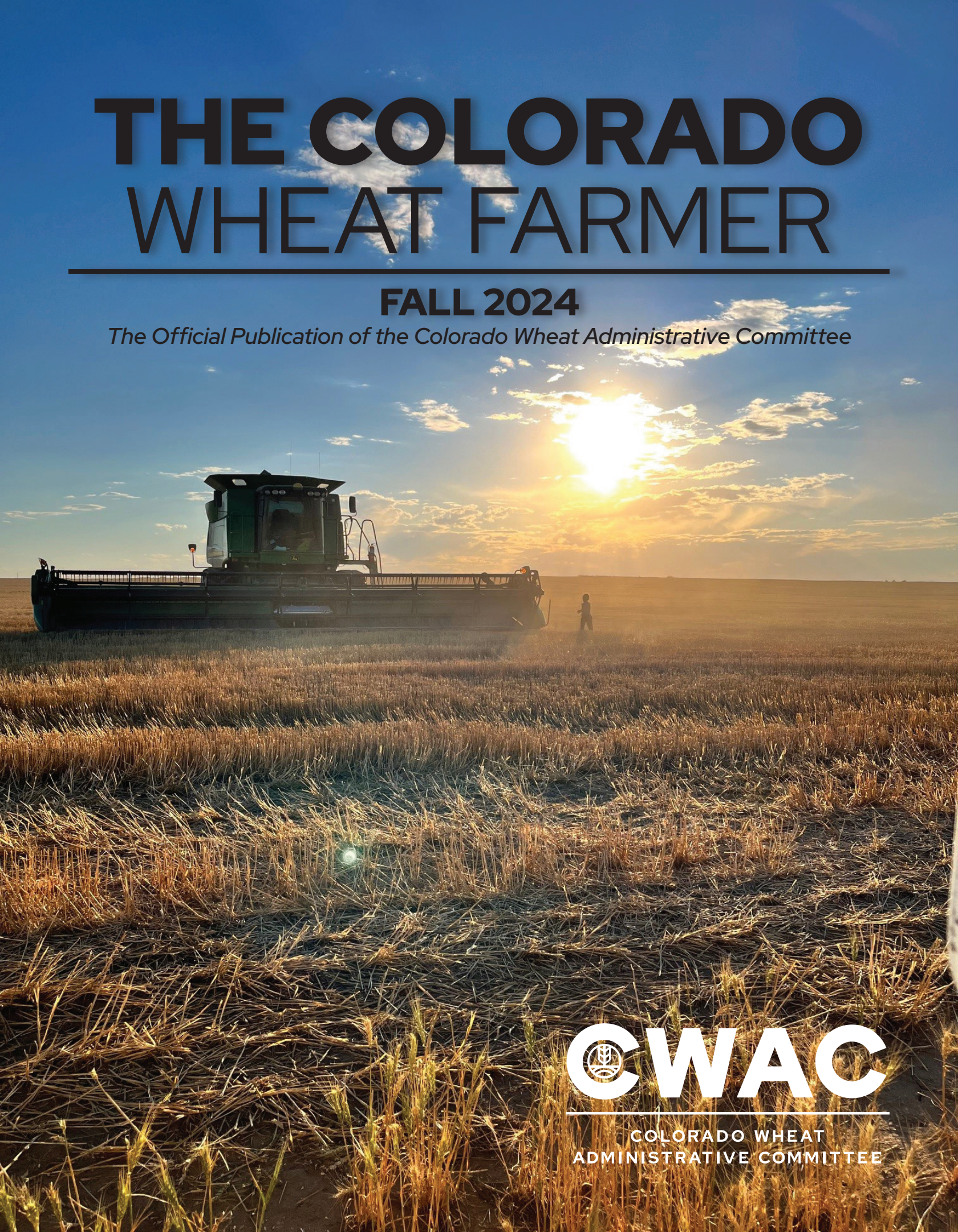
THE COLORADO WHEAT FARMER

FALL 2024

The Official Publication of the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee



CWAC

COLORADO WHEAT
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Cover Photo by Elisha Thompson - Genoa, CO

IN THIS ISSUE:

Submit your farm photos and captions to us. Your photos might show up on our social media, in our newsletters or calendar! High-resolution imagery can be sent to mandersen@coloradowheat.org.

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COLORADO WHEAT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jerry Cooksey

Hello, my name is Jerry Cooksey and this is my first term as President of Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee. I am a 4th generation farmer and live about a mile and a half from the original Homestead where my Great Grandfather settled in 1908. I farm with my sons and brother southeast of Roggen, as well as in the Hoyt area. We farm dryland and irrigated ground. Crops grown are wheat, corn, milo and millet. We also have a produce company where pumpkins are grown. It is a busy time of year, after a long hot dry summer, we are always looking for crops that help us deal with drought conditions.

In August, USDA announced the deregulation of HB4, a drought tolerant trait in wheat. Farming leaders of US Wheat Associates commended USDA's thorough, science-based process and expressed confidence in the trait's expected ability to deliver significant benefits for both producers and consumers. Since this trait has shown the potential to increase wheat yields 20-50% in Argentina, one wonders if this type of increased yield could be translated into hard red winter and hard white winter wheat varieties grown here in Colorado and on the plains. Before this can be seen, the trait will need to be commercialized in the United States. In addition, and perhaps the hardest challenge will be convincing the consumer and US Foreign buyers that the wheat produced with this trait is safe to be consumed. Even so, we are hopeful to see this trait in US wheat varieties within the next five years.

On another note, USDA NASS has reduced the 2024 Colorado Wheat Crop estimate to 64.4 million bushels, down 9% from the previous estimate of 70.9 million bushels. The average crop size in Colorado is 72 million bushels. The CWAC budget is derived from this number. CWAC works with Colorado State University to advance research in wheat breeding, entomology, pathology and weed science programs. In large part to this partnership, as wheat is planted this fall, we are fortunate to have varieties available to meet the challenges in the field, ranging from semi- solid stem varieties, both HRW and HWW for the wheat stem sawfly, and Clearfield & CoAXium to deal with grassy weeds. Still other varieties help to deal with plant diseases.

Finally, please note we have a new website coloradowheat.org. It is modern, appealing and very informative.

Best of luck and be safe planting wheat and harvesting this Fall.

