

Oregon State University Extension Service

MID-COLUMBIA FARMER'S NEWSLETTER

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Grain and Rain

The average price for soft white wheat in Portland for November and December was \$9.00 and \$8.63 per bushel for 10.5% protein. A year ago the price was at \$10.84 and \$10.79 during November and December. So far the price in January has been at \$8.37, a year ago the price was at \$10.74. Barley prices have been staying steady at \$250/ton over the last three months.

Precipitation at the Sherman Station in Moro for November and December was 1.66 and 2.52 inches at 108% and 157% of average. So far in 2023 the station has gotten an inch. The crop year is at 104% of average at 5.75 inches for the Sherman Station. Average precipitation across Sherman County in November was 1.70 ranging from 2.06 in Rufus to 1.38 near Kent. Average precipitation in December was 2.38 ranging from 2.78 in Wasco to 1.55 east of Grass Valley.

Precipitation at The Dalles Airport for November and December was 1.4 and 2.08 inches at 71% and 78% of average. So far in January the airport has gotten just over an inch. Crop year total there is at 71% of average at 5.56 inches since September. Average precipitation across Wasco County in November was 1.71 ranging from 3.08 in Mosier to 1.10 near Petersburg. Average precipitation in December was 2.79 ranging from 3.50 outside of The Dalles to 1.64 outside of Dufur.

Climate Outlook

October through December precipitation across most of the Mid Columbia region averaged around 90-110% of normal with temperatures 1 to 3°F below normal across the region. January precipitation has been about 70-90% of average so far with temperatures averaging 1 to 3°F above normal. Drought conditions have changed little over the last month. Within the last year drought conditions have improved dramatically across the Mid Columbia region with 3 to 4 class improvement. Currently, the southern end of Sherman and Wasco Counties is still in D2 Severe Drought. At least D3 Extreme Drought has left our counties, but it is still persisting in Jefferson County and into Central and South East Oregon with part of Crook County in D4 Exceptional Drought. The central parts of our counties are still in D1 Moderate Drought with it lessening at the northern tips of both Sherman and Wasco Counties.

As of January 17th 59% of the winter wheat production across the United States is experiencing drought, though the severity varies greatly, fortunately less so here than in the Mid West. Looking at the drought forecast we should see drought improvement over the next 3 months in the Mid Columbia Region.

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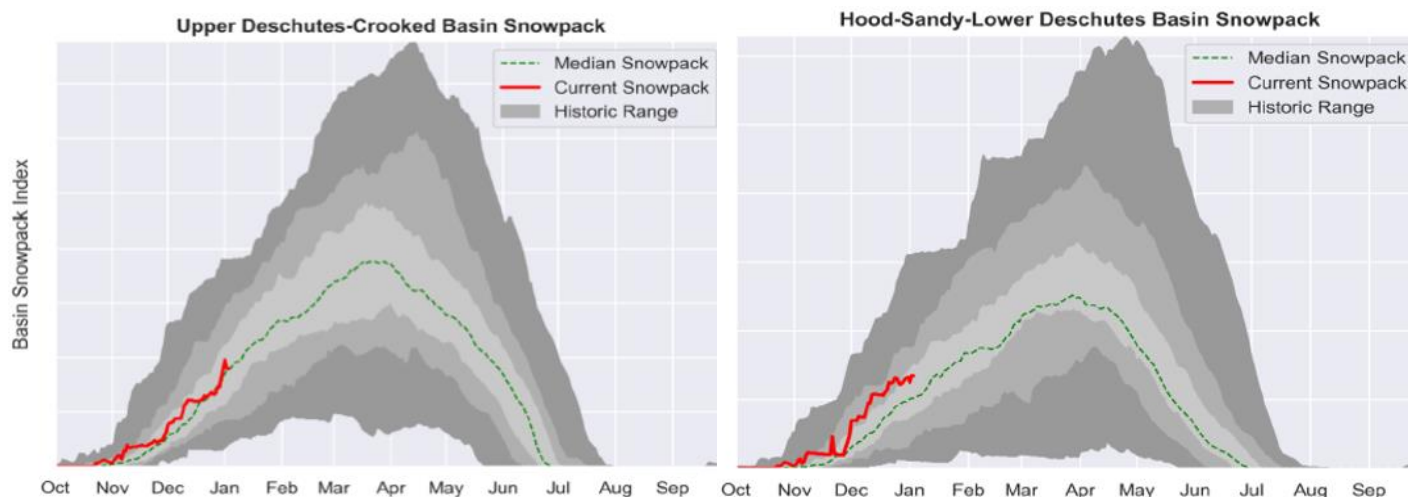
Climate Outlook Continued...

