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WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS' 2019/20 OFFICERS

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Howard McDonald • Coulee City

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Andy Juris • Bickleton

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Jeffrey Shawver • Connell

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Anthony Smith • Richland
Marcie Green • Fairfield



(From left) Jeffrey Shawver, President Emeritus; Ryan Poe, President; Howard McDonald, Vice President; and Andy Juris, Secretary/Treasurer



Michelle
Hennings,
Executive
Director

Lori Williams,
Outreach
Coordinator

Chauna Carlson,
Administrative
Assistant

Trista Crossley,
Wheat Life Editor

Lance Marshall,
Wheat Life Ad
Sales Manager

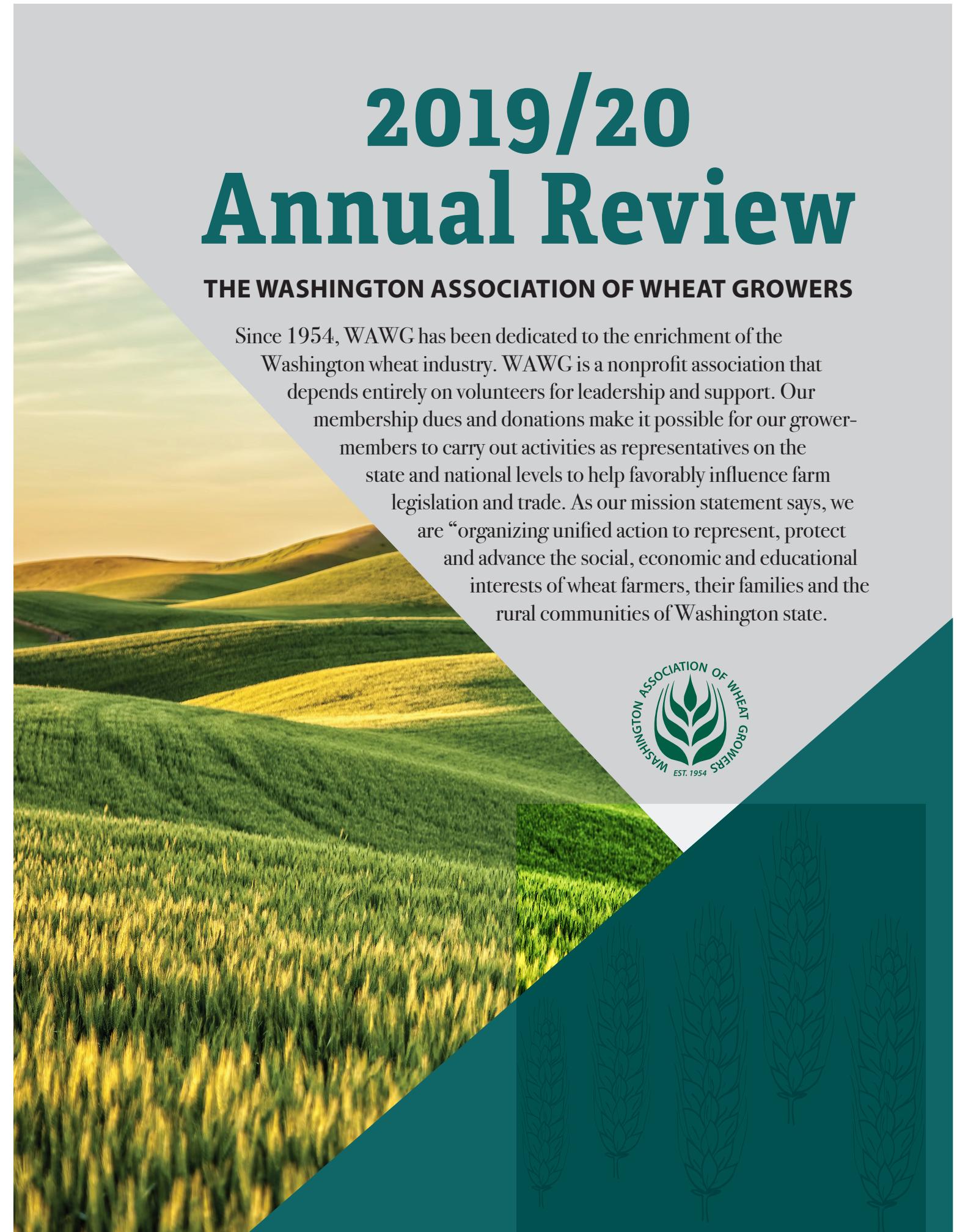
STAFF

Michelle Hennings • Executive Director
Lori Williams • Outreach Coordinator
Chauna Carlson • Administrative Assistant
Lance Marshall • Wheat Life Ad Sales Manager
Trista Crossley • Wheat Life Editor

2019/20 Annual Review

THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

Since 1954, WAWG has been dedicated to the enrichment of the Washington wheat industry. WAWG is a nonprofit association that depends entirely on volunteers for leadership and support. Our membership dues and donations make it possible for our grower-members to carry out activities as representatives on the state and national levels to help favorably influence farm legislation and trade. As our mission statement says, we are "organizing unified action to represent, protect and advance the social, economic and educational interests of wheat farmers, their families and the rural communities of Washington state.



