" legislators on ag and natural resource issues.



The **Voice of the Industry Award** was presented to Sterling Allen. Sterling has served as the publisher of the twice-monthly Agri-Times Northwest newspaper for the past twenty years. His paper reports ag news, especially stories of the people who work and live in agriculture across eastern Oregon and Washington. We extend our thanks to him for his many years of support of the wheat industry.



John Ruby was selected to receive the **Above and Beyond Award**, posthumously. This award is in recognition of John's ultimate sacrifice to protect his neighbors and his community during last summer's wildfires. We know this was a huge impact on his family that will continue for years to come and we want to acknowledge and honor that as well.



Melodie Ruby and her son, Matt attended the Gala as OWGL's guests.

Brent Martin has chosen to resign from the OWGL board for family reasons. Brent has served as the Morrow County President since 2013. He has been an active and involved board member and we want to recognize his years of service to the Oregon Wheat Growers League. He never hesitates to go the extra mile for his fellow wheat growers and his community.



Brent Martin accepts his gift as he retires from the Board.

OWGL 2019 Board of Directors

Following a unanimous vote by the members present at the OWGL Annual Meeting on November 15th, Dana Tuckness, representing the Nominating Committee, announced OWGL's 2019 Officer team.

They are as follows: Alan von Borstel, President; Clint Carlson, Vice President; Ben Maney, Secretary/Treasurer; and Brent Cheyne, Immediate Past President.

Their term will begin January 1, 2019.



OWGL Board ~ Top row: Collin Crocker, Brent Cheyne, Clint Carlson, Ben Maney, Tom Duyck, Ryan Thompson. Bottom Row: Wade Bingaman, Alan von Borstel, Erin Heideman, and Blake Rowe, CEO. Not pictured: Rodney Cheyne, Kurt Melville, and Josh Duling.

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The Oregon Wheat Growers League extends a special thank you to all the Oregon exhibitors and sponsors for your support of the wheat industry. The following either had an exhibit booth, sponsored an event or both.

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Oregon Wheat Foundation Auction & Wine Pull

The Oregon Wheat Foundation is grateful for the generosity of the Auction and Wine Pull contributors. This event is the only annual fundraiser for OWF Scholarships.

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Spring Valley Vineyards
Tero Estates/Flying Trout Wines
Willamette Valley Vineyards
Tom Winn

And thanks to the many attendees who purchased a cork!



Volatility and Noise

Wally Powell, Chair, Oregon Wheat Commission



As you are all aware, there is an extended lead time between when one of us writes an article for the magazine and the printing of the magazine. I begin writing this article on December 26th; and I have no clue as to what will be topical to your interests

thirty or forty days from today....I have no idea if we will be dealing with:

- A continued dispute over the budget;
- A continued dispute over Fed policy;
- A continued dispute over trade with many countries;
- A continued display of violent swings in the markets;
- A continued need to investigate any and all;
- A continued lack of quality in my golf game.

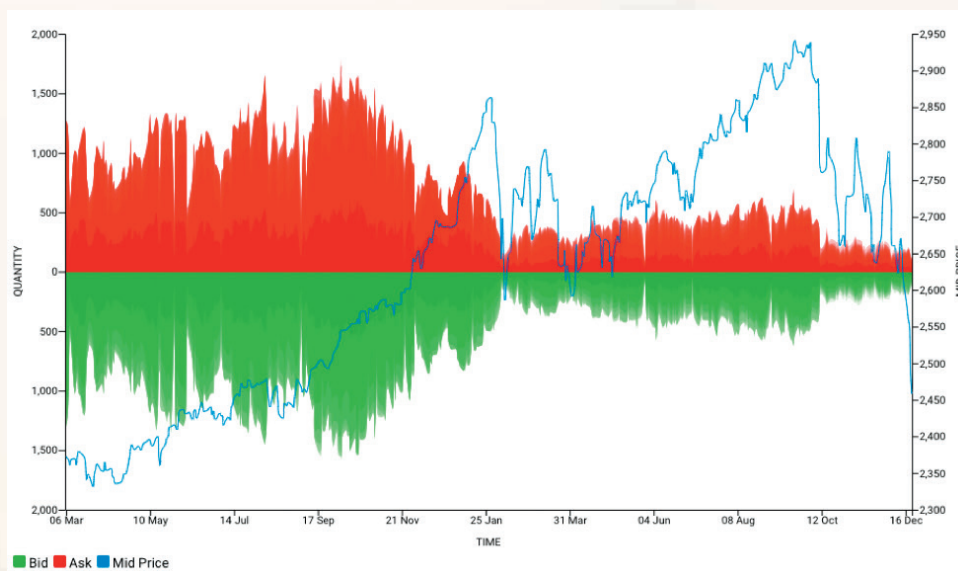
Okay, no one assumes my golf swing was ever topical; other than when I likely destroyed a trade relationship while playing golf with Mr. Lee from the Korean Milling Assoc. Mr. Lee also had the pleasure of playing golf with Darren this fall. If I dug the hole and buried the trade relationship, Darren likely tamped it down.

