

THE COLORADO WHEAT FARMER

SPRING 2024

The Official Publication of the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee



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COLORADO WHEAT
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

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.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

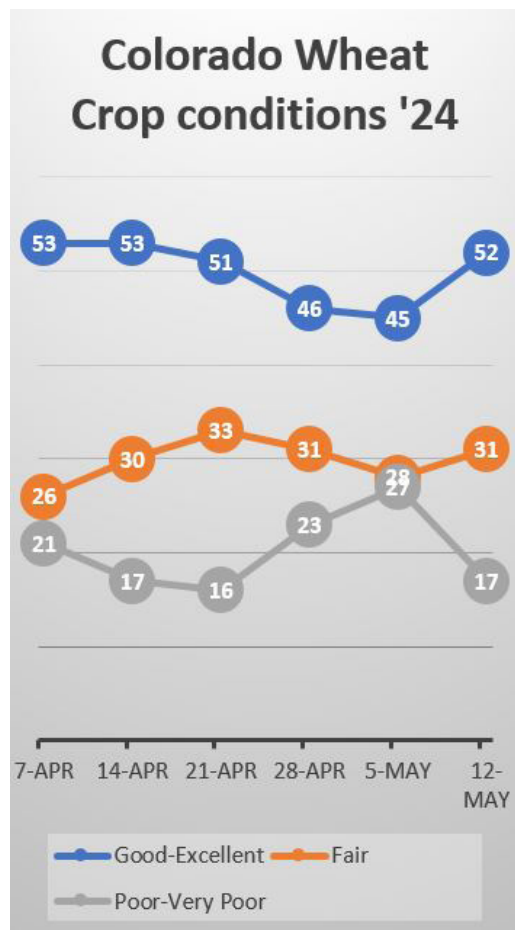


Steve Beedy

Greetings,

The 2024 growing season seems to be off to a better start than the ones we had in both 2023 and 2022. Late summer rains gave this year's crop the opportunity for a good stand this fall. However, most of Eastern Colorado experienced a very mild winter, which meant very little snow. The crop in the eastern-central part of the state has seemed to struggle the most with the lack of moisture, which has led to chiseling and abandonment. The crop in the far northeast and southeast corners of the state has continued to hang on, with the northeast receiving timely rain towards the end of April. Meanwhile, the southeast is struggling and is going to need moisture soon to help finish out the crop.

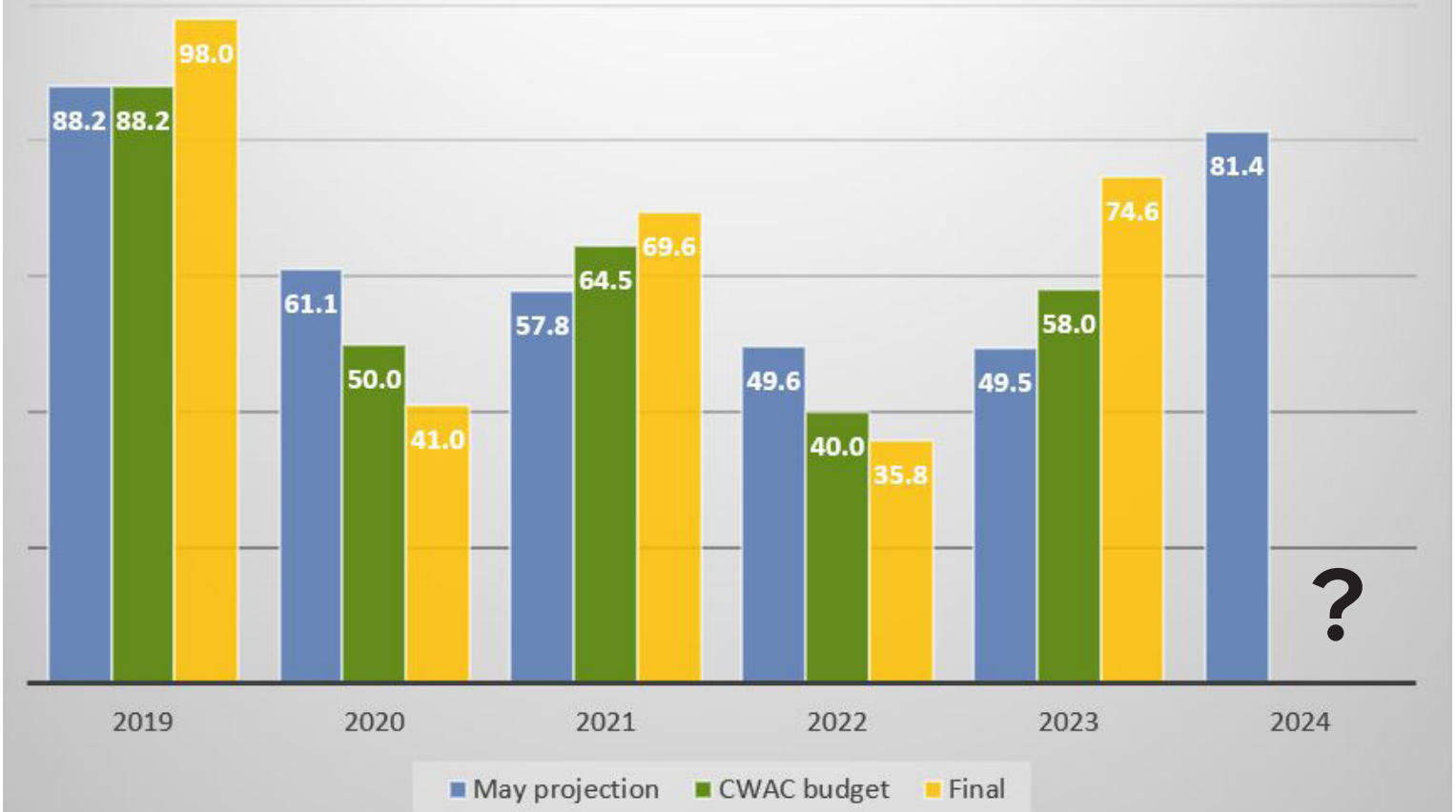
The charts below compare Colorado's overall winter wheat conditions in both April and May according to USDA-NASS in 2023 and 2024. These charts demonstrate the comments I made earlier about the 2024 crop having a better start.