STATE ADVOCACY

During this past year, WAWG leaders regularly testified at legislative hearings, met with legislators, and worked with our lobbyist to provide comments on proposed legislation, including carbon regulation, cap and trade, DNR leases and COVID-19 ag requirements.



SNAKE RIVER DAM TOUR

WAWG was one of the sponsors of a legislative tour that took more than 3 dozen officials through the locks at Ice Harbor Dam. The tour was a way to demonstrate to legislators the importance of the dams to the region's economy and to showcase efforts to protect and increase salmon stocks without the need to breach the dams.



OLYMPIA DAYS 2020

For two days, more than 30 growers and industry leaders met with state legislators from both sides of the aisle and agency officials during WAWG's annual trip to the state's capital. The top wheat growers' issues included preserving the lower Snake River dams, carbon regulations, and transportation funding, especially for the state's short-line rail system.



NATIONAL ADVOCACY

Trade, retaliatory tariff support, and farm bill implementation were just some of the topics WAWG leaders discussed with members of Congress and federal officials during their trips to Washington, D.C., in 2019/20. WAWG worked closely with the National Association of Wheat Growers to ensure that wheat farmers' interests were considered as USDA rolled out multiple stimulus packages; lobbied to protect existing CRP acreage caps; and promoted new trade agreements.



GROWER OUTREACH

WAWG leaders took part in multiple fields days and county wheat grower meetings to update producers on the Association's activities and lobbying efforts at the state and national levels. As a grower-led organization, WAWG uses these events to stay informed on growers' concerns and the issues they are facing in the field.



"We are confident that with today's technology, the dams and salmon can co-exist."

LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS

The question of whether or not to breach the lower Snake River dams to help increase salmon numbers took up much of WAWG's time and effort this year. From Gov. Jay Inslee's report to the much-anticipated release of the Corps' draft EIS, WAWG was on hand to provide a balanced, scientifically based perspective on why the dams are so important to the region's economy and the ability of wheat growers to ship their product to overseas markets. WAWG leaders participated in multiple interviews and drafted comments to support the wheat industry's position that the dams and salmon can co-exist.

EDUCATION

More than 200 growers and industry representatives took advantage of educational workshops sponsored by AMMO and WAWG this year. Topics ranged from USDA farm program choices and mental health to QuickBooks and marketing. The annual Wheat College went virtual this year, thanks to COVID-19 social distancing measures. Peter "Wheat Pete" Johnson hosted a Zoom session for more than 50 growers to talk about managing wheat for high yields.



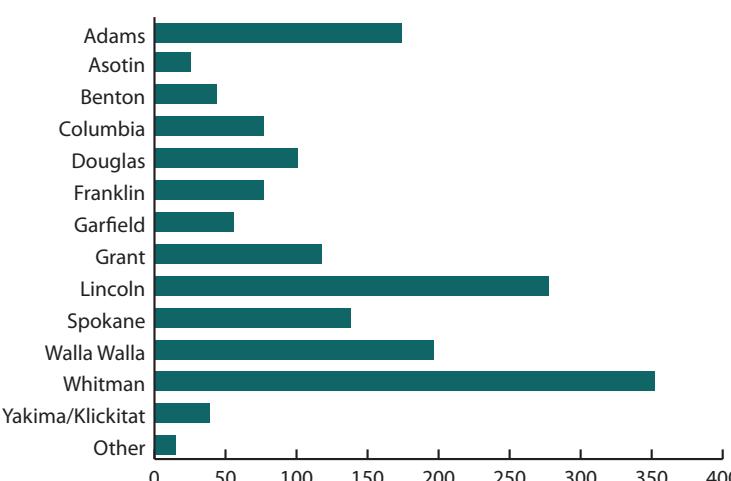
CONVENTION



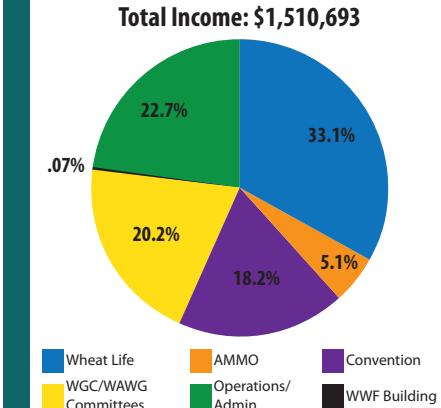
MEMBERSHIP

WAWG grower membership is up slightly this year, while associate memberships are down as businesses spend more of their sponsorship dollars at the convention and on the AMMO program. Each county receives a portion of their membership dues back to help support county activities, including funding scholarships, donations to groups like 4H and FFA, and county outreach efforts. WAWG membership includes weekly Greensheet email updates; free attendance at all AMMO sessions, including the annual Wheat College; and discounted Lifeflight membership fees. WAWG members are also members of the National Association of Wheat Growers, an organization that works with WAWG to advocate for the U.S. wheat industry at the national level.

2019/20 MEMBERS TOTALS



2020/21 WAWG Proposed Budget Total Income: \$1,510,693



BUDGET

Approximately 1/3 of WAWG's income comes from the Washington Grain Commission. The rest comes primarily from *Wheat Life* advertising and membership dues. The majority of the budget is spent on committee travel (National, State, Research, Natural Resources, Marketing and Public Info committees); lobbying trips to Olympia and D.C.; materials; *Wheat Life*; and office operations.

2020/21 WAWG Proposed Budget Total Expense: \$1,465,072