Something always topical is a discussion related to why markets move violently; catching you unaware, and likely, with your ducks in disarray. Today, after a series of rather distressful moves to the downside; the Dow is up better than 1000 points, and WTI is up almost 10 percent. Why? I have no idea.

Unfortunately, beans were down 13 cents, and wheat was down 6 cents. Today was good for your retirement portfolio if you still have one; bad for future expenses if you haven't locked in your diesel needs, and bad for the value of your upcoming crop. On the positive side, the markets will likely run the other way tomorrow; you might realize that you will never be able to retire, your crop will be worth more, and your fuel costs will have diminished, allowing you to continue the relationship with your banker. You can't retire, but you will still have a job.

Charts

One reason markets move violently is a lack of depth in the buyer/seller pool. As people head into the buying room, there are few sellers. Conversely, when they try to leave the room, they find few buyers.



This chart, done in holiday style, reflects depth in the S&P 500 futures market. The blue line is the S&P. The greater the zone of color, the more capably the market should handle significant buy/sell volume. Think of it as more people and more money wanting to play. For a variety of reasons, the market, following the disruption of February 5th, 2018, has not recovered depth/liquidity. When faced with significant pressure, the market becomes extremely volatile moving beyond what would be expected prior to that date. Expect these movements to continue for an extended period

of time. We are losing liquidity, and the remaining liquidity is shifting from one sector to another sector.

Some of the above is structural in nature, and some is not. Employment rates are outstanding, and earnings have been very good. I really don't think the economy, at this point in time, justifies the movements.

On the other hand, I get a feeling that people are tired of the continual stress of adjusting to the news being thrown at them. I think people are tired of the continual uproar over trade, fed, investigations, budget agreements, and borders, whatever. **There is too much noise. I am tired of the noise.**

New Year's Resolution- Trim the Noise-Improve the Golf

When I begin to read a paper, or opinion piece, I will first determine the adequacy of the research behind the opinion. This should require reading, or listening, to about one paragraph. I rely too much on shallow opinion based on shallow research. If the opinion is well thought out based on valid research, fantastic; whether I agree with the opinion or not, I will continue, and incorporate new views into my life.

Do I really need to incorporate additional shallow thoughts into my life? I think I am able to provide enough shallow thought without the help of others. That would be going backwards.

I am going forward with less noise. This will lead to better golf, and reengaging with Mr. Lee during our next golf match. The last statement is without any research, and likely is somewhat shallow.



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Revisiting Grass Weed Management Herbicide Tools in Oregon Wheat Production

Andy Hulting, OSU Associate Professor and Extension Weed Management Specialist



Grass weeds can cause substantial yield and quality losses to Oregon wheat producers. The OSU Weed Science Programs conduct numerous herbicide evaluation studies statewide, including studies that explore weed management programs for



improved weed control in Oregon wheat. Portions of ongoing weed management research and Extension projects in winter wheat and spring wheat, including wheat herbicide evaluations, funded in part through the Oregon Wheat Commission (OWC), are highlighted in this article. Many of our efforts are focused on helping wheat growers optimize grass weed management in wheat where you manage a number of problematic species and have ongoing issues with herbicide resistance with some of them.