Over the next three months there is a 33-40% chance for above average precipitation and below average temperatures across the Mid Columbia. According to the Oregon Climate Forecast the next three months are forecasted to have precipitation at 113% of normal with temperatures at about average for the North Central Region of Oregon (Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla Counties). February is forecasted to have temperatures slightly below average and precipitation at 106% of average. The forecast for March is for temperatures 1.7°F below average with precipitation at 139% of average. April is forecasted to have temperatures 1.5°F above average and precipitation at 94% of average. According to the long range forecast over the next three months

La Nina has peaked, but the transition to El Nino will be a slow one. The chance of a 4th La Nina winter next year (2023-2024) is very unlikely given that there have never been more than three consecutive La Nina's in a row in recorded weather history. Columbia University's three month climate outlook report predicts a continuation of La Nina into Spring, which should correspond with continued moisture for us. There should continue to be a strong jet stream across the Pacific that splits in the Gulf of Alaska bringing storms in that flow into the continent via the Pacific Northwest. However, there is an increased chance of ridging events that could temporarily stop onshore flow, leading to dry conditions and allow the polar vortex to drop into the PNW. We are currently going through a dry spell as the jet stream flow is split in the Gulf of Alaska – but this is allowing much needed moisture to reach Montana and other dry wheat states in the Northern Plains.

Snowpack Outlook

For the Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes Basin the snow pack was at 228% of median in early December. However, currently as of January 1st snowpack is at 120% of median. Precipitation since October is at 94% of median for the Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes Basin. Snowpack for the Upper Deschutes Basin was at 114% of median as of January 1st, it had declined from 179% recorded one month prior. Precipitation since the beginning of October has been 91% of median for the Upper Deschutes Basin.



Global Wheat Outlook

The January USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) projects global wheat production at 781 MMT (Million Metric Tons). There are 36.74 bushels of wheat in one metric ton – global wheat production is at 28,694 million bushels. Global consumption is at 789.7 MMT, outpacing global production by 8.43 MMT. The report showed that world wheat trade is at 211.6 MMT and current ending stocks are at 268 MMT.

Canadian winter wheat acreage increased by 4%, though production may be limited by extreme dryness in much of the major durum production areas still.

Indian wheat production could reach record levels this year as the government has provided incentives to expand acreage for increased domestic supply. This may result in the government lifting the current ban on wheat exports if production is high enough.

Global Wheat Outlook Continued...

Grain exports out of Ukraine are at 14.3 MMT to date in the 2022/23 marketing year, a decrease of 30.7% from last year. In December Bloomberg reported that "Ukraine has lost at least \$1 billion of wheat that was harvested in areas controlled by Russia, according to research using satellite imagery from NASA's (U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration) food security and agriculture program." However, this report did not indicate what happened to the crops after they were harvested. The planted wheat area in Ukraine is down by 40% from a year ago. 2023 production is estimated to be down 16% from 2022 in Ukraine. Another issue is the grain storage capacity in Ukraine with some analysts claiming that they have lost 13 MMT or 503 million bushels of wheat storage infrastructure – equal to the amount of storage capacity across the Pacific Northwest where 250 to 300 million bushels are produced each year.

Wheat production doesn't look great for Argentina due to continued drought, though some areas have been getting heavy rains in the last week. USDA now estimates Argentina's wheat exports will fall to 7.5 MMT, the lowest level since 2014/15. Reports over the last week have continued to lower expected production – December reports had indicated a 12.5 MMT crop. On the other hand, Australia finished cutting another record wheat crop anticipated to come in at around 42-43 MMT. This is the third record breaking year in a row for Australia. La Nina's tend to benefit both the PNW and Australia with above average precipitation as we have seen over the last three years.

