

Washington Grain Commission
Wheat and Barley Research Annual Progress Reports and Final Reports

Project #: 4150-1227

Progress Report Year: 2 of 3

Title: Extension Education for Wheat and Barley Growers

Cooperators: Drew Lyon, Rachel Bomberger, David Brown, Paul Carter, David Crowder, Aaron Esser, Randy Fortenbery, Isaac Madsen, Timothy Murray, Clark Neely, Haiying Tao, Stephen Van Vleet, and Dale Whaley

Executive summary: New resources were added to the Wheat and Small Grains website in 2020. We started our first blog, Weeders of the West, with authors from WSU, Oregon State University, and the University of Idaho. A new story is posted every other week and authors respond to comments posted to the blog. Two new quizzes were added to the website: 1) the Insect & Insect Damage ID Quiz, and 2) the Soil Nutrient ID Quiz. A new PNW Extension publication (PNW754) on best management practices for managing herbicide resistance was added to the website. Other new Extension publications included revisions to PNW660 (feral rye) and 668 (downy brome). The results from the 2020 cereal variety testing program were added to the website and the Variety Selection Tool. The 2019 WSU Weed Control Report was posted as were two new Weed ID quizzes. Twenty-six new episodes of the WSU Wheat Beat Podcast were posted in 2020, a new episode every other week. There were also 49 new Timely Topics posted. The 2020 Wheat Academy was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vacant positions on the Extension Dryland Cropping Systems Team remained a problem in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a canceled search for the cropping systems position in Walla Walla County, and the Spokane County Extension position was not refilled. Rachel Bomberger resigned her position in the Plant Diagnostic Clinic in December 2020. We hope that position will get refilled soon. Paul Carter announced his retirement in early January 2021, which will leave counties in southeast Washington with no agronomic expertise. The Team will enter 2021 three county positions down from where it was in 2018.

Impact: The Wheat and Small Grains website continues to be an important source of information for many people. For the 11-month period of January through November 2020, the site had 63,155 sessions with 34,808 unique users; this compares to 49,175 sessions and 36,002 unique users for the same period in 2019, and 42,484 sessions and 29,001 unique users in 2018. There were 114,379 pageviews, which is up from the 88,727 pageviews in 2019. We have 992 subscribers to our listserv, 838 followers on Twitter, and 297 followers on Facebook. The majority of the sessions from the US (41,780) were initiated from the state of Washington (16,490). We recorded 26 episodes of the WSU Wheat Beat Podcast in 2020. From January through November, the podcast had a total of 8,757 plays. Weeders of the West, a blog focused on weed science issues was initiated on March 10, 2020. Through November, the blog had 2,721 pageviews and 75 people are subscribed to the blog listserv.

WGC project number: 4150-1227 (FY 2019-2022)

WGC project title: Extension Education for Wheat and Barley Growers

Project PI(s): Drew Lyon

Project initiation date: July 1, 2019

Project year (X of 3-yr cycle): 2

Objective	Deliverable	Progress	Timeline	Communication
Add new resources to the Wheat and Small Grains website, including new publications, decision support tools and calculators, videos, and quizzes.	New and updated Extension publications, decision support tools and calculators, videos, and quizzes will be developed. Decision support tools and videos will be prioritized. An article will be written annually for Wheat Life magazine on our Extension activities.	"Resistant weed strategies from Down Under" was published in the 2020 August/September issue of Wheat Life magazine. New resources added to the website included the following: Weeders of the West Blog, an insect & insect damage ID quiz, a nutrient ID quiz, a new PNW Extension publications (PNW754), two major revisions of PNW Extension publications (PNW660 and PNW668), the 2019 WSU Weed Control Report, and the 2020 Variety Testing Data.	This will be an ongoing process throughout the duration of the project.	The development of new resources were shared with growers through Timely Topic posts on the Wheat and Small Grains website, news releases, including an annual article in Wheat Life magazine, and at various education events held throughout 2020.
Provide Timely Topics and podcast episodes on a regular and frequent basis.	We will post at least one Timely Topic every other week and one podcast episode in the alternate weeks so that we have at least one new item on the home page every week.	Twenty-six new episodes of the WSU Wheat Beat Podcast were posted in 2020; one every other week. Forty-nine Timely Topics were posted in 2020. Twenty-one articles were posted to the Weeders of the West Blog.	The proposed schedule will be initiated at the start of the funding cycle and continue throughout the duration of the project.	Timely Topics, Wheat Beat Podcast episodes, and Weeders of the West articles were posted to the home page of the Wheat and Small Grains website.
Develop a new one-day educational program along the lines of the Wheat Academy that can be held outside of Pullman.	A new one-day educational program held each year in at least one location outside of Pullman.	No progress was made on this objective in 2020.	Planning for the new educational program will begin in 2020, with delivery of the first program in 2021 or 2022.	Information on the new educational event will be communicated to growers and crop consultants through Timely Topic posts and in future advertisements for the program, including advertising in Wheat Life.
Respond to issues of concern to the wheat industry with educational programming that is timely and relevant.	In-depth educational programs, publications, articles, videos, and decision support tools as called for by the particular issue.	Herbicide resistance remained an issue of concern in 2020. The Weeders of the West Blog was started in March and posts on herbicide resistance are common. A new PNW Extension publication (PNW754) on best management practices for managing herbicide resistance was published. A Timely Topic in April addressing a late spring freeze event received 1,598 pageviews.	This will be an ongoing process throughout the duration of the project.	Educational resources and programming developed to address issues of concern were shared with growers through Timely Topic posts on the Wheat and Small Grains website and at education events held in 2020.

Do not use a font size less than 10 point. Let the template break over pages if necessary. The formatting will be retained when saved as a pdf file.