I have reported extensively in various wheat and grass grown for seed-related publications and at OSU Extension and industry grower meetings on the use of the preemergence herbicide pyroxasulfone to manage grass weeds. Pyroxasulfone is a Group 15 soil active herbicide that provides preemergence activity on a variety of grass and broadleaf weeds. The best fit for pyroxasulfone products will likely be in the intermediate to higher rainfall wheat production zones across the state because, like all soil-applied herbicides, rainfall or irrigation after application will be necessary to activate pyroxasulfone. Because of its use pattern and good control of several problematic winter annual grass weeds including, Italian or annual ryegrass, downy brome, rattail fescue and annual bluegrass, this is a product that wheat growers should consider incorporating into their herbicide rotation.

The first labels for pyroxasulfone use in OR wheat were developed in 2014. Since that time product formulations, Section 3 Label and Supplemental Label language and use patterns in winter and spring wheat, and crop rotation restrictions following applications have been evolving. The product pyroxasulfone

Why Does This Matter?

- ▶ **Grass weeds cause significant financial losses by growers annually.**
- ▶ **Annual evaluation of herbicide performance statewide optimizes recommendations and herbicide options.**

is sold under several trade names including Zidua® (BASF) and Anthem Flex® (a premix of pyroxasulfone + carfentrazone from FMC). Here are some key reminders and updates on its use as we move into the spring weed management season.

- Use rate varies by application timing and by soil texture. OSU research has documented good grass weed control and wheat safety at pyroxasulfone application rates of 3.25 oz/A of Zidua on most soil types.
- Application timings vary by product and corresponding winter and spring wheat labels. Compare pyroxasulfone labels and use the application timing that best fits your wheat production system. Preplant surface, preemergence, delayed preemergence, and early postemergence timings in wheat are all possible.
- Risk of wheat injury from pyroxasulfone applications can be minimized by ensuring that wheat is seeded 1-1.5" in depth and that the wheat has germinated and is actively growing prior to delayed preemergence or early postemergence applications.
- Sequential applications up to a maximum pyroxasulfone use rate of 0.130-lb a.i./A (4.0 oz/A of Zidua) are allowed.
- Delayed preemergence and early postemergence applications of pyroxasulfone in wheat will need to be tankmixed with postemergence herbicide



products to control emerged grass and broadleaf weeds. OSU research has documented good weed control and no antagonism with tankmixes of pyroxasulfone and one of the following products including pinoxaden (Axial XL®), pyroxulam (PowerFlex HL®), mesosulfuron (Osprey®) or metribuzin. There are other labeled tankmix partners for pyroxasulfone including glyphosate and saflufenacil (Sharpen®).

- Following application, approximately 0.25-0.5" of rainfall or irrigation will be needed to activate pyroxasulfone within 10 days of application for best weed control activity.
- Do not apply pyroxasulfone preplant incorporated prior to seeding wheat or to broadcast- seeded wheat or crop injury may occur.
- Labeled crop rotation restrictions will likely continue to be in a state of flux over the next several years so review pyroxasulfone labels periodically. In general, pyroxasulfone has limited soil persistence with a half-life of less than 30 days and is degraded by soil microbes.

A question that I am often asked by wheat growers is to give my recommendation on the best postemergence grass herbicides to tankmix with pyroxasulfone products when making delayed preemergence, early postemergence or sequential applications of Zidua or Anthem Flex to control already germinated and emerged grass weeds. What I can say is that we have good success tankmixing pyroxasulfone products with Osprey and PowerFlex HL. We have conducted a number of studies since 2015 that have explored many of the application timings and tank mix possibilities

of Zidua and Anthem Flex (with PowerFlex HL and Osprey) compared to standard flufenacet + metribuzin (Axiom®) treatments for the control of both susceptible and multiple herbicide resistant Italian ryegrass. We have quantified slight injury to the wheat from the Axiom treatments but that there has been no wheat injury from the Zidua and Anthem Flex or when these two products were tank mixed with PowerFlex HL or Osprey.