Wheat Marketing Outlook

The price for soft white wheat has remained somewhat stagnant as of late in the low to mid \$8 per bushel range. It seems like prices need to be around or below \$8.50 per bushel for wheat to be competitive out of Portland given the global markets. The upcoming annual river closure for barges along the Columbia River for two weeks starting on March 2 may slow some business out of Portland, but this closure has been planned well in advance. The situation in Ukraine will continue to add volatility to the markets, though they look less favorable than 6 months ago. In general it appears that large disrupters will be needed to swing the price up or down, but no one can predict the future. Producers should be careful to not take too much risk for what will probably be a small improvement in price looking at the futures. If Russia becomes more active again in Ukraine this spring prices will likely follow, but not to the degree that they did initially in 2022. Shipping in and out of the Black Sea will also be a major factor – futures will stay low as long as exports continue – but could increase if Russia shuts it down again.

The dollar index has continued to decline since September 2022, which may help encourage wheat buyers to buy U.S. wheat on the global market. In addition, the Baltic Dry Index (BDI) - an assessment of the average cost to ship raw materials such as grains, coal, and iron ore – has continued to decrease over the last month, though it remains relatively high.

U.S. Wheat Outlook

Total U.S. wheat stocks (both on and off-farm) decreased 7 percent from 2021 to 34.8 MMT according to the USDA quarterly Grain Stocks Report. On-farm stocks are up 32% at 8.9 MMT, while off-farm stocks fell 17% to 24.9 MMT. The 2023 winter wheat planted area in the United States is forecasted to be up 11% from last year, with white wheat up by 3%. According to the January USDA WASDE report U.S. wheat domestic consumption increased by 900,000 MT to 30.6 MMT as seed, feed, and residual usage increased.

Winter Wheat Disease Pressure Outlook

The dry fall pushed many producers seeding dates back, followed by a rapid transition to cold and wet. The combination of dryness and late seeding will help lower disease pressure for most fields going into spring. Fall weather and seeding date determines how much disease pressure crops will be facing the next spring – especially for eye-spot and cephalosporium stripe. However, some diseases can really shift in the spring with weather conditions – such as stripe rust. But so far the outlook for stripe rust risk is that we are at or below average risk potential, read more below. Early prolonged snow cover can delay the start of stripe rust and we had that in many areas this December. However, snow on the ground can also create issues – usually we need at least 100 days or more of continuous snow cover for snow mold to become an issue. Now the snow is gone from most of our fields, but a return of snow later in February could still create snow mold issues if it sticks around long enough.

Stripe Rust Outlook for 2023

Xianming Chen at WSU released his first forecast for stripe rust in 2023. Overall he forecasts that **rust will be in the lower range of the moderate epidemic level with 20-40% yield loss on susceptible varieties** (if not treated with fungicides). Highly susceptible winter wheat varieties in the 2023 crop season are forecasted to have yield losses of 16% to 33% with an average of 21% using different models. This is lower than the forecasted 34% yield loss made a year ago for the 2022 crop season after the warmer fall and winter in 2021. Current varieties are forecasted to have yield losses of 0 to 15% depending upon the level of resistance or susceptibility of individual varieties. This means that susceptible winter wheat varieties (stripe rust ratings 7 to 9) could use fungicide application with early spring herbicide applications. However, winter wheat varieties with ratings 0 to 6 probably do not need fungicide applications at this time. More updates will be given in March as winter weather continues.

2022 Stripe Rust Impacts to Different Wheat Varieties

In 2022 Chen and his colleagues at WSU ran stripe rust trials on 23 commercial varieties in experimental fields near Pullman under artificial inoculation. Of those 23 varieties WB4303 and UI Magic were most susceptible, losing 64.1% and 44.4% yield without fungicide application. Eleven commercial varieties (WB4303, UI Magic, LCS Jet, Otto, Mela CL+, ORCL-102, Curiosity Cl+, Puma, Keldin, SY Ovation, and LCS Drive) received fungicide application ratings 2 or higher (need fungicide application). Nine varieties (SY Assure, SY Clearstone 2CL, Resilience CL+, LCS Artdeco, Northwest Tandem, Jasper, SY Dayton, WB1604, and ARS-Crescent) were rated 1 (may or may not need fungicide application). The remaining three varieties (M-Press, Northwest Duet, and Bruehl) received fungicide application rating 0 (no need fungicide application).

Similar trials were also done on spring wheat varieties. Based on the percentages of yield losses, two commercial varieties (WB6341 and WB-1035CL+) received fungicide application ratings 2 to 3 (need fungicide application), six varieties (Net CL+, Diva, Kelse, Alum, Melba, and Ryan) rating 1 (may or may not need fungicide application), and the remaining 15 commercial varieties (Buck Pronto, Solano WB9668, Whit, Louise, WB9662, Glee, Gunsight, WB7202CLP, Tekoa, Chet, SY Selway, Seahawk, JD, and Espresso) received rating 0 (no need fungicide application) under the severe epidemic level in 2022. The most susceptible commercial variety of spring wheat was WB6341, which had 36.5% yield loss in non-sprayed plots.