MARKET OUTLOOK FOR 2025

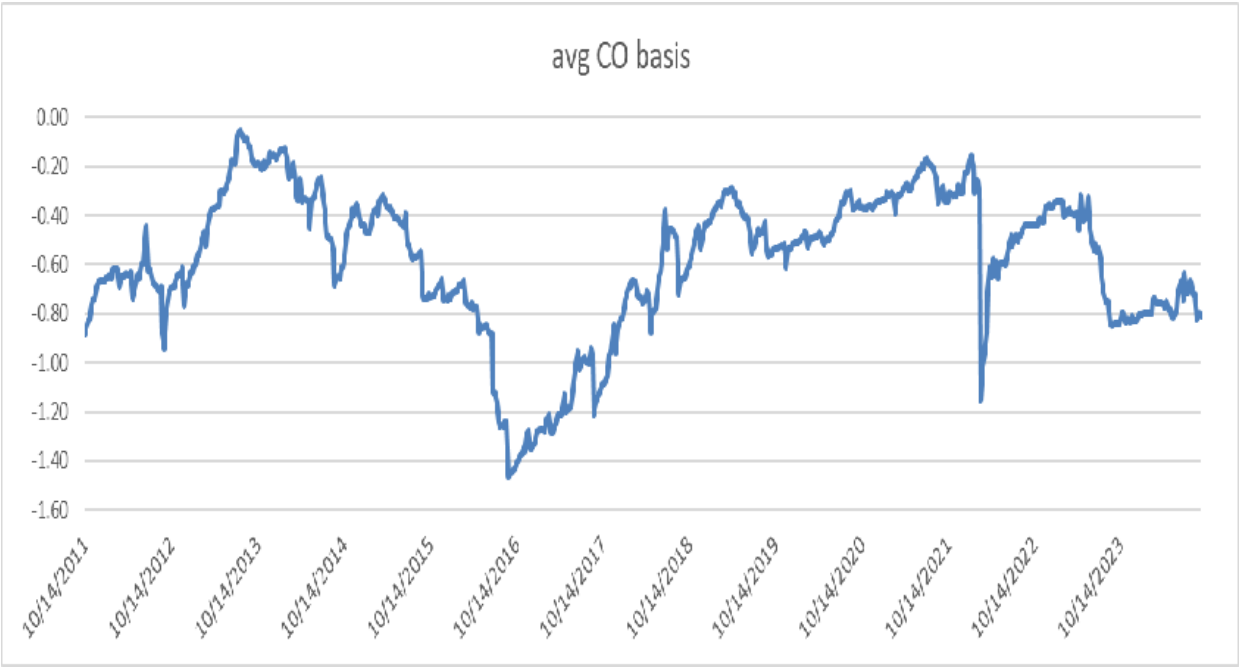
By Dan Maltby - Dan Maltby Risk Management

Madison asked me for "an outlook for the market going into 2025". There are lots of markets to think and talk about and wonder how that market affects one personally and if it does affect you, then what can one do about it, if anything...but for the sake of time, and level of competence...let's start with the "relatively local" Hard Red Winter wheat market.

We assess the market by the local price of wheat, as published by wheat bids according to the AMS branch of the USDA. The current average published bid for Colorado wheat is about $4.85/bu, delivered to a local elevator. There is a wide range of these published bids, from $4.65, clear up to $5.45/bu, and in general, the higher wheat bids are closer to a flour mill, or from a firm willing to buy wheat locally and "merchandise it" (truck it to the best bid they can find, either from a mill or a train loader, or sometimes...a feed lot.)

We know this local cash price of wheat is derived from this formula:
Futures price plus the basis = cash price. Currently the futures price is about $5.65, and the basis is about -80 (80c/bu under the futures price) which yields a cash bid price of $4.85/bu.

We know this basis is a market itself and can move up and down. The current average bid of -80 is about halfway between the top area of -10, and the bottom area of -145.

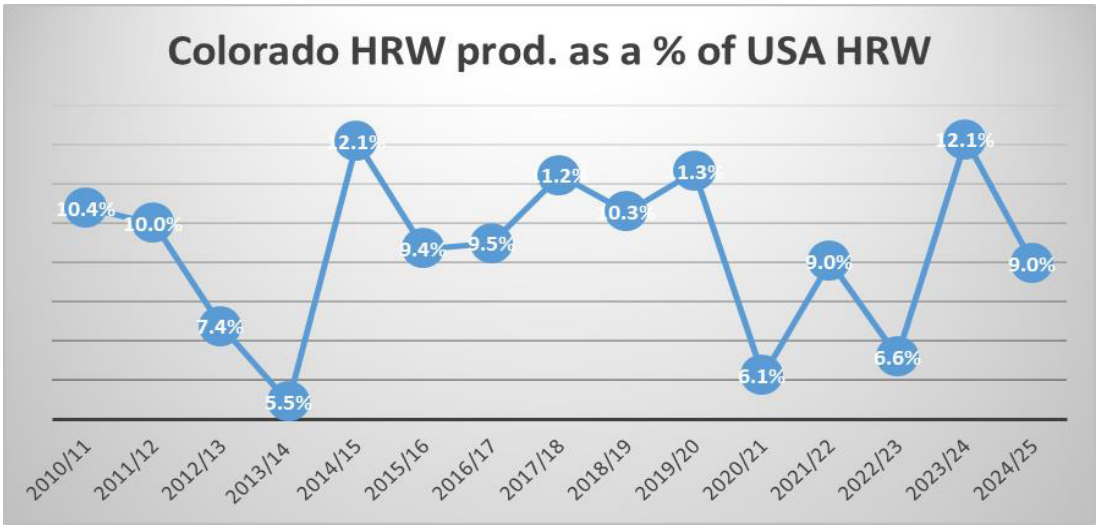


The "basis" represents localized Supply and Demand. It is affected by local supply and demand factors, and overall USA supply and demand factors, and importantly, by the "perception" of users, both millers and exporters.

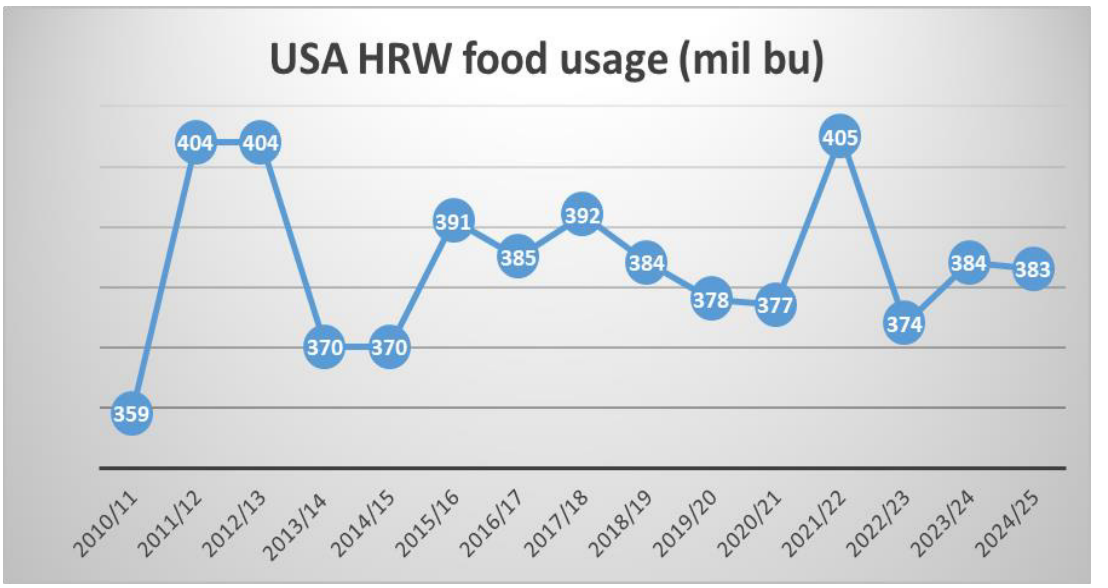
Prices...I believe, in the long run...are determined by "fundamentals"...