USDA-NASS released its estimated production numbers on May 10th. Based on conditions as of May 1st, NASS is predicting Colorado's 2024 winter wheat production to be 81.4 million bushels, with an average yield of 44 bushels/acre.

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COLORADO WHEAT PRODUCTION (MILLION BUSHELLS)



(For reference, Colorado’s average is roughly 70 million bushels.) The chart above shows NASS’s May 1st estimate, the number of bushels CWAC uses to budget for that year, and NASS’s final production number going back to 2019.

As farmers we all know a lot can happen between now and harvest, so exactly how accurate can this number be? Well, this bar chart shows exactly that. The May NASS estimate rarely predicts what the true crop size is going to be, for better or for worse. However, it still helps us determine what CWAC’s budget will be for the upcoming fiscal year that starts on July 1, and our number is usually a little more accurate because we make our estimate later in the year.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful harvest, and gets some rain in the meantime.
-Steve 🌾

CSU HIRES NEW ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF WEED SCIENCE



Dr. Lovreet Singh Shergill has accepted an offer to be an Assistant Professor of Weed Science at CSU, commencing his tenure from the beginning of July 2024. Currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Weed Science at Montana State University, Dr. Shergill brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role at CSU.

His specialized research areas include weed biology and ecology, contributing to his understanding of integrated weed management strategies. Dr. Shergill's academic journey has been marked by a commitment to understanding and addressing the complexities of weed management in agricultural systems. He earned his Ph.D. in Weed Science from the University of Adelaide, Australia, following his M.S. in Agronomy from Punjab Agricultural University in India. During his doctoral studies, Dr. Shergill focused on understanding herbicide resistance and the development of weed management strategies. He further enriched his expertise through postdoctoral research at the USDA-ARS and the University of Missouri.

Throughout his career, Dr. Shergill has engaged in research initiatives aimed at enhancing weed management practices, collaborating with researchers and industry stakeholders in various regions, including the United States, Australia, and India, to develop practical solutions to weed-related challenges.

Driven by CSU's reputation for agricultural research excellence and its commitment to collaboration and innovation, Dr. Shergill's decision to join CSU aims to contribute to its agricultural community and work closely with wheat farmers in Colorado to address their challenges. In his new role, Dr. Shergill will continue exploring crop-weed dynamics and developing a research program focused on weed management strategies tailored to the region's crops and cropping systems. While specific projects are still in development, he envisions evaluating weed control technologies, studying weed-crop interactions, and investigating sustainable weed management practices.