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Oregon Wheat Statewide Weed Management Research and Extension
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Andy Hulting and Carol Mallory-Smith

Oregon Wheat Statewide Weed Management Research and Extension
\$52,900**SUMMARY:**

The OSU Weed Science Programs conduct herbicide evaluations across the wheat growing regions of Oregon to identify new chemical control strategies for difficult to manage weeds in wheat. The process for EPA registration of new herbicide products requires site-specific information on weed control efficacy, crop tolerance, and environmental behavior across a broad range of agricultural environments. We work with the agricultural chemical industry and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to help register safe, effective herbicide products for use by Oregon wheat producers. We collaborate with the OSU Wheat Breeding and Cereal Extension programs and weed scientists across the Pacific Northwest (PNW) to ensure that locally-adapted winter and spring wheat varieties exhibit adequate crop tolerance to commonly applied chemical weed control products. A large portion of our weed research in winter wheat focuses on winter annual grass weed management including management of downy brome, jointed goatgrass, rattail fescue, Italian or annual ryegrass as well as key broadleaf weed species.

Research is also conducted to improve understanding of weed biology and herbicide resistance in weeds, and to identify weed management practices that prevent or delay the occurrence of herbicide-resistant weeds.

New information derived from statewide weed research is disseminated to Oregon wheat growers and consultants using an array of Extension programming methods. These methods include participation in OSU Extension, grower and industry meetings, development of OSU and PNW Extension publications and web-based delivery of research results, and the continued development of the five wheat-focused chapters in the Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook (both print and online versions, <http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/>).

All the treatments controlled the susceptible Italian ryegrass, but only the preemergence application timings to the multiple resistant Italian ryegrass resulted in satisfactory control of that biotype. This finding underscores the importance of application timing to maximize the preemergence control potential of the pyroxasulfone products when managing Group 2 ALS resistant biotypes of grass weeds in winter and spring wheat.

A competitive wheat crop with an adequate stand is the key cultural weed management strategy to limit impacts of grass weeds. But there are some additional considerations to maximize postemergence control of grass weeds with herbicides as we transition into the spring. In general, it is important not to apply postemergence herbicides when cold, wet weather is expected within one week following application. Reduced weed control efficacy and crop injury may occur when maximum daytime temperatures are less than 40° F after application. If possible, growers need to time late winter and spring applications of products including Olympus®, Outrider®, Osprey, PowerFlex HL, Axial XL, Everest® and Beyond® to avoid these types of environmental conditions to maximize grass weed control efficacy. In addition, each of these products has its own unique adjuvant system (additions of NIS, AMS, COC, and MSO, for example) that must be utilized to achieve grass weed control and limit potential for wheat injury. Always refer to the label or our current recommendations for your growing region for each product and for product updates in the PNW Weed Management Handbook. For example, expect to see a new version of Osprey called Osprey Xtra® in the coming months. This product will be premix of mesosulfuron and thienencarbazone and will improve both the grass and broadleaf weed control spectrum over the older formulation.

Weed management Extension efforts have been ongoing throughout 2017-2018 and have included research update presentations at several industry winter grower meetings and OSU Extension-organized grower meetings across the state, including Hermiston, Pendleton, Forest Grove, Albany, Salem, Corvallis, Hood River, among others, as well as field tours of research plots at Hyslop

Research Farm. The primary focus of these Extension meetings and field day presentations has been to update growers on field research results, as well as to review best weed management practices in wheat. Because topics at these meetings almost always focus on integrated weed management strategies or continuing education topics such as managing herbicide resistance or herbicide site of action discussions, they are a good opportunity for growers and crop consultants to earn ODA pesticide license recertification hours. Working with our weed science colleagues at WSU and U of I, we have also recently updated several weed management-related Extension publications for wheat growers. Publications and current recommendations on feral rye (PNW 660), rattail fescue (PNW 613) and downy brome (PNW 474) management can be freely accessed online at <http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/weed-resources/>

Our program also has some exciting news to report this winter in that we have been able to add a new Weed Science faculty member to the team working on weed management issues across the state. Dr. Caio Brunharo fills the vacancy created by the retirement of long-time OSU weed scientist Dr. Carol Mallory-Smith. Caio is a recent University of California, Davis, graduate with extensive field and laboratory experience studying herbicide resistant grass weeds and he has been named the new lead research and teaching weed scientist at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Caio will work closely with me as well as with other Weed Science faculty located in Corvallis and around the state and PNW. In addition to his research appointment, Caio will teach undergraduate and graduate-level weed-management classes. He will start his position on January 2, 2019.