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Colorado HRW production	105.75	78	73.78	40.75	89.3	79.18	105.12	86.86	70.2	98	41.04	69.56	35.75	74.62	71.37
USA HRW production	1018	780	1000	747.373	738.65	846.5	1107.5	774.1	681.6	865.2	670.8	769.8	541.5	615.1	795
CO as % of USA	10.4%	10.0%	7.4%	5.5%	12.1%	9.4%	9.5%	11.2%	10.3%	11.3%	6.1%	9.0%	6.6%	12.1%	9.0%
USA HRW Food usage	359	404	404	370	370	391	385	392	384	378	377	405	374	384	383
USA HRW "Feed" usage	-3	19	171	22	20	37	79	-26	-9	77	-1	76	42	17	40
USA HRW exports	617	397	382	446	269	227	453	373	332	378	339	310	224	134	240
USA HRW ending stocks/usage	38.5%	37.2%	34.6%	27.2%	42.7%	65.0%	62.5%	75.9%	70.5%	59.0%	57.8%	44.7%	33.2%	49.8%	52.1%
USA all wheat NAFP	5.7	7.24	7.77	6.87	5.99	4.89	3.89	4.72	5.16	4.58	5.05	7.63	8.83	6.96	5.7

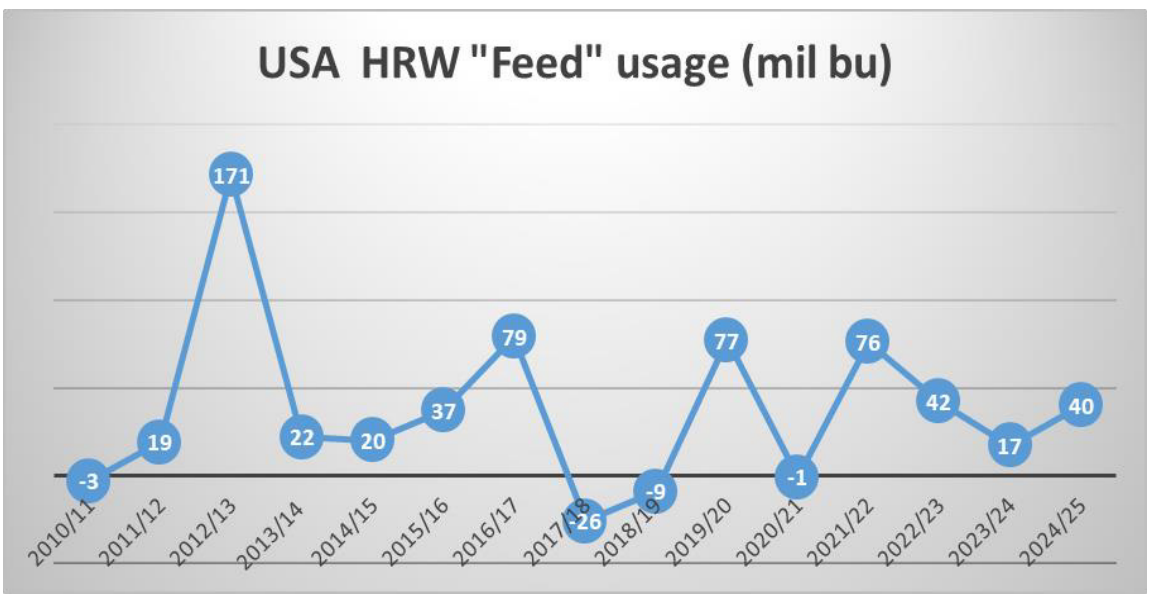
Colorado grows about 10% of the USA's HRW production. Production is a "Supply" component.



USA HRW food usage doesn't fluctuate very much at all. 385 million bushels is about the current belief.



The demand components that do fluctuate are:
"Feeding" (which includes the fudge factor known as "Residual".) The USDA's "normal expectation" seems to be about 40 mil bu, although the price spread between corn prices and wheat prices will affect this.



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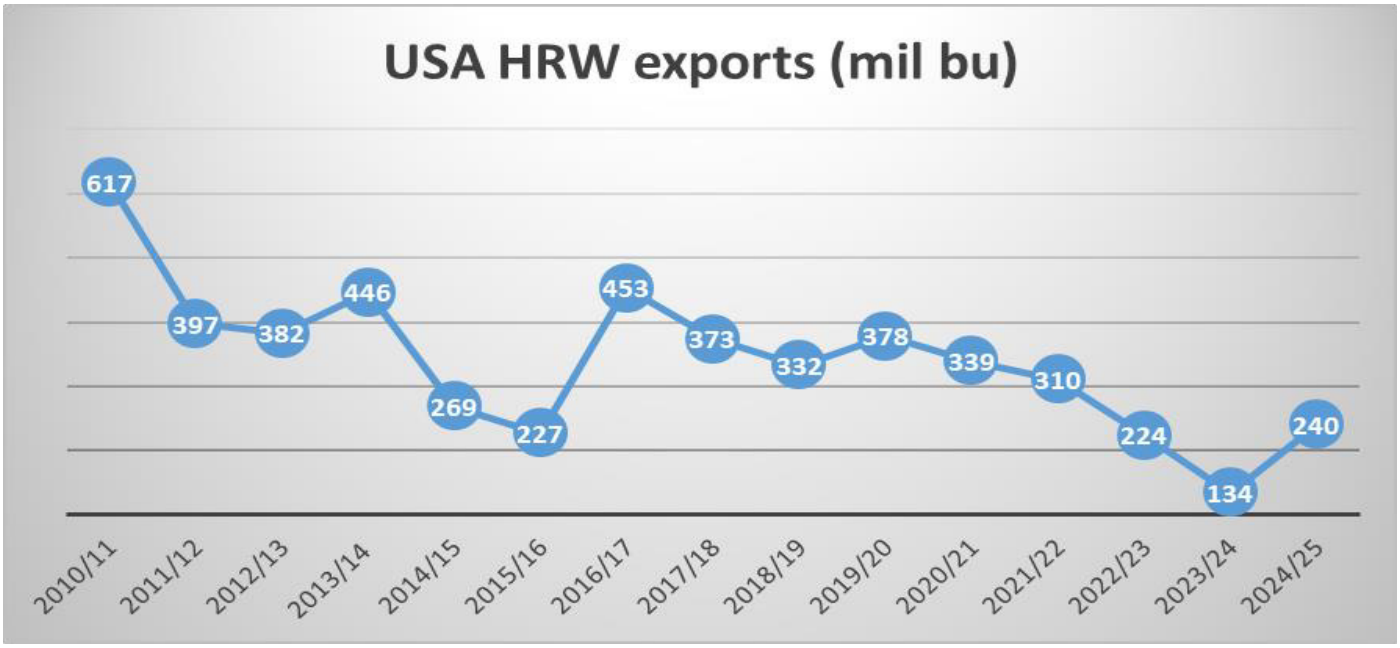
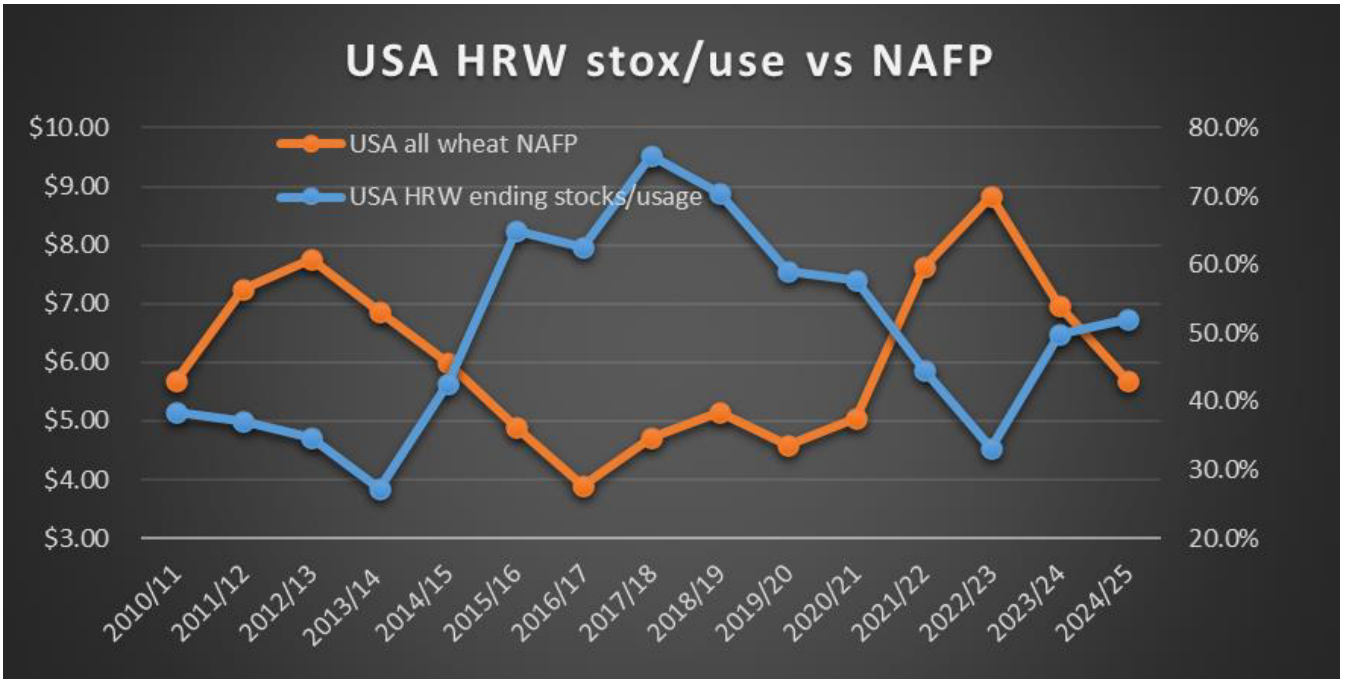
HRW Exports are the second demand category that fluctuates:



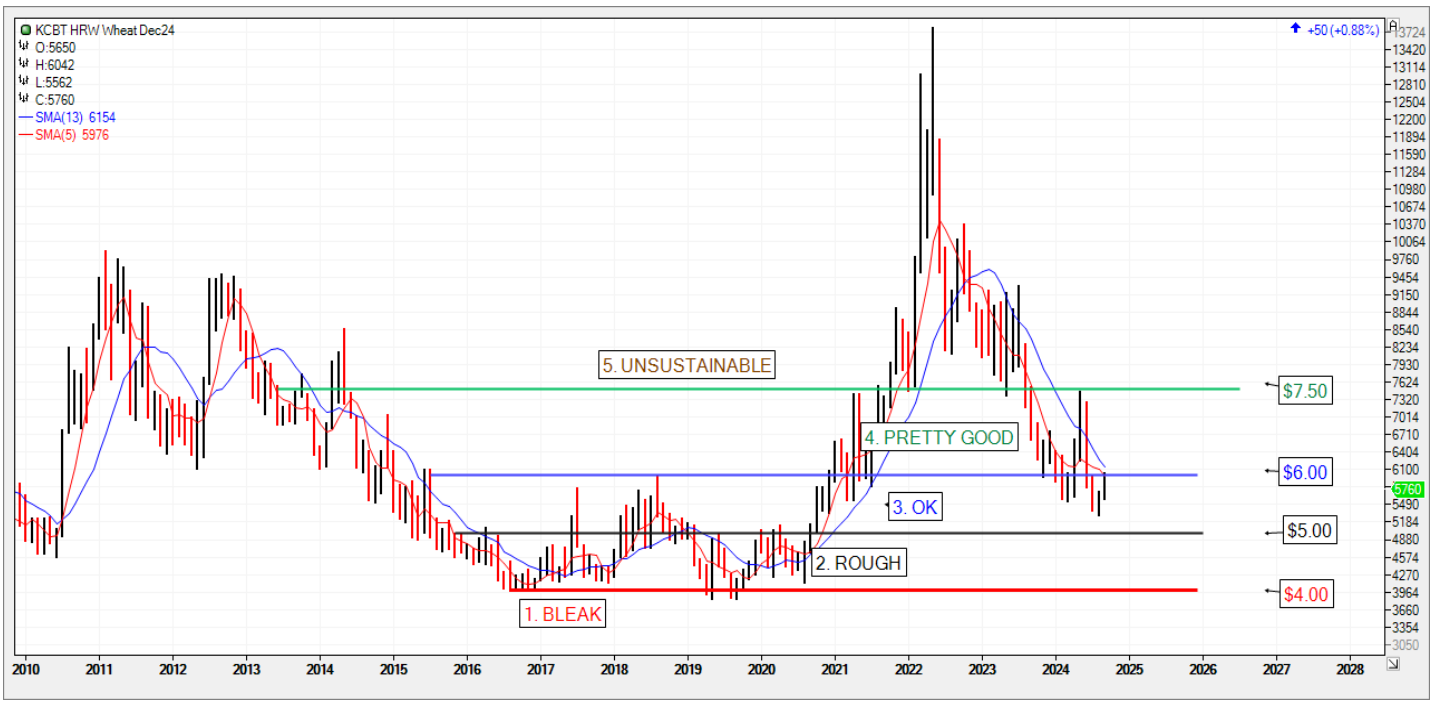
MY personal belief is the amount of USA HRW exports is very closely corelated to a price spread between alternate supplies (competing world wheat producing countries and vessel freight from origin ports to the destination importing ports).

This chart shows a good correlation between a low ending stocks/usage ratio and a high NAFP, and the opposite...



This is a long-term monthly chart of KC futures. I call the period below $4.00 futures "Bleak". (The good news is prices really can't get any lower.)

I call the period bounded by $4.00 and $5.00 as "Rough". The period between $5.00 and $6.00 futures I call "OK". That is the period we are in right now.



"Pretty Good" times are when the futures are $6.00. I think anybody growing dryland winter wheat is (probably?) profitable with $6.00 wheat futures, although with high input prices, it might be closer to $6.50.

"Unsustainable" prices occur with futures above $7.50/bu. Those prices might last for a year, possibly two... but ultimately, I believe should be viewed as "this party will one day be over".
Ok, as far as "Outlook" goes...
Because the USA will increase their remaining wheat carryout this year, which translates to an increased supply of almost 130 million bu of all wheat, and 80 mil bu of that will be HRW for NEXT YEAR...if production stays the same, and demand stays the same...then the ending stocks/usage ratio for USA HRW will approach 65%, which was what we saw in 2015/16, when the NAFP dropped to $4.89/bu, which is 80c/bu LOWER than this year.

Which means, unfortunately, we are looking from moving from "OK" times to "ROUGH" times. What does this mean?