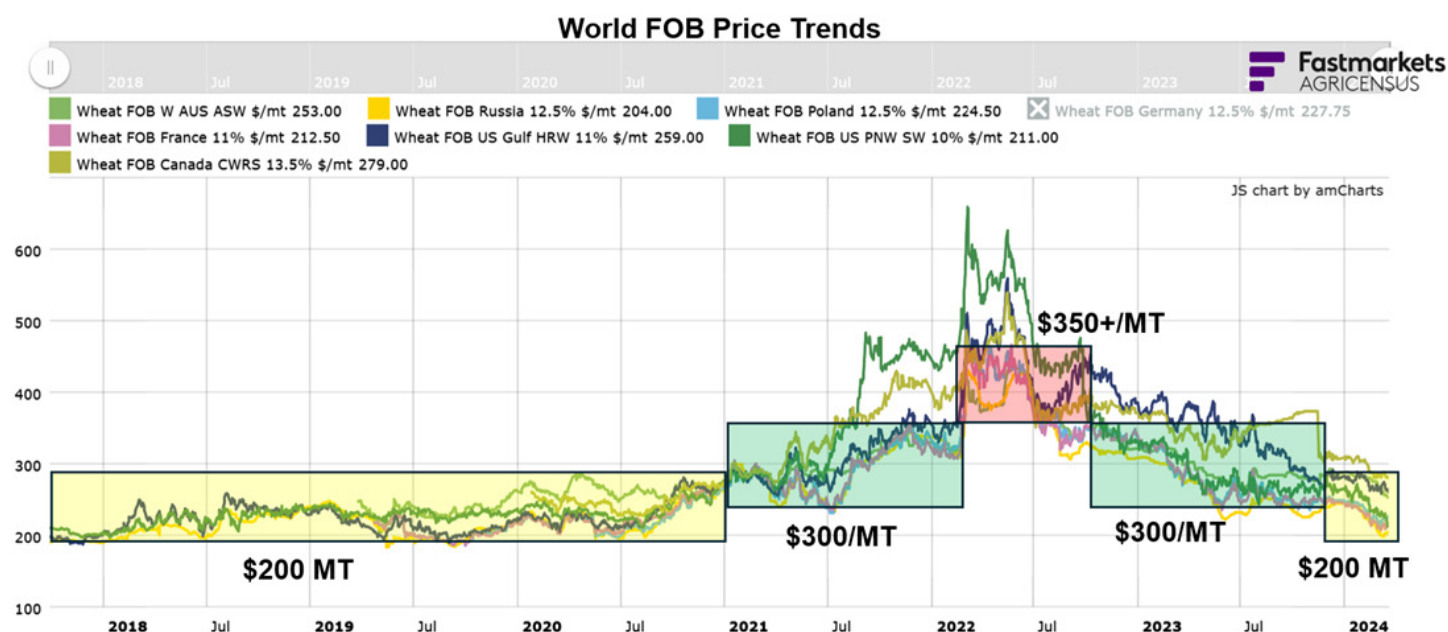
Dr. Shergill is committed to fostering partnerships with wheat farmers across the state, recognizing their insights and experiences. He looks forward to collaborating with them to address weed management challenges and make significant contributions to weed science, shaping agricultural sustainability and enhancing weed management practices for CSU's agricultural community and beyond. 🌾

WHEAT PRICE PERSPECTIVES: A LOOK AT LONG-TERM TRENDS

By Tyllor Ledford - U.S. Wheat Market Analyst

Over the last year, world wheat prices have trended steadily lower, continuing their fall from the highs hit in May of 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine. Ample wheat stocks from Russia and record exports flowing from the Black Sea continue to weigh on global wheat prices.

The average world FOB price has decreased \$210/MT from the May 2022 high, according to AgriCensus price data. Although the war still rages in Ukraine, the war risk premium has eroded in the market, allowing prices to revert to pre-war trends. The following will outline the current price situation and highlight factors to watch as wheat markets align with long-term trends.



World FOB prices have reverted to pre-war levels, weighed by low-priced exports flowing from the Black Sea. The average world FOB price is \$210/MT below the May 2022 high. Source: AgriCensus.