Does your wheat need zinc?

Larry Lutchter, OSU Extension Agronomist in Morrow County, completed a research project over the last two years looking at the impact of applying a zinc oxide seed treatment to soft white winter wheat in Morrow and Sherman Counties. Zinc oxide was applied on seeds at a rate of 4oz/cwt. **Overall he found a yield increase of 2.4 bu/acre in Morrow County during the 2020 crop year when the yield potential was 40 to 45 bu/acre.** Control plots had an average yield of 41.3 bu/acre, while the zinc treatment had an average yield of 43.7 bu/acre that was statistically significant. Test weight did not differ between the two, but grain protein was reduced by 0.5% at 10.3% protein. Lutchter believes that protein was reduced probably due to improved yield.

Nutrition guides for winter wheat suggest that zinc should be added if soil test values are below 0.5 ppm. The soil zinc levels in Morrow County ranged from 0.3 to 0.5 ppm and Lutchter believes the yield response was likely due to the low zinc levels in the soil. In addition, previous laboratory work suggests that an adequate zinc supply can help decrease the impacts of various diseases, such as Fusarium crown rot. So the yield response may have also been due to the presence of soil pathogens. **In addition to the response to the zinc treatment, adding ammonium phosphate sulfate (16-20-0-12) fertilizer produced a 2.3 bu/acre yield increase** (43.6 bu/acre, control was 41.3 bu/acre, and the Zinc treatment 43.7 bu/acre). There was also a treatment of zinc seed treatment with the 16-20-0-12 fertilizer and the yield was the same as the 16-20-0-12 fertilizer treatment alone.

In Sherman County Lutchter did not find a response in either the 2020 harvest or in 2021 during extreme drought. However, the soil zinc levels were 0.6 to 0.9 ppm and may explain why the zinc addition did not produce a yield response. In addition, it is possible that there were not soil pathogens present in Sherman County that the zinc would have helped mitigate.

Does Your Wheat Need Zinc Continued...

Another question is how can you increase zinc concentration in harvested grain for nutritional benefits? Lutchter found that the zinc seed treatment did not change zinc concentration in grain. However, applying zinc sulfate fertilizer (5 lb Zn/acre) at the Sherman Station in 2022 did correspond with a significant increase in zinc in the harvested grain. In summary, zinc supply is probably adequate in most wheat fields across Sherman and Wasco Counties. Zinc does not need to be applied unless soil test values are below 0.3 to 0.5 ppm (DPTA – extractable) zinc. *This paraphrased summary is from an article that Larry Lutchter wrote in the December 2022 edition of the Oregon Wheat Growers League Magazine and you can find his whole article there.*

Biosolids add Zinc

Colorado has been applying biosolids for forty years to dryland wheat fields, longer than here in the PNW. Biosolids there are also surfaced applied and the benefits can be found 15 cm down into the soil. Biosolids add micronutrients, especially Zinc that are often lacking in calcareous soils. Studies have found that the additional zinc in biosolids resulted in increased zinc in grain. However, zinc is often not lacking in most soils in the Mid Columbia Region – if soil tests show at least 3 to 5 ppm/acre your soils should be adequate – see more on zinc above. Though extra zinc may help reduce disease pressure in winter wheat if your field has fusarium crown rot pressure. In Colorado biosolids resulted in higher increases in grain protein than using inorganic nitrogen fertilizers. Something also to note for soft white wheat – be careful you don't over apply biosolids and subsequent nitrogen applications as you could get dinged for high protein during a dry year.

Fertilizer Trends

On-farm production expenses in 2022 were estimated to be up 19%, to a record \$442 billion. 2023 inputs will likely stay relatively high, but seem to be gradually declining from record highs in spring of 2022. Overall the price for fertilizers are continuing to decline slowly.