IT MEANS WE NEED TO GET AT LEAST 25% OF NEXT YEAR'S EXPECTED PRODUCTION SOLD NOW. IF YOU CAN'T SELL THE CASH WHEAT FOR NEXT YEAR'S HARVEST TIME DELIVERY, USE A "FUTURES ONLY" SALE.

What could change this outlook? A USA drought would reduce supply. Similarly, if Russia or Australia or Europe entered into a killer drought, and the USA did not...we'd easily move into the "Pretty Good" times. But I hate betting on a drought here, there, or anywhere.
OR... USA Government Intervention could change this outlook. A direct subsidy to wheat farmers would lessen the need for taking action now.
OR...a direct US subsidy paid to wheat exporters who increase their USA HRW wheat exports by 10% would definitely increase USA HRW wheat export demand. This increased demand would come at the expense of the Russians.

I don't like betting on Government intervention either. THUS...in the meantime, I'm recommending sell 25% of your next year's production NOW. Farming is not easy. It is not guaranteed. And it can be dangerous. Stay Safe. Slow Down. And let's get something sold for next year.

USDA APPROVES HB4 ® DROUGHT-TOLERANT WHEAT FOR CULTIVATION

By Brad Erker - Colorado Wheat Executive Director

On August 27, 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it would deregulate the HB4® drought-tolerant trait from BioCeres Crop Solutions. This is the first approval of a GMO wheat trait for cultivation in the United States. While this is potentially exciting news for the future, what does it mean for Colorado wheat farmers today?

First, some background. BioCeres Crop Solutions, based in Argentina, is a provider of crop protection products, fertilizers, and seed products. They primarily sell products within South America. They have put the HB4 trait into both soybeans and wheat. HB4 soybean was approved by the USDA in 2019. The US Food and Drug administration approved HB4 wheat for human consumption in 2022. The USDA approval in August cleared the way for legal planting of HB4 wheat. Currently there is no GMO wheat being grown in the United States and its likely to stay that way for quite some time.

The HB4 trait originally comes from the sunflower plant. Its introduction into wheat is intended to allow wheat plants to yield better under moisture-stressed conditions, than wheat without the trait. Yield data from trials conducted by BioCeres in Argentina have shown HB4 wheat to have 20-40% higher yields in situations where wheat yields are less than 30 bushels/acre. The data also shows that HB4 wheat has no yield penalty when yields are greater than 60 bushels/acre. But it's important to note that this data is all from Argentina so far, with the HB4 trait expressed in a spring wheat background.

One of the major reasons we've never had a GMO trait in wheat is reluctance from consumers. Unlike corn, soybean, or cotton, wheat is mostly consumed directly by people. Customers both domestically and internationally have been hesitant to accept GMO wheat. That's why U.S. Wheat Associates and the National Association of Wheat Growers have a document titled "Wheat Industry Principles for Biotechnology Commercialization" which lays out the conditions under which the US wheat industry will support the commercialization of transgenic wheat. One of those conditions is that regulatory approvals for food and feed use must be secured in major wheat export markets that will be affected, where a functioning regulatory system exists. Major export markets are defined as those which represent at least five percent of the normal export volume of U.S. wheat, based on a five-year moving average. There are currently seven countries that meet this criteria: Mexico, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Nigeria, and China. So far, the only country that has approved HB4 is Nigeria. This means a lot of work remains to make HB4 wheat a viable option to grow here.

The Colorado Wheat Research Foundation shared germplasm with BioCeres in October of 2022, to allow them to introgress the HB4 trait into varieties that work in Colorado. This breeding work takes several years to complete. CWRF wanted to position Colorado growers, and others growing wheat in the US, for the eventual approval of the trait. Now that deregulation has occurred, talks can begin in earnest with the other six countries about what commercial growing of HB4 wheat in the US would mean for them as our customer.

One of the first questions being asked is "what benefit would this trait provide in a winter wheat background in Colorado?" or 'Kansas', or 'Oklahoma', or 'pick your state'. Drought is a complicated thing – did the dry conditions happen early, in the middle, or late in crop development? How long did it last? Was it cold and dry, or hot and dry? There are lots of questions, which is precisely why having this trait in adapted genetics, that we can test here locally, is important to know before the US wheat industry gets too excited about

growing this new type of wheat.

So, to come back to my original question, what does it mean for Colorado wheat farmers today? First, you won't be able to plant HB4 wheat next year or the year after; lots of hurdles have yet to be cleared. USDA approval does not mean that BioCeres could start selling seed without causing a market disruption, and they have committed to following the US Wheat/NAWG "Wheat Industry Principles for Biotechnology Commercialization" in their latest investor call. Second, people involved in the industry will be working hard to assess consumer attitudes and overcome resistance to wheat produced with transgenic technologies over the next several years. But, to end on a positive note, the possibility of wheat farmers gaining a new tool – a biotechnology tool like corn, soy, and cotton farmers have been benefiting from for a long time – has just become quite a bit more real than it was a few months ago. It could be exciting times in wheat, so stay tuned.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NASS WINTER WHEAT VARIETY SURVEY

Every fall the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts a survey of Colorado's wheat producers to ask what wheat varieties they have planted for the crop year. The survey is funded by the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee. That's right – it is your producer-elected board that wants that information. . The variety survey allows CWAC, as well as private companies, to track trends in wheat production, and make investments according to which varieties producers want to grow. This helps bring diversity in varieties and make sure the needs of Colorado's wheat producers are being met.

The survey has an amazing history, going all the way back to 1981 without missing a single year. It revealed that TAM107 got to 63% of the acreage in 1995, which may have been good for yields but was terrible for quality, basis, and risk associated with a single variety being on so many acres. CWAC's biggest investment is research at Colorado State University. The survey has also highlighted how increased investment in the CSU Wheat Breeding Program has resulted in much higher usage of the varieties developed with producer funds, and that continued investment is worthwhile.

Lately, it has revealed that adoption of wheat stem sawfly varieties, at 23% in the 2024 survey, closely matches the percentage of breeding effort for wheat stem sawfly at CSU. The more producers fill out the survey, the more accurate the results. Your

Winter Wheat: Reported Percent Planted by Variety, Colorado, 2017-2024 [1/]

Variety	2017 Crop	2018 Crop	2019 Crop	2020 Crop	2021 Crop	2022 Crop	2023 Crop	2024 Crop
					(percent)			
Amplify SF	----	----	----	----	----	----	0.8	13.6
Langin	----	1.2	9.0	20.1	20.7	17.0	21.2	11.6
Byrd	24.7	28.4	14.9	12.8	13.1	10.6	6.4	9.1
Avery	0.7	12.9	13.0	18.8	14.2	10.2	8.1	6.0
Byrd CL Plus	----	----	----	0.7	2.9	4.3	3.1	5.1
Kivari AX	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.4	4.4
Whistler	----	----	----	----	----	0.9	1.5	3.7
AP Solid	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.6
Snowmass 2.0	----	----	----	1.1	2.6	1.7	2.0	3.5
Canvas	----	----	----	1.2	2.3	1.5	2.0	3.4
Crescent AX	----	----	----	1.6	5.5	9.0	4.1	3.3
Guardian	----	----	----	----	----	2.4	2.4	3.1
Brawl CL Plus	10.8	7.7	6.4	2.8	4.1	1.7	2.0	2.5
Breck	----	----	0.5	0.9	1.6	1.2	1.4	2.5
Fortify SF	----	----	----	----	0.9	5.1	8.1	1.7
AP Bigfoot	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.4
WB 4483	----	----	----	----	----	1.4	2.4	1.4
Windom SF	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.3
Hatcher	10.8	5.0	3.8	4.1	4.8	5.2	3.5	1.2
WB 4792	----	----	----	----	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.2
KS Dallas	----	----	----	----	----	----	0.6	1.0
Snowmass	8.5	8.5	4.8	1.0	----	----	1.3	1.0
SY Wolverine	----	----	----	----	----	0.9	0.9	1.0
WB 4733 CLP	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.0
Warhorse	----	----	----	----	----	0.3	0.5	0.6
NuGrain	----	----	0.5	----	0.6	0.4	----	0.4
WB 4595	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	0.4
TAM 111	2.7	----	2.7	0.5	----	----	----	0.3
Other & Unk [2/]	41.8	36.3	44.4	34.4	25.0	24.8	24.4	10.7
TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