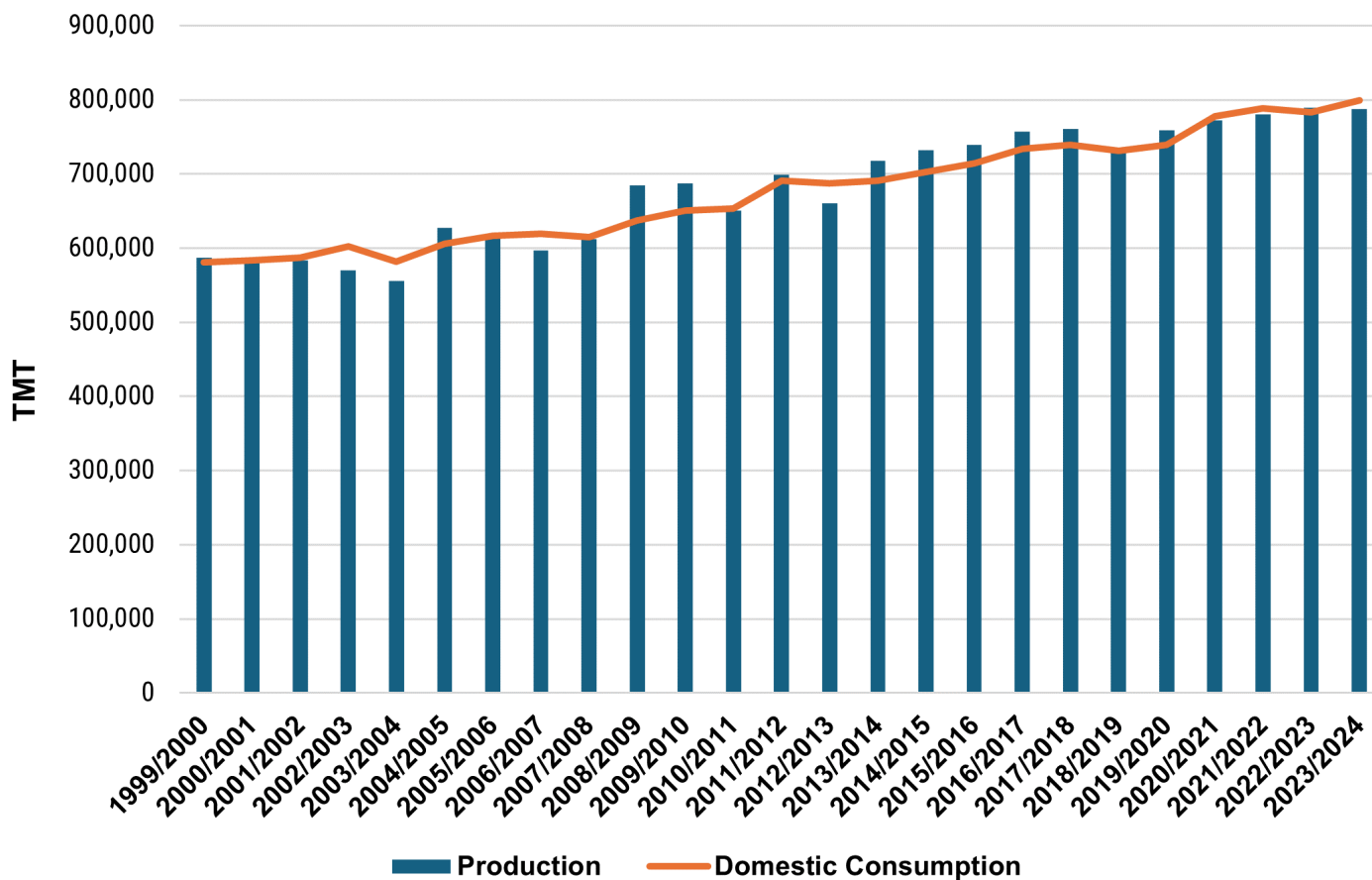
A Return to Pre-War Levels

Although there is a sharp contrast between the current downward trend in global wheat markets and the volatility observed over the last year, wheat prices have fallen more in line with long-term trends. Current world FOB prices hover between \$200 and \$300/MT on average, in line with price levels from 2018 to 2020. Although the spread between origins is still larger than pre-war averages, the spread has narrowed over the last year. According to AgriCensus and U.S. Wheat Associates Price Report data, in Jan. 2023, the average U.S. wheat price (across all classes and export regions) was \$375.40/MT FOB (\$10.22/bu), while Russian wheat (12.5% on a dry moisture basis) was loaded at \$308/MT FOB (\$8.38/bu), a nearly \$70/MT (\$1.84/bu) spread. Jumping ahead to April 19, 2024, the average price of U.S. wheat sits at \$266.90/MT FOB (\$7.26/bu), while Russian FOB indications hover at \$213/MT (\$5.80/bu), narrowing to a \$54/MT (\$1.23/bu) spread.

Factors to Watch

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) is monitoring several factors at work in the global wheat market. Even before Russia’s invasion in Feb. 2022, global price levels were beginning to rise. Wheat use jumped 5% to a record 787 MMT in 2020/21, exceeding production by 14.0 MMT. The May World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates still put the 2023/24 global wheat consumption 13.0 MMT above production, further tightening stocks. Likewise, the stocks-to-use ratio, excluding China, is forecast to tighten to 19% in 2023/24, the lowest since 2007/08, while early USDA estimates for 2024/25 predict a 4.2 MMT decrease in global ending stocks to 253.6 MMT.