- Anhydrous has finally started to lower and as of mid January is down 12% from a month ago and 13% from a year ago at \$1,245/ton or \$0.76/lb. of N. Notably this is the first time anhydrous has dropped below \$1,300/ton since November 2021. The lowest price for Anhydrous since 2008 was 393/ton back in October 2017 and the highest price was \$1,534/ton for 5 consecutive weeks from April through May of 2022.
- Urea decreased in price by 6% from last month and 12% from a year ago at \$732/ton or \$0.80/lb. of N. Since 2008 the lowest price for Urea was \$302/ton and the highest was \$1,031/ton during the last week of May of 2022.
- Potash and MAP have also lowered in price, about 8% lower than a month ago. Prices for DAP and UAN28 have not changed much over the last month.

Hay and Pasture Outlook

Pasture and range condition in Oregon at the end of the USDA grazing season (end of November) was ranked as 20% good to excellent condition, 5% higher than a year ago. Across the United States pasture and range condition was ranked at 22% good to excellent condition, slightly below a year ago. The price for hay is unlikely to come down anytime soon in the United States. The USDA December 1st hay stocks reports shows the lowest stocks on record since 1997. Hay stocks were low in 2012, but they are at least half of that level currently. The good news is that Oregon sits in second place with the largest percent change in December hay stocks from a year ago at a 53% increase. Only North Dakota had more of a change at 57% increase from a year ago. The southern plains, mid west, and east coast all had the largest declines with many in the negatives. Twenty-five states had hay yields below a year ago with fourteen states having more than a 10% decline in yield. Harvested acres declined over 2% nationally.

Pricing off the Oregon Direct Hay report (accessed here: <https://beav.es/iTs>) over the last several weeks has continued to show high prices for hay in Crook/Deschutes/Jefferson/Wasco Counties:

- Good / premium quality alfalfa in November was selling for \$417/ton ranging from \$275 to \$425 per ton. In December good quality alfalfa was averaging \$425 ranging from \$300 to \$425/ton and premium quality selling for \$437 ranging from \$400 to \$485/ton. So far in January there has been one large sale of premium alfalfa that averaged \$325/ton, but small retail orders still in the \$425/ton range.

Hay Prices Continued....

- Over the last several months mixed grass hay with good quality has been selling for \$425/ton, while premium quality going for a slightly lower average price of \$412/ton ranging from \$400 to \$485/ton.
- Premium quality orchard grass was selling for an average of \$378/ton ranging from \$300 to \$425 per ton in November. In December orchard grass was selling for an average of \$391/ton ranging from \$320 to \$425 per ton.
- A few interesting sales to note is there was one sale of meadow grass going for \$485/ton. In 2023 there has been one sale of wheat hay selling for \$225/ton.

Cattle Markets

In 2022 continued drought across much of the United States lead to a record level of cattle in feedlots from February through June – the highest monthly inventories on record since 1996 when they began tracking inventories. Most of the producers in drought have culled their herd at this point and now the number of cattle on feed is beginning to decline. In early October the number of cattle placed in feedlots was down 6% year over year. In November the number of cattle in large U.S. feedlots was down 2% year over year and in December it was by down 2.1% from a year ago. USDA-NASS releases the total number of cattle, steers, and heifers on feed in the US every quarter. Heifers in feedlots currently make up 39.74% - the highest percentage since 2002. This is the first indicator that heifer replacements will decrease in 2023 resulting in a lower calf crop.

U.S. Cattle slaughter is at 646,000 for the week ending on January 21st, up 9,000 from a year ago with cattle weights around 1,384 lbs, down 19 lbs from a year ago. Beef production is down by 2 million lbs, cold and snowy weather in December did slow cattle processing in some regions. The national fed steer live weight prices are at \$155.07/cwt, down \$1.71 from a week ago and up \$17.57/cwt from a year ago. Dressed weights have also recently decreased by \$3.10/cwt from a week ago at \$248.01/cwt, but up still \$30 from a year ago. The price for corn feed has remained steady as of late and is \$1.62/bu higher than a year ago.

Cattle prices are expected to continue to trend upward in 2023, possibly increasing another 6 to 7%. Expect the value of replacement heifers to increase. The estimated average cow calf return is looking strong in 2023 at \$250 per cow as an annual return (including pasture rent). This is a good change as during 2018 through 2021 returns were in the negative, especially 2019 with an estimated cost of almost \$200 per cow.