In summary, the funds provided by the Oregon Wheat Commission are vital for continued herbicide evaluation and weed management studies as well as our ongoing wheat-related Extension efforts. We continue to build on OWC funding to pursue projects that are important to Oregon wheat growers. For more information on these projects please contact me.

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2018 Asian Wheat Quality Tour

Darren Padget, OWC

I participated in the southern portion of the 2018 Asian Wheat Quality Tour in November. This is the second time I have been involved with this trip. I visited South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia.

The first seminar was in Seoul, and was well attended, as were all of the events. The U.S. holds roughly a 55% market share in Korea. I expect that to, potentially, slowly increase over time for two reasons. The first has to do with SPC, which controls 10% of Korea's grain trade. They recently hired Gary Hou, who worked at the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland for many years. His job there was to promote U.S. wheat, and I have no doubt this has carried over to his new place of employment. He left on good terms from his previous employer, and still "rides for the brand". From what I have heard, he is steering SPC towards increasing their use of U.S. wheat.

The second reason, is the fact that Korea continues to try to grow their market outside of the country through exports of the finished product, as well as opening bakeries and mills in other countries. Even though the Korean population numbers have become stagnant, looking outside their borders for business will increase

demand for our product. In addition, the domestic appetite for wheat continues to grow due to changing tastes. C.Y. Kang, the representative for U.S. Wheat Associates in Korea, has a goal of increasing market share to 70+% during his tenure, we shall see.

The next three stops are very exciting and where the most growth opportunity lies for U.S. wheat in the foreseeable future in that part of the world. With a 93% market share, the Philippines are a shining star for U.S. wheat exports. At this point in time, they lead even Japan and Mexico for imports at this part of the marketing cycle. Whether they maintain that status by the end of the marketing year remains to be seen.

The Pilipino demographics are 180 degrees opposite North Asia. The 25-year-old demo is huge and growing, where in North Asia, it is shrinking. In addition, the middle class is advancing rapidly and tastes are changing to a more western diet, and that is true for all of South Asia. I asked some of the acquaintances I have made about what is driving this change from a rice-oriented preference. The answer, is that "rice is for old people". Interesting. This market will continue to grow for U.S.

wheat, and they know the importance of the Pilipino market to the U.S. producer.

The next stop was Bangkok. A very colorful and diverse culture. Our 5 star hotel was just around the corner from an area that wasn't. A huge food culture exists on the streets, and is fascinating to witness, especially for someone who is from the sticks. The U.S. holds a 50-55% market share in that part of the world. Even if market share is not increased, maintaining market share will mean increased exports simply due to the population increase. As with all of South Asia, the middle class continues to develop, and the tastes that go along with those changing preferences.

The seminars in Bangkok and Jakarta were not only attended by the in-country folks, but others flew in from other parts such as Vietnam and Malaysia. There is certainly a hunger for knowledge as milling and baking evolve. Much of the same dynamics



A captive audience and yield maps, what a combo! The precision Ag aspect is a great way to connect with the audience as everyone understands an iPad. Increasing efficiencies is a message that is easy to deliver. The one thing that is hard for some to grasp, is that these fields are scattered out over 20 miles and are not contiguous.

play into their operations as in any other part of the world as competition and economics rule the day.

On to Jakarta. Once again, well attended and well received. Some of the interesting tidbits you pick up on these trips always catch me off guard. In this particular case, a lady by the name of Maria had visited our farm last summer. You always tend to wonder if these visits have any effect. She also had accompanied a trade team to the Wheat Marketing Center for a few days as well. Turns out, when she got back to Indonesia, she ordered up a shipment of Western White, which is considered to be a high end blend, usually reserved for countries like Japan and Taiwan. That was pretty cool to hear about, and I may not have known that had I not been on this trip.