World Wheat Production and Use



From 2014/15 to 2017/18, world wheat production exceeded consumption, increasing world ending stocks to a record 297.6 MMT in 2019/20 and a stocks-to-use ratio of 25%. In 2018/19, global wheat consumption began to outpace production, eroding ending stocks and tightening global balance sheets. Source: USDA PSD.

In recent weeks, adverse weather conditions have spurred a rise in global wheat prices. Dryness throughout southern Russia’s growing areas prompted SovEcon analysts to reduce their production estimates by 1.0 MMT and the May USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates forecast a 3.5 MMT decrease for 2024/25 Russian production year over year. Moreover, dry conditions in the U.S. have raised concerns, especially in the HRW producing state of Kansas, as the wheat reaches more critical crop development stages. In response to the recent weather developments, wheat futures rallied, with the July Kansas City Board of Trade (KBOT) wheat futures contract jumping from \$6.43/bu on April 18, 2024, to \$7.20/bu on May 10, the highest since Jan. 2024.

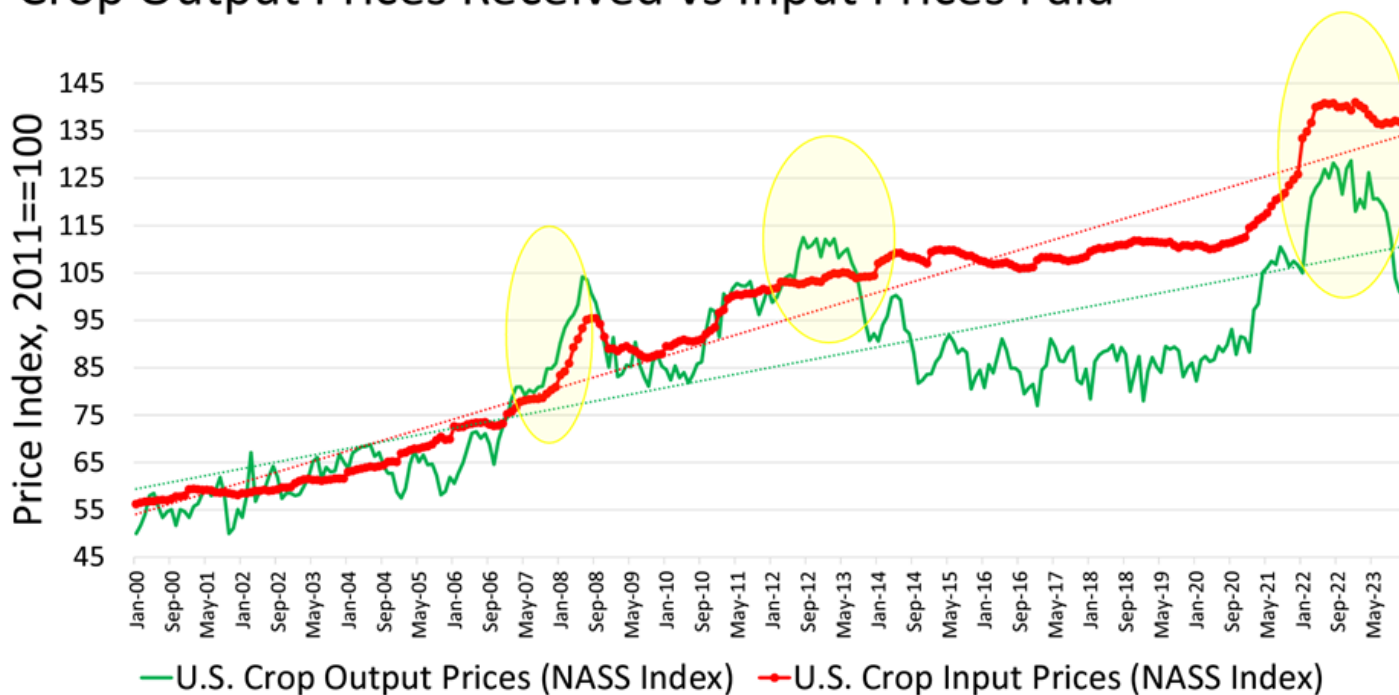
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WHEAT PRICE PERSPECTIVES: A LOOK AT LONG-TERM TRENDS

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USDA Office of the Chief Economist
United States Department of Agriculture

Crop Output Prices Received vs Input Prices Paid



Data: USDA-NASS

At the 2024 USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum, USDA Chief Economist Seth Meyer indicated that output prices are falling faster than input prices, leading to tighter margins, and reducing profitability for U.S. farmers. Source: USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum.

