

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

Project #: 4150-1224

Progress Report Year: 3 of 3

Title: Extension Education for Wheat and Barley Growers

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Executive summary: The Wheat and Small Grains website (smallgrains.wsu.edu) was launched by the Extension Dryland Cropping Systems Team in early 2014. The website serves as a one-stop shop for all the information WSU Extension has on small grains production. The development of Decision Support Tools has been a priority for the team over the course of this project. We currently have 16 tools or calculators available on the Wheat and Small Grains website. The five most viewed tools in 2018 were the variety selection tool (6,593 pageviews), herbicide MOA tool for wheat (2,321 pageviews), herbicide comparison tool (2,204 pageviews), herbicide efficacy table (1,382 pageviews), and the AMS sprayer mix calculator (574 pageviews). The WSU Wheat Beat Podcast was introduced in 2017 with seven episodes. There were 41 new episodes posted in 2018. We are able to communicate directly with more than 900 subscribers to our subscription listserv, which allows us to push information out to people who are interested in our content. The Wheat Academy continues to be highly valued by participants and has sold out within two weeks of opening on-line registration in every year since the inaugural event in 2014. The biggest unforeseen issue to arise during the duration of this project was the low falling number issue in 2016. We responded by providing information on the topic, including four Timely Topic posts that combined were viewed nearly 2,500 times through November of 2016. Additionally, we added a Wheat Quality Resources page to the Wheat and Small Grains website to make it easier for people to find information on this issue.

Impact: The Wheat and Small Grains website saw increased use again in 2018. For the 11-month period of January through November, the site had 42,484 sessions with 29,001 unique users; this was up from 39,747 sessions and 25,534 unique users for the same period in 2017, and 26,603 sessions and 17,679 unique users in 2016. There were 81,854 pageviews in 2018, 80,601 pageviews in 2017, and 26,603 pageviews in 2016. The subscription listserv currently has 919 subscribers. The Wheat Academy continues to be highly valued by participants, with all 75 seats being purchased within two weeks of opening on-line registration in every year since the inaugural event in 2014. Four Timely Topics on low falling numbers received nearly 2,500 pageviews in just four months during the fall of 2016 when this was an issue of great concern to the wheat industry.

WGC project number: 4150-1224

WGC project title: Extension Education for Wheat and Barley Growers

Project PI(s): Drew Lyon

Project initiation date: July 1, 2016

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

Objective	Deliverable	Progress	Timeline	Communication
Add new resources to the Wheat and Small Grains website	Publications, decision support tools and calculators, videos, quizzes, topic forums, etc. Specific deliverables identified include dynamic weed control tables, an ammonium sulfate spray tank calculator, a soil lime application calculator, and three videos on soil acidification as well as several new publications on this topic. An article will be written annually for Wheat Life magazine on our Extension activities.	All specific deliverables were produced. There are now 16 decision support tools available on the Wheat and Small Grains website. The soil acidification videos and publications are all available on Soil and Water Resources page. A Wheat Life article was written each year on some aspect of our Extension activities.	New resources will be added every year for the duration of the grant. The specific deliverables identified will be completed in 2016.	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 education events held throughout the life of the project.
Develop and launch subscription listserv	Subscription listserv	The subscription listserv went live on September 30, 2016. As of December 10, 2018 there were 919 subscribers to the listserv.	The subscription listserv will be available by the end of 2016.	The subscription listserv was announced through Timely Topic posts on the Wheat and Small Grains website and a subscription link is available on the home page of the website.
Improve the Wheat Academy	A highly relevant and popular program will continue to improve and a means of serving more people without losing program quality will be sought.	The Wheat Academy continues to be a highly valued program. The 75 seats have sold out within two weeks of opening on-line registration in every year since the inaugural event in 2014. We have tweaked the event every year in an attempt to improve it, but we have not made any large changes in fear of damaging a very successful education program.	This will be an ongoing process throughout the duration of the grant.	Information on the Wheat Academy was shared with growers through the Wheat and Small Grains website, through news releases, and other educational events. We also made much of the information delivered at the Academy available to people through the website.
Respond to issues of concern as they arise	In-depth educational programs, publications, and decision support tools as called for by the particular issue.	Low falling numbers were a widespread problem in 2016. Growers had many questions on the topic. The Extension Dryland Cropping Systems Team worked with Camille Steber, USDA-ARS, the WSU wheat breeders, WAWG, and the WSDA to provide information on this topic. Four Timely Topics were posted to the Wheat and Small Grains website. Through November of 2016, these four Timely Topics received nearly 2,500 pageviews. Additionally, a Grain Quality Resources page was added to the Wheat and Small Grains website.	This will be an ongoing process throughout the duration of the grant.	Educational resources and programming developed to address issues of concern will be shared with growers through the Wheat and Small Grains website, news releases, and education events held throughout the year.

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