1/ Dashes indicate either none or minor amount reported.
2/ Includes minor and older varieties that have become less popular.
Source: USDA/NASS Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service

Results from the 2024 Colorado winter wheat variety survey.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NASS WINTER WHEAT VARIETY SURVEY

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responses remain anonymous – we just need you to fill it out to get the best data we can. We know farmers are over-surveyed, but this is one survey that is paid for and requested by producers themselves.

The wheat variety survey for 2025 will be included in the National Agricultural Statistics Service's December Agricultural Production Survey and the Row Crop County Agricultural Production Survey. It is important to note that you can only be selected to participate in one of these surveys, not both. Questionnaires should arrive in the mail in mid-November. If you receive a survey, you can respond online at www.agcounts.usda.gov using the unique survey code printed on the label of the questionnaire you received in the mail, or you can complete the questionnaire and return it in the included postage-paid business reply envelope. The deadline to complete the surveys is December 18, 2024. However, if you do not complete the survey you were sent, there's a chance you may be contacted via telephone by a NASS representative to collect the data.

Thanks in advance for completing the survey if you receive one!

A LETTER FROM THE DEAN

As I begin my first semester as dean, I feel like an incoming freshman again. Starting both the new year and a new role is exciting, and I am thrilled to join the "Ag Family" at Colorado State University. Since arriving in Colorado and starting work on August 1st, I've been able to connect with CSU alumni and friends, and ag industry partners around the state. What I can say is this: thank you all for making me feel so welcome!

My goals for this year are simple –

•Prioritize student success by ensuring that everyone feels valued, respected, and supported in their academic journey;

•Reinforce our commitment to excellence through transparency, collaboration, and data-informed decision- making as we innovate across the academic, research, service, and engagement mission areas; and

•Reaffirm our strong partnerships across Colorado by addressing local and global challenges based on sound science and practical solutions

I am especially eager to get to know YOU, our community of loyal friends and supporters. If we haven't met already, I hope to be able to connect with you soon.

With great enthusiasm,

Carolyn Lawrence-Dill
Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences
Colorado State University

WHEAT STEM SAWFLY STATE-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS

Dr. Punya Nachappa and Adam Osterholzer - CSU Wheat Entomology

A statewide survey of WSS infestation has been conducted since 2013 to determine the scope of infestation across the state. Several sites are surveyed each year post-harvest, with the number of sites collected per county being proportional to the amount of wheat grown within them. Collection sites are wheat fields directly adjacent to the previous year's stubble. Sites are a minimum of 10 miles apart. For each site surveyed, 100 tillers are collected and dissected to check for the presence of WSS larvae. The percentage of infested tillers is reported for each location. Low infestation sites have less than 10% of total tillers with WSS infestation. Medium sites have between 10%-50%, and high sites have greater than 50% infestation.

The percentage of infested sites has increased over the years (Table 1). The ratio of sites with medium (10%-50%) and high infestation (>50%) levels has also grown over this period. In 2023, the average infestation was 14.31% whereas in 2024 the average infestation doubled at 27.39%. The high levels of precipitation in 2023 are the suspected cause of this reduced infestation. The WSS infestation increased across most of the counties surveyed except for Baca, Boulder, Cheyenne and Weld counties. Weld county had a drastic reduction in WSS infestation in 2024, but the reason for the decrease is not known (Table 2).

Table 1: Number of Colorado wheat fields in each WSS infestation category from 2013-2024.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Not Infested	56	50	32	81	42	46	41	33	44	34	17	16
<10%	20	30	48	11	36	26	29	41	33	15	25	17
10-50%	13	15	16	4	13	12	22	20	20	24	19	19
>50%	5	5	3	3	5	12	14	11	3	21	4	17
Total Sites	94	100	99	99	96	96	106	106	100	94	65	69

Table 2: 2024 WSS infestation averages by county. Counties with increased infestation in 2024 have green values, while ones with decreased infestation have red values.

County	# Of Sites (2023)	Average Infestation Per Site (2023)	# Of Sites (2024)	Average Infestation Per Site (2024)
Adams	7	20.71%	9	37.89%
Baca	4	1.75%	4	0.25%
Boulder	1	25%	1	2%
Cheyenne	4	0%	4	0.50%
Kiowa	4	0.75%	5	0.60%
Kit Carson	7	2%	8	14%
Larimer	1	3%	1	12%
Lincoln	3	26%	3	41%
Logan	3	48.67%	3	52.67%
Morgan	2	10%	1	95%
Phillips	4	6.50%	4	28%
Prowers	3	0.67%	5	1.20%
Sedgwick	2	22.50%	2	45.50%
Washington	8	23.13%	9	58%
Weld	4	25.25%	4	17.50%
Yuma	6	13%	6	32.17%

2023 Average Infestation Across All Sites: 14.31%
2024 Average Infestation Across All Sites: 27.39%

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WHEAT STEM SAWFLY STATE-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS Continued from page 11

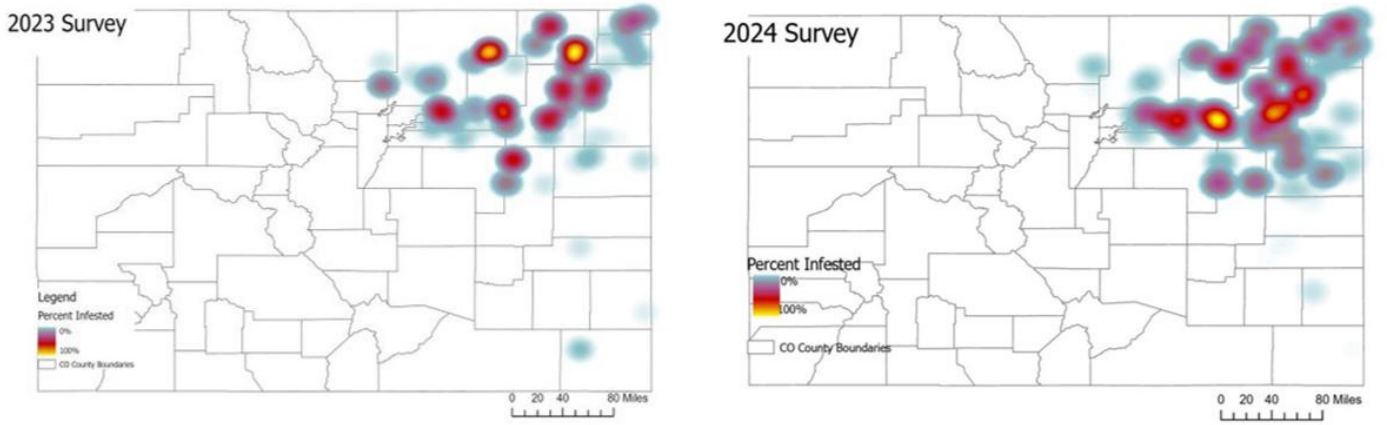

Figure 1: Heat map depicting percentage WSS infestation in 2023 and 2024 observed during the state-wide survey.