The U.S. has a 10% market share at the moment, but like all of South Asia, the population is growing and tastes are changing. Exports will increase due to those two factors alone. Hopefully technical support and marketing efforts can be increased in South Asia in the near future. There is excellent opportunity there, and like most things, service is a huge piece of the puzzle. U.S. Wheat Associates provides that service.

Indonesia is an interesting market, as half of the country needs the cheapest wheat they can get to feed the masses. However, that leaves the other 150,000,000 people looking for a quality product that the U.S. farmer can provide. With Australia out their backdoor, it is a challenge that the U.S. can rise to, but it will require service and consulting.



Steve Wirsching is giving his opening remarks on the front end of the Crop Quality Seminar in Bangkok. There are many other countries represented here today. The Australians have the noodle market, which their wheat is best suited for, but US wheat makes the best cookies, crackers, cakes, and biscuits.



A view of the Manila, Philippines skyline from the air – going to meet with Joe Sowers for a briefing before the following day's seminar.

Since I began my farming career in 1985, the world market for U.S. wheat has shifted dramatically. Iran, Iraq, and the Middle East that were once strongholds for U.S. wheat, are not so much anymore, with the Black Sea region ramping up. Simple economics dictate that they look to the Ukraine for most of their needs. Vince Peterson has an excellent world map that shows the shift in destinations for all of the wheat exporting countries and how the market has shifted in the last 30 years.

In conclusion, maintaining market share in North Asia will be first and foremost. Servicing China and developing that market will be ongoing and critical. But the jewel in the East for the U.S. farmer, is South Asia. It is my observation that an increased presence in that part of the world will provide a huge return on investment for the not only the U.S. farmer, but the U.S. economy as well. U.S. agriculture exports have long been a shining star for trade and have been a net positive throughout the years. It is my firm belief that with proper support this aspect of our economy, which has been very good, can be even better in the years to come.

One other interesting tidbit was provided to me after the seminars had concluded. Orders for 7.5 million bushels of U.S. wheat were placed as a result of these meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate. It definitely provides that “Ah hah!” moment we all need for better understanding of our role in the world food supply chain.



Alvaro de la Fuente: Celebrating His Career and Legacy

Steve Mercer, Vice President of Communications, U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.

The highlights of Great Plains Wheat (GPW) activities promoting U.S. wheat in South America in marketing year 1976/77 included a baking seminar, equipment donations to the Chilean Milling School, translation of GPW's "U.S. Wheat" bulletin into Spanish and the hiring of a new Grain Marketing Specialist named Alvaro de la Fuente by Regional Director Don Schultz in the Caracas, Venezuela, regional office. In 1978/79, this young Peruvian national moved to Santiago, Chile, which would be his base for the next 39 years, to serve with GPW Regional Director Robert Drynan. He was named Regional Director with the newly formed U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) by 1981.

Looking back on Alvaro de la Fuente's long and successful career as he retires from USW as Regional Vice President, South America, is a study in how global wheat markets have changed. In 1977, there were no private wheat buyers in South America. Alvaro in fact came to GPW from a position with the government of Peru where he was responsible for purchases and imports of all bulk food commodities including wheat, managing an annual budget of US\$380 million. Prior to that, he managed ocean freights for the same commodities.

That experience, along with his truly international upbringing as the child of parents in diplomatic service and his Louisiana State University bachelor's degree in International Trade and Finance, were very valuable not only for his work with government wheat buyers, but also to successfully navigate the eventual shift to private wheat purchases in South America.

"That transition happened over the first 10 to 15 years of Alvaro's career with U.S. Wheat Associates," said USW President Vince Peterson. "The millers who had relied on the government now had to evaluate wheat quality, tender for the specifications they needed, arrange financing and shipping. Alvaro's knowledge was ideal for

the time and helped build a strong base of demand for U.S. wheat."