Looking ahead to marketing year 2024/25 and beyond, the weather and global production outlook will have the greatest influence on prices leading up to new crop, while a continued decline in world-ending stocks may have a bullish influence on future price trends. However, in the short term, global wheat markets remain well-supplied, and the ongoing flow of wheat from Russia and the Black Sea weighs on global prices.

While lower wheat prices benefits importers, the current situation poses unique challenges for U.S. wheat farmers. According to Seth Meyer, USDA Chief Economist, input price trends lag as the output prices fall, resulting in tighter profit margins and reduced sector profitability for wheat and other row crops. Tighter margins put additional pressure on U.S. farmers, and long-term profitability can influence production trends and planting decisions. Nevertheless, U.S. farmers planted wheat before the war and will continue to produce a range of high-quality wheat classes as markets revert to pre-war norms, ensuring a reliable supply of wheat for importers worldwide. 🌾

IRAQI PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES DELEGATION

Iraqi Prime Minister Media Office - April 17, 2024

Prime Minister Mohammed S. Al-Sudani met with Mr. Vince Peterson, President of the U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), and his accompanying delegation on April 17th, in the Prime Minister's residence in Washington D.C. They discussed future cooperation on the supply of high-quality wheat to Iraq at reasonable prices for flour production that can



be supplied to the local market outside of the ration card system, which the government has worked to secure and strengthen its strategic reserve, primarily relying on Iraqi wheat.

Prime Minister Al-Sudani highlighted the ongoing cooperation with the U.S. Wheat Associates, praising its efforts in facilitating contracts with the Ministry of Trade and providing wheat during a critical phase when Iraq urgently needed large quantities to bolster its food security. He also emphasized the government's commitment to continue cooperation with American companies to produce flour for the local market and reduce imports, alongside continued efforts to enhance food security through support for farmers and the private agricultural sector in Iraq.

The Prime Minister assured that the government would overcome any obstacles to advance cooperation with American companies in supporting this project, meet the local market's flour needs, and plan for future exports by leveraging the production capacities of private wheat flour producing machines and facilities, many of which have a significant portion of their production lines idle.

Mr. Peterson expressed enthusiasm for further cooperation and future endeavors, noting that the U.S. Wheat Associates has worked with Iraq for decades under the framework of a memorandum of understanding. He expressed pride in the partnership with Iraq. 🌾

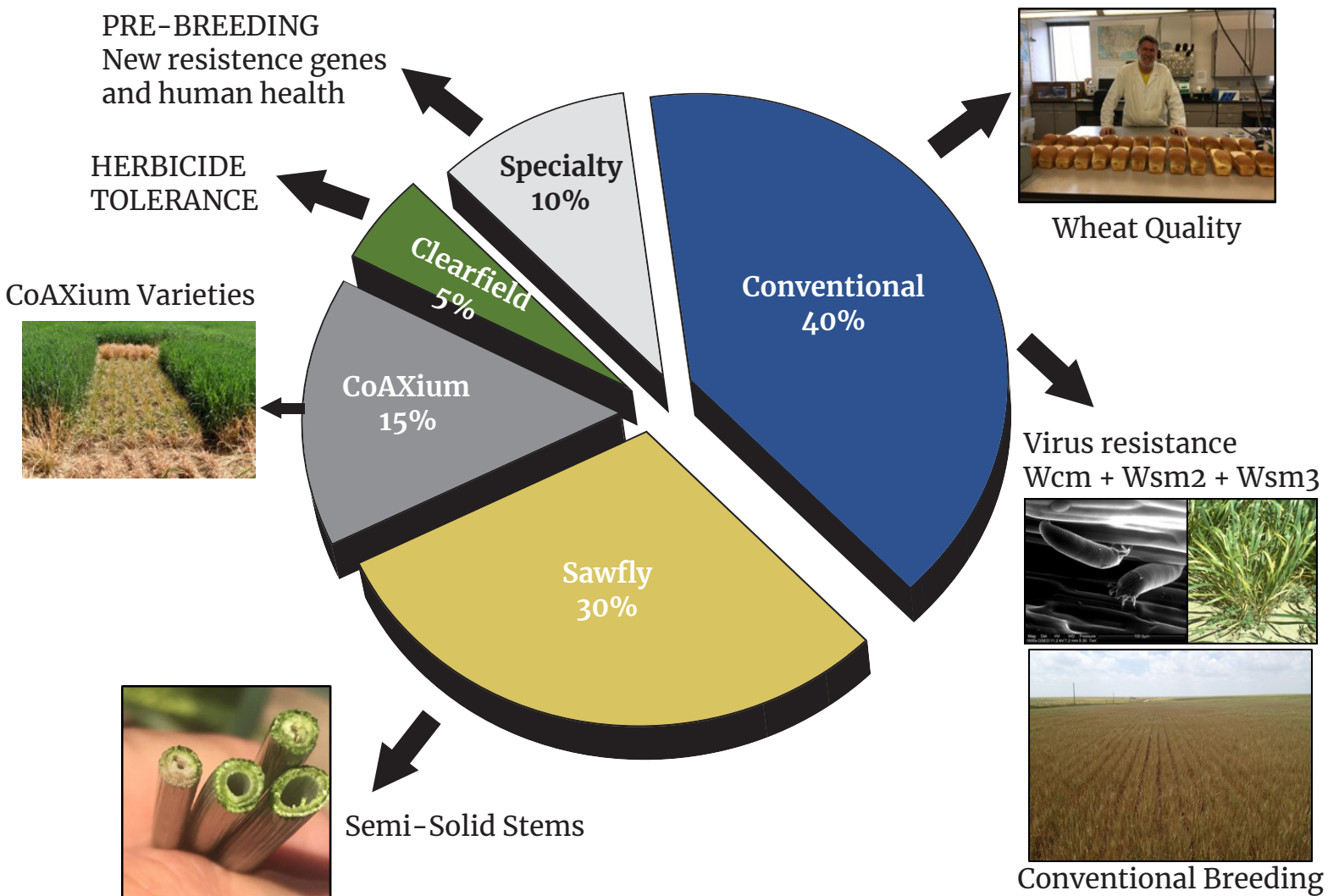
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY WHEAT BREEDING PROGRAM MORE DIVERSE THAN EVER