In 2024, 17 out of our 69 total sites had high infestation, while a further 19 had moderate infestation. We saw significant southern expansion past the I-70 corridor (Figure 1). Further movement was observed to the east, as well as in Kansas.

NEW YELLOWING DISEASE DETECTED IN COLORADO'S WHEAT CROP

A new disease has been detected in Colorado's wheat crop. It was first noticed in the 2022 crop and has increased gradually every year since. However, the exact nature and cause of the disease remains unknown. The infected plants are typically scattered sporadically throughout a field and are found in a cluster of two to four plants. Their leaves turn bright yellow with brown, necrotic spots on the leaves. Infected plants will also sometimes have streaking and a mosaic pattern on the leaves.

Although many of the affected plants have tested positive for Triticum mosaic virus (TriMV), not all cases show the same results. CSU Field Pathologist Dr. Robyn Roberts has also looked further into the disease's genome, but found no obvious answers in the disease's genetic make-up.

Dr. Roberts and her team also have also tried to replicate the symptoms in a greenhouse, with little success. This indicates there could be an environmental component to infection that is harder to mimic in a greenhouse. Notably, the disease was particularly widespread in 2023, a year marked by a very wet spring in Eastern Colorado, hinting that it may thrive in cooler, wetter conditions.

Dr. Esten Mason, CSU Wheat Breeder, took notes on this disease across Colorado in 2024. No difference in yield is evident yet between varieties with these virus symptoms, and varieties without. However, it is something the breeding program will continue to monitor and investigate in upcoming years.

Top: Representative leaves showing streaking, mosaic, and yellowing on wheat. Bottom: Field observations showing yellowing symptoms down a row of wheat. Photos courtesy of Dr. Robyn Roberts

NEW VARIETIES IN THE PIPELINE FOR CWRF

The CSU Wheat Breeding and Genetics Program is constantly developing new varieties aimed at improving wheat production and profitability. CWRF released two this Fall that will be marketed by PlainsGold. **Sheridan** is a new hard red winter wheat with excellent stripe rust resistance, very good test weight, and a long coleoptile. **Telluride** is a new hard white winter wheat with excellent straw strength that makes protein well and is able to be grown for Ardent Mills in the UltraGrain program, or sold on the open market. Registered seed of Sheridan and Telluride will be harvested in 2025, so expect Certified volumes to be available in 2026.

CWRF

COLORADO WHEAT RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Sheridan, formerly CO18D297R, in a 2024 CSU Variety Trial.

Several other brand new varieties have been put on Foundation seed increase for potential release in Fall of 2025, so here is a sneak peek at what is farther out on the horizon.

CO19D087R is a hollow-stem hard red winter that could be a Langin replacement. Its parentage is Langin x Canvas sister line, and it has a very good all-around agronomic package. Yield has been impressive in the CSU trials so far, and it will have three years of data by next summer.

CO200037R is a hollow-stem hard red winter that could be a Guardian replacement. It has a new virus resistance gene 'Wsm-3' which confers broad tolerance to the mosaic virus complex, and the wheat curl mite resistance gene. It would be a defensive variety to plant where you have concern about Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus or Triticum Mosaic Virus.

CO18042RA is hard red winter, hollow stem CoAXium line. It has three genes of tolerance to Aggressor herbicide, wheat curl mite resistance from its Byrd parent, and acid soil tolerance. It would complement Crescent AX and Kivari AX as CoAXium options on the farm by having a bit later maturity than both of those varieties.

CO21SF191RA and **CO21SF263RA** are new hard red winter semi-solid varieties that combine higher pith in the stem to combat wheat stem sawfly with two genes of tolerance to Aggressor herbicide. These would be the first varieties to stack sawfly tolerance with CoAXium, to provide growers in Northeast Colorado the option to tackle both problems at once.

CO20SFD020R is a new hard red winter semi-solid line that would supplement PlainsGold offerings for wheat stem sawfly like Amplify SF and Fortify SF. It has shown higher yields than Amplify SF so far and has the wheat curl mite gene to provide some resistance to virus diseases, a known weakness of Amplify SF. Amplify SF became the number one variety planted in Colorado in 2024, so balancing out the virus risk is something we need to pay attention to.

Data for all of these varieties can be found at CSUCrops.com, and they will be in the field for you to observe next summer at Colorado Wheat Field Days.

RAPP PROGRAM INCREASES THE REACH OF EXPORT PROMOTION

The United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service launched the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP) in 2023 with a goal to diversify and expand market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products by reaching beyond traditional top customers. The program focuses on enhancing U.S. exports and gaining new markets in South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) has received an initial round of RAPP funding to support activities from late 2024 through 2029, including those described below. On Sept. 26, USW applied for a second round of funding to promote all classes of wheat in 83 individual countries between 2025 and 2030. These funds mark a major investment in export promotion efforts as we continue to advocate for doubling MAP and FMD funds in the next Farm Bill.

•Expand training for new wheat purchasing staff from Caribbean, Central American, and Venezuelan milling companies to attend a grain purchasing short course at a U.S. educational partner organization each year. The training will help new buyers source higher quality wheats from the U.S. marketing system at more competitive prices.

•Meet strong demand for bakery training due to new food safety regulations in El Salvador and steady purchases of U.S. wheat in Nicaragua. USW Mexico City will hire a baking consultant to train mill technical service staff and bakeries how to use the sponge-and-dough fermentation method, which results in a higher quality, more consistent product using U.S. HRW wheat.

•Expand baking and milling technical knowledge and support in Brazil and through training sessions at the USW wheat and flour lab in Santiago, Chile, created using Agricultural Trade Promotion program funding. For example, USW and technical consultants in this high potential HRW market will develop a study on U.S. wheat conditioning and baking flour performance intended to help millers improve their products.

•Carefully evaluate the Iraqi wheat procurement and milling system to identify ways to increase understanding of U.S. wheat classes, FGIS inspection protocols, U.S. marketing system, improved logistical and storage management, and optimization of flour for different end-use products in this HRW market.

•Conduct a study to identify and promote the most reliable measurement method for kernel hardness and its effect on flour performance. (Understanding wheat kernel hardness can help flour millers bring grist to optimum condition and help predict flour functionality. Yet there is no standardized kernel hardness test method, leaving imported U.S. wheat vulnerable to potentially negative and inaccurate results).

•Expand activities in Sub-Saharan African markets through annual buyers conferences for procurement staff, general managers, and decision makers from the milling industry; by expanding baking seminars for customers and prospects throughout the region; and by purchasing and shipping U.S. HRW and other wheat classes to Kenya for use in training students at the African Milling School.

•Bring South Korean ramen noodle production managers to the United States to learn how their industry can benefit from the superior quality and reliable consistency of U.S. wheat production and the advanced U.S. export system.