Early on, most South American flour mills were relatively small and family owned, and Alvaro's work was most welcome. But grain marketing skills were only one part of Alvaro's success in the region. The value of his professional partnership along with his friendly, generous nature helped build beneficial customer relationships that endure to this day.

Alvaro can count among his many achievements helping to organize ALIM, the Latin American Industrial Millers Association in 1980. ALIM eventually granted Alvaro honorary membership in recognition of his founding efforts and contributions to the region's milling industry. Over the years, he hired and helped

train many of the colleagues who are now capably carrying on his work in the South American region and around the world.

"Everywhere I traveled with Alvaro, his customers always welcomed him as family," Peterson said. "Alvaro and his lovely wife Betsy always did the same for colleagues, U.S. wheat farmers and state wheat commission representatives who were lucky enough to visit them and his team in Santiago. That personal warmth and the consistent results of his work, I think, will be Alvaro's lasting example and legacy."

"Everywhere I traveled with Alvaro de la Fuente, his customers always welcomed him as family. Alvaro and his lovely wife Betsy always did the same for [those] who were lucky enough to visit them and his team in Santiago. That personal warmth and the consistent results of his work, I think, will be Alvaro's lasting example and legacy."

— USW President Vince Peterson, celebrating the career of now retired Regional Vice President Alvaro de la Fuente.

All of us at U.S. Wheat Associates thank Alvaro for his work and friendship and wish him and his family a long and happy retirement.

Muchas gracias, Don Álvaro!



OWGL Announces Staff Changes

If you are active on social media and are connected to Oregon Wheat Facebook and Twitter feeds, you may have already noticed the increase in content on our pages. Shanna Hamilton, OWGL's new Communications Director, began working for the OWGL in mid-December and has already begun taking Oregon Wheat's image to the next level.

Shanna comes to us from the Pendleton Round-Up Association and Happy Canyon Co., where she was the Event & Project Manager, handling their communications, social media, website and other promotional work. She also has experience with the Umatilla Co. SWCD developing their programs and educational outreach, and with the University of Idaho Extension as the Extension Educator in a single agent County.

Shanna has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Extension Education from the University of Idaho, and a Master's degree in Integrated Resource Management and Communications from Colorado State University. Shanna grew up in Umatilla County and after completing her schooling lived in Colorado and Idaho before moving back home in 2013. Shanna and her family, which includes her husband and 5-year-old son, live in Pendleton.

Her primary job responsibilities at the OWGL office in Pendleton will involve all aspects of our communications efforts including content for our magazine and newsletter, social media, and website. She will also be helping out with grower meetings and will pick up some responsibilities for administration of the Oregon Wheat Foundation and the Oregon WheatPAC.



You can reach Shanna at shamilton@owgl.org, or at our office phone, 541-276-7330. We warmly welcome Shanna to the staff.

Saying Goodbye

Marilyn Blagg, OWGL's Office Manager, has retired as of December 31, 2018. Marilyn was on staff with the OWGL for 17 years, beginning as Administrative Assistant and receptionist in 2001. As with most long-term employees, duties were continually added to Marilyn's job description, and she handled them all with diligence and efficiency.



We will miss Marilyn on our staff but wish her the best in whatever future endeavors she takes on.



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Pay Equity – Are you Ready?

Amanda Dalton, J.D., OWGL Lobbyist



Oregon's sweeping Pay Equity law takes effect on January 1, 2019.

Are you prepared? Don't worry. You are not alone.

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed a sweeping pay equity law aimed to address pay inequities amongst protected classes. Oregon's law has quickly gained recognition as one of the most progressive Pay Equity laws in the country, requiring employers to assess pay scales based on 10 protected classes.

The new law applies to all employers, regardless of size. It covers all employees working in Oregon and does not include independent contractors. There are three major components of the new law:

- Employers are prohibited from asking for prior salary history (this portion of the law took effect Oct. 6, 2017). Is this field still on your job applications? REMOVE IT!
- Employers are prohibited from considering or screening new hires based on prior salary history.
- Employers are prohibited from paying employees for work of comparable character at different levels based on discriminatory pay practices.