By Brad Erker - Colorado Wheat Executive Director



I'm not much of a hockey fan, but when I think about what a great wheat breeding program should be doing, I think of the great Wayne Gretzky, when he said "I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been". That's what I see happening with the CSU Wheat Breeding Program.

The program has changed a lot just in the last ten years. Dr. Esten Mason, CSU Professor and Wheat Breeder, recently shared the pie chart below at a meeting of the Entomological Society of America. There are five major areas of focus now, whereas a decade ago there were only about two.



Conventional wheat breeding currently occupies about 40% of program resources and effort. The conventional aspects include breeding for higher yielding hard red winter and hard white winter varieties, while improving quality (primarily the ability to make a great loaf of bread). Also included is breeding for resistance to viruses (like wheat streak mosaic virus and triticum mosaic virus), and rusts of wheat (stripe, leaf, and stem rust). Conventional varieties currently make up about 57% of the acreage in Colorado.

In response to the increasing presence of wheat stem sawfly in Northeastern Colorado, the program now spends 30% of its efforts breeding for resistance to this devastating insect pest. Most of this work relies on incorporating a solid-stem trait which reduces the ability of the sawfly larvae to tunnel to the crown of the plant and girdle the stem just prior to harvest. Amplify SF, a recent release from the program, is the top-planted variety in the state for this year's crop. Varieties bred for tolerance to the sawfly now make up about 26% of the state, with the number increasing every year as the variety choices increase.

CoAXium® wheat varieties, which contain the patented Axigen® trait developed at CSU and owned by the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation, receive about 15% of the program's resources. CoAXium wheat is tolerant to Aggressor AX herbicide, which controls cheatgrass, feral rye, and jointed goatgrass. CoAXium varieties are planted on about 9% of the acres. A lot of work is going into stacking the Axigen trait with the solid-stem trait to allow growers to fight grassy weeds while also combating the sawfly problem.



Clearfield wheat varieties, which have been part of the program since the technology was first released in 2002, still receive 5% of the program's resources. Clearfield continues to be a tool farmers want in their toolbox, and it is a valuable rotational technology to be in the mix with CoAXium, so that growers can rotate which herbicide is used on problem fields. Clearfield varieties are planted on about 8% of our acres. Stacking of the Clearfield trait with solid-stems is underway as well, about a year behind the CoAXium-sawfly material.

Lastly, there are several, smaller, 'specialty' breeding projects that round out the program. These include pre-breeding work that attempts to bring new genes of interest into the CSU germplasm pool, and projects aimed at improved quality and human health traits, largely in partnership with Ardent Mills.