•Create opportunities for U.S. elevator managers to learn more about the level of quality millers and wheat food manufacturers demand in South and Southeast Asia. USW will sponsor three trips for six inland elevator managers from major U.S. wheat producing regions to reinforce the need for quality segregation and demonstrate the value of wheat export market development.

Export markets are vital for Colorado's wheat industry considering 80 percent of the state's wheat crop is exported every year. CWAC is excited to see the new opportunities the RAPP program will create.

UPDATE FROM THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

THE FARM BILL EXPIRED AGAIN. WILL THERE BE A NEW ONE BEFORE 2025?

On September 25th Congress passed a three-month continuing resolution that will fund the federal government through December 20th. Unfortunately, the continuing resolution did not include a farm bill extension and the 2018 Farm Bill, that was extended a year in 2023, expired on September 30th. Congress is now in recess until November 12th. There is still a small bit of hope that a new farm bill can be passed before the end of 2024 during the lame duck session. There is also a chance for an emergency assistance package. Prior to adjourning for recess, there were reports that the "Four Corners" (chairmen and ranking members of both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees) met to discuss plan to get a new farm bill passed this year.

In a September 17th press release Senator John Boozman, Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member, said "The next farm bill is the appropriate place to make the necessary long-term corrections to our farm safety net, but farmers need timely support addressing 2024 losses as they enter the winter months when they make planting decisions and secure financing for the upcoming crop year. We must redouble our efforts to pass a farm bill, before the end of the calendar year that meets this moment – one that provides the support our farmers desperately need to stay in business. I am committed to sitting down with my counterparts for as long as it takes to hash out a deal that our members can support."

House Agriculture Committee Chairman, Congressman G.T. Thompson said, "I very much believe that both the Farm Bill, and, quite frankly, some type of disaster relief are absolutely critical for this nation's food security. I think there's an energy and a movement, basically among the Administration and, quite frankly, among the Senate Democrats on completing a farm bill this year."

On September 26th, more than half of the House Republicans signed a letter urging House leadership to bring GOP's Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 to the floor during the upcoming lame duck session. The letter noted that due to inflation, falling commodity prices, and record farm debt, farmers and ranchers do not have the luxury of waiting until the next Congress for a new, effective farm bill.

Additionally, state and national ag groups are keeping the pressure on legislators to pass a new Farm Bill. On September 9th, CAWG, NAWG and the Southwest Council for Agribusiness (of which CAWG is an associate member) joined over 300 groups in sending a letter that called on House and Senate leadership to pass a new Farm Bill before the end of 2024. The letter cited inflation, extreme weather, trade disruptions, and worsening economic conditions as reasons why the 2018 Farm Bill needs a replacement, not an extension.

A multi-commodity fly-in was also held September 10th-11th in Washington, D.C. Producers and industry members from NAWG, the National Corn Growers Association, the American Soybean Association, National Farmers Union, the National Cotton Council, the U.S. Peanut Federation, the Southwest Council of Agribusiness, the National Sorghum Producers, USA Rice, Farm Credit, and the American Banking Association teamed up and met with members and staff of both the House and Senate to stress the need for a new Farm Bill by the end of the year.

While the Farm Bill expired on September 30th, most programs will not officially lose funding until the end of 2024. With recess lasting until November 12th, work on the farm bill is currently in a holding pattern. But what can you do in the meantime? Reach out to your legislators and stress the need for a new, strong farm bill, as well as ad hoc relief for both economic and production losses.

CAWG

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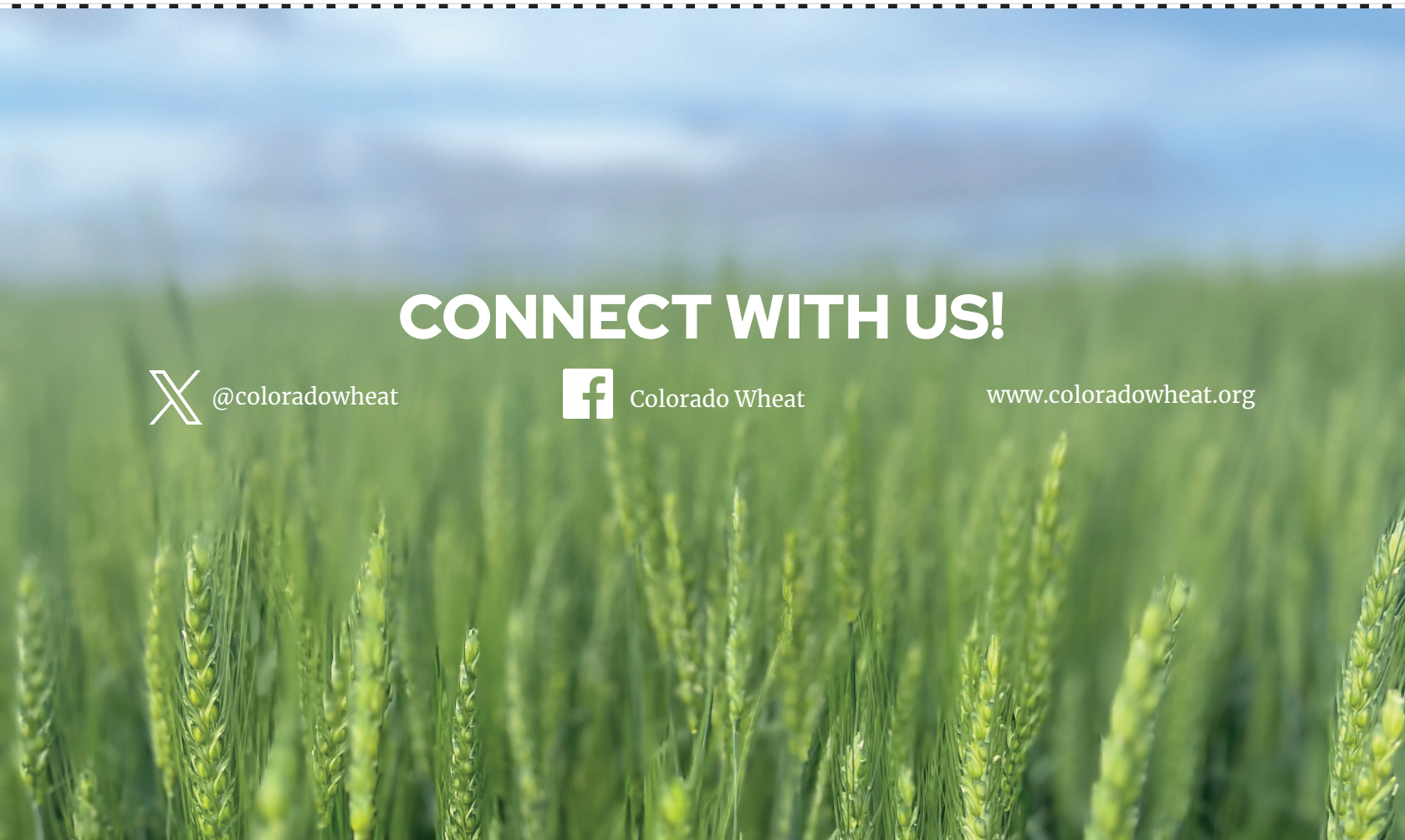

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