The law doesn't require equal pay. It prohibits discriminatory pay practices linked to the 10 protected classes (based on a protected class: race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, veteran status, disability, or age).

The late release of the rules has been challenging for employers across the State as we all seek compliance. This law was never meant to be a "gotcha" for Oregon employers. Legislators were thoughtful in their 1-year delay of the law (Jan. 1, 2019), however BOLI's delayed release of the rules have drastically curtailed Oregon employers' ability to understand this new law and take necessary steps to come into compliance.

So, know you aren't alone as you dive into your payroll in 2019. And know that your lobby team will continue to work on delaying punitive court enforcement – allowing employers time to get this right before you are forced into courtrooms with steep legal fees – as well as identifying other necessary fixes for ease of administration and compliance.



The full article, explaining the details of the new rule and suggestions to employers on how to prepare for it, is posted to the OWGL website at www.owgl.org in the Features and Updates section. The information is meant to provide general compliance guidance for Oregon's wheat growers and small farmers. It is not meant as legal counsel, and outside professional assistance and review may be appropriate depending on the size and scope of

your operation.

Amanda Dalton served on the employer negotiating team for the Pay Equity law during the 2017 Legislative Session. She has continued to serve on BOLI's Rulemaking Advisory Committee in 2018 helping to craft rules that provide needed guidance to Oregon's small and large employers. She is currently working with Legislative Leadership to identify and advance necessary 'fixes' to the Pay Equity Law. This article is not meant to serve as legal counsel, and outside counsel and review is recommended for specific inquiries.



REMINDER – CLAIM YOUR TAX CREDIT!

If you contributed that extra \$25 or more to the Oregon WheatPAC when you renewed your Oregon Wheat Growers League dues, remember to claim the TAX CREDIT on your 2018 tax return.

The WheatPAC contribution amount was included in the letter that accompanied your membership card. If you need documentation or have any questions, call the OWGL office at 541-276-7330 or request a receipt via email: schrist@owgl.org.

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- Bi-weekly newsletter and bi-monthly magazine.
- Identifies and trains future industry leaders.
- Organizes educational seminars, 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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Recipe

Valentine's Chocolate Coffee Bundt Cake

Ingredient List:

Cake:

- 1 cup coffee
- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 cup cocoa powder
- 2 cups sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Glaze:

- 2/3 cup Bitter-sweet chocolate, chopped
- 1/2 cup cream



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C) then generously butter a 10- to 12-cup Bundt pan, preferably non-stick. Add the coffee, butter, and cocoa in a large bowl and microwave for 2 minutes until the butter is melted. Whisk until smooth then set aside to let the mixture cool for 10 minutes.
2. While the chocolate mix is cooling, combine the sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and flour in a large bowl. Pour the cooled chocolate mixture into the bowl with the dry ingredients, and mix until thoroughly combined.
3. In a large jug whisk together the vanilla, eggs, and sour cream. Mix into the chocolate batter, stirring until thoroughly combined. Pour the batter into the prepared bundt tin.
4. Bake the cake for 50-55 minutes, until a long toothpick or skewer inserted into the center comes out clean.
5. Remove the cake from the oven, wait 5 minutes, and turn the pan over onto a cooling rack. After 5 more minutes, lift the pan off the cake. Let the cake cool completely before glazing.
6. While the cake is cooling make the glaze: Combine the chocolate and cream in a microwave-safe bowl, or in a saucepan set over medium heat. Heat until the cream starts to bubble around the edges. Stir the warm cream and chocolate together until the mixture is smooth and shiny.
7. Once the bundt cake has cooled, transfer to a serving plate or cake stand and spoon the icing over the top of the cake, letting it drip down the sides. Cover and store the cake at room temperature for up to 3 days.

SERVINGS:

20

SERVING SIZE:

1 slice

CALORIES/SLICE:

451

Nutrition: One serving/slice provides approximately: 6 g Protein, 60 g Carbohydrates, 3 g Fiber, 23 g Fat (14 g Saturated), 91 mg Cholesterol, 364 mg Sodium

Recipe provided to the Wheat Foods Council by Gemma Stafford, Bigger Bolder Baking



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