Local cattle sales out of Toppenish, WA during November and December are showing these trends:

- Steers are selling for an average of \$172/cwt with an average weight of 660 lbs – \$1,135/head
- Heifers are selling for an average of \$160/cwt with an average weight of 600 lbs – \$960/head
- Cows are selling for an average of \$67/cwt with an average weight of 1,361 lbs – \$912/head
- Bulls are selling for an average of \$101/cwt with an average weight of 1,555 lbs – \$1,571/head
- Bred cows are selling for an average of \$1,227 per head

OSU Small Farms Conference, February 18th, OSU campus in Corvallis

Registration is open. Participation will be limited this year and some sessions will fill up quickly. Check out the schedule and register here: <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/smallfarmsconference/> Gorge Grown has funding to help cover registration costs, lodging and mileage for local farmers and producers to attend the 2023 Small Farms Conference. Reach out to [Hannah Ladwig at hannah@gorgegrown.com](mailto:hannah@gorgegrown.com) if you are in need of funds to attend.

Networking Event for Producers and Local Buyers for Meat and Produce – February 21st

Do you produce agricultural products that you want to sell to various local business and restaurants? Here is your chance to find the right unique buyer for what you produce. Join Gorge Grown Food Network and WSU Extension for the return of this unique networking opportunity to get more local food into schools, restaurants, hospitals, and businesses. The event will take place from 9 am to noon on February 21st at the Best Western Hood River Inn. Learn more here: <https://gorgegrown.com/event/local-food-buyer-seller-matchmaker/> This is a free event but registration is required by February 14 at the link above.

Direct questions to communications@gorgegrown.com or call 541-490-6420.

Oregon Pasture Network, Virtual Class Series, Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Webinar series taking place every Thursday from now through March 9th, 6:30 - 8pm.

Register here: <https://oregonpasturenetwork.org/winter-classes/> Each class costs \$15.

Upcoming topics include:

- Summer Forages for Resilience (2/2)
- Keeping clean books (2/9)
- When to call a veterinarian and what to do before they arrive (2/16)
- Soil science and increasing fertility (2/23)
- On farm predator control (3/2)
- Meat science and on-farm butchery (3/9)

Oregon Wheat Growers League Annual County Meeting for Sherman/Wasco

The county annual meeting for Sherman and Wasco Counties will be held together on Wednesday, February 8th from 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM at the Grass Valley Pavilion. Join us for a happy hour at 4:30 and program to begin at 5 pm. RSVP requested to info@owgl.org or 541-276-7330. The meeting will include catering from Paradise Rose and music by Cara Pascalar.

OSU Agricultural Wildfire Training, February 7th in The Dalles or virtually February 10th

Now is the time to start planning for the next wildfire season. Are you and your home, farm, or ranch ready? The above average precipitation that we have continued to receive in 2023 and spring of 2022 will likely correspond with more abundant fuels across rangelands and crops this coming fire season, making it important that we are prepared before fire season starts. This training will help you better prepare your home, farm, crops and animals, and farm infrastructure from wildfires through improved wildfire behavior awareness, creating strategic fuel breaks and defensible space, and increasing your safety and effectiveness when you have to evacuate or suppress wildfires burning on your property. Join OSU Extension on February 7th, 1pm to 4:30pm, Wasco County Extension Office (CGCC, building 2, 400 E Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR) or virtually on February 10th from 1pm to 4pm.

Class Agenda:

- Rick Fletcher with ODF covering Wildfire Suppression Tactics and Safety in croplands and rangelands
- Simone Cordery-Cotter with OSFM covering defensible space and the new statewide defensible space mandates
- Jacob Powell and Katie Wollstein with OSU discussing fuel breaks and fire behavior in wheat and rangelands
- Fred Wensenk with BPA covering powerline safety during wildfires

Please register here: <https://beav.es/5b4> or scan the QR code. Class is free and registration is encouraged for both in person and virtual class options, especially if you want certificates.

This class is meant to help producers improve their wildfire preparedness and meet Oregon OSHA wildfire requirements. Contact Jacob Powell at jacob.powell@oregonstate.edu or call 541-298-3581 for questions or also to register.



If you can't make it but are interested I would encourage you to look at taking these online and on demand Ag Wildfire Courses that I created specifically for eastern Oregon crops and rangelands: Wildfire Preparedness in Agriculture: <https://beav.es/w92> and Ag Wildfire Behavior and Suppression: <https://beav.es/ibX>

Nutrient Management and Soils Workshop for Ag Producers, February 22nd, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, Moro

This workshop will focus on covering soil sampling, soil testing, soil pH, and nutrient considerations for irrigated forage crops and dryland wheat. Class will be held at the Sherman County Extension Office at 66365 Lonerock Rd, Moro, OR 97039. 2 ODA Pesticide Credits anticipated.

Hermiston Ag and City Expo on Feb 24th

The Hermiston Ag and City Expo will take place on February 24th starting at 8:30 am at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center. Seminars with pesticide credits will take place on the 24th and is a good place to get in person and free credits if you need them. EOTEC is at 1705 E Airport Rd, Hermiston, OR 97838.

Spring Pesticide Training, March 13th 9:30 am to noon, The Dalles

OSU Pesticide training with 3 ODA continuing education credits with lunch following in The Dalles, CGCC Building 2, 3rd floor lecture hall (400 E Scenic Drive). Succession workshop will follow at 1 pm, please register here: <https://beav.es/5z3> or scan the QR code. Sessions will cover wheat, pastures, and possibly one session on horticulture.



Farm Succession Planning, March 13th 1 pm to 3:30 pm

OSU Extension and Oregon Agricultural Trust will be putting on free a farm succession planning class in The Dalles, CGCC Building 2, 3rd floor lecture hall (400 E Scenic Drive) on Monday, March 13th. There will be a free lunch before the class starts at noon with the class starting at 1 pm. Registration is encouraged here: <https://beav.es/5zo> or scan the QR code.



Pacific Northwest Herbicide Resistance Initiative (PNWHRI) – Take the Problem Weeds Survey

Pacific Northwest land grant universities and three regional USDA-ARS units are launching a new Herbicide Resistance Initiative! Our goal is nothing short of creating a coordinated, interdisciplinary, systems-based approach to managing herbicide resistance in weeds that is regional in scope and long-term in impact. Supported by all PNW small grains commodity commissions and grain producer's organizations and approved by congress last spring, the PNWHRI will provide ongoing support for programs and projects focused on managing herbicide-resistant weeds across the PNW with a special focus on cereals producing regions. USDA-ARS units at Pullman, Washington and Pendleton, Oregon are adding new research personnel dedicated to supporting this project. Initial project funds are supporting some much-needed equipment purchases at our land grant university weed science programs, expanding their capacity to conduct fundamental and applied science.

Beyond a welcome investment in herbicide resistance related hard science, the PNWHRI supports social science efforts to understand and potentially address reluctance to adopt practices which will mitigate or prevent development of herbicide resistant weeds. Finally, Extension programs at our three land-grant universities will be in the thick of things, transferring new knowledge developed through the PNWHRI research efforts into educational products for growers and agricultural professionals.

To that end, one of the initial Extension efforts is to help define which weeds are currently giving PNW grain producers headaches, where they are, and what kind of production system they are being found in. Oh, and if any of these weed populations are herbicide resistant, we're pretty interested in that too.

You can participate in our regional problem weeds survey our regional problem weeds survey here or by following the QR code to the survey link. No personal data is collected, and we'll be accepting responses over the winter at various grower meetings our three land grant institutions (The University of Idaho, Washington State University, and Oregon State University) host. Results will help shape the PNWHRI's further research and outreach efforts going forward.



Scan the QR code to take the PNWHRI Problem Weeds Survey above to the right or use take it at this link: <https://beav.es/5HF>. *This is a summary of a post by Doug Finkelburg, University of Idaho | November 30, 2022 on the WSU Weeders of the West Blog - <https://smallgrains.wsu.edu/weeders-of-the-west/>*

Meet and Greet for OSU Wheat Breeding Candidates

Bob Zemetra, long time wheat breeder for OSU is in the process of retiring and OSU is currently in the final stages of finding his replacement. The two final OSU Wheat Breeding and Genetics Candidates have been announced and will be in Oregon for interviews in a few weeks. **Producers are highly encouraged to attend the meet and greet opportunities that will be held for both candidates at the Sherman Station in Moro at 2 pm on Tuesday, January 31st for Dr. Margaret Krause and on Wednesday, February 1st for Dr. Zachary Winn.** Candidates will also present seminars that producers can attend in Pendleton starting at 11 am at The Vert Clubroom on Wednesday, February 1st for Dr. Krause and on Thursday February 2nd for Dr. Winn. You can get a free pesticide credit and lunch at the seminars in Pendleton as well. The Vert Clubroom is at 480 SW Dorian Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801.