As a wheat farmer, which of these is the most important on your farm? Let us know by sending an email to info@coloradowheat.org, or calling the office. We'll give your feedback to the wheat breeding program as we make sure to continue the partnership between Colorado wheat farmers and our outstanding public wheat breeding program. 🌾

2024 COLORADO WHEAT FIELD DAYS

Each field day will include:

- A walk-through of variety trial with Dr. Esten Mason, CSU Wheat Breeder
- Information on Colorado Seed programs
- The latest information and research on wheat entomology and pathology
- CWRF and CWAC updates

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH

8:30 a.m. - Walsh

- CSU Plainsman Research Center, GPS: 37.4346, -102.3193

12:00 p.m. - Lamar

- Stulp Farms, GPS: 38.0034, -102.55723

4:30 p.m. - Brandon

- Scherler Farms, GPS: 38.53121, -102.47198

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH

8:00 a.m. - Burlington

- Hinkhouse/Yahn site, GPS: 39.30252, -102.29688

11:30 a.m. - Genoa

- Homestead Farms, GPS: 39.35565, -103.49227

4:00 p.m. - Severance (Irrigated)

- Jeff Marsh - GPS: 40.57762, -104.85563

TUESDAY, JUNE 11TH

8:30 a.m. - Akron

- USDA-ARS Central Plains Research Center, Part of larger summer field day for station, multiple crop tours and talks. GPS: 40.1533, -103.1372.

3:00 p.m. - Yuma

- Andrews Brothers Farms, GPS: 40.19047, -102.66101

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH

8:30 a.m. - Julesburg

- Carlson Farms LLC, GPS: 40.83526, -102.336

12:30 a.m. - Orchard

- Wickstrom Farms, GPS: 40.48712, -104.06166

4:30 p.m. - Roggen

- Cooksey Family Farms, GPS: 40.08154, -104.30167



COLORADO WHEAT
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE



COLORADO WHEAT
RESEARCH FOUNDATION



SOIL AND CROP SCIENCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

For a detailed schedule and more information, visit
www.csucrops.org/wfd

COLORADO WHEAT ORGANIZATIONS DEBUT NEW LOGOS AND WEBSITE



COLORADO WHEAT
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

website has undergone a makeover. Explore the updated look at coloradowheat.org! 🌾

In some of our recent communications, you might have noticed that CWAC and the other Colorado Wheat organizations have new logos. The updated logos have a more modern look and help tell the story of how Colorado Wheat is a strategic alliance of three distinct organizations that work together to serve the state's wheat farmers. Additionally, our

AMPLIFY SF TAKES TOP SPOT IN VARIETY SURVEY



Amplify SF was the most popular winter wheat variety planted in Colorado, according to the 2024 Colorado Winter Wheat Variety Survey released by the National Agricultural Statistics service on March 1. This marks the first year the variety has taken the top spot in the survey, planted on 13.6 percent of the acreage for the 2024 crop.

Amplify SF, a semi-solid hard red winter wheat, was developed by the Colorado State University Wheat Breeding and Genetics Program and released by the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation in 2021 under their PlainsGold® brand. Amplify SF carries a stem-solidness trait that helps defend against the wheat stem sawfly, an insect that is estimated to cause \$30 million in damages annually in Colorado.

“Given its effective balance with solidness, relative maturity, and yield performance under sawfly pressure, Amplify SF has proven to be the variety of choice for Eastern Colorado and neighboring regions affected by the wheat stem sawfly,” said Tyler Benninghoven, Colorado Wheat/PlainsGold Seed and Trait Specialist.

Other PlainsGold varieties filled in the top seven spots of the survey, with Langin moving to second place after its four year run in the top spot, planted on 11.6 percent of the acres. Byrd took third place at 9.1 percent, followed by Avery at 6 percent, Byrd CL Plus at 5.1 percent, and finally Kivari AX at 4.4 percent.

The PlainsGold brand, introduced in 2012, carries some the most well-known and innovative winter wheat varieties available today in the High Plains. The PlainsGold brand, varieties and AXigen® trait are owned by the farmer-governed Colorado Wheat Research Foundation. Royalties from the sale of PlainsGold seed support the public wheat breeding program at Colorado State University, which further enhances the funding provided by the wheat assessment paid by all Colorado wheat farmers. 🌾

UPDATES FROM THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS



COLORADO ASSOCIATION
OF WHEAT GROWERS

State Legislative Session

The piece of legislation that CAWG spent most of its time on during the 2024 regular session of the Colorado General Assembly was HB24-1178 Local Government Authority to Regulate Pesticides. This bill would have allowed local governments to create laws regulating the use of pesticides within their jurisdiction. This was the fourth year we have

faced a bill of this nature.

After spending several weeks awaiting a vote on the House floor, the bill was laid over until May 9th, 2024. Since the Colorado General Assembly adjourned Sine Die on May 8th, 2024, this action effectively killed the bill.

Farm Bill

The 2018 Farm Bill was extended for one year at the end of 2023. Since the extension was passed, there was little action on a new Farm Bill until May 1st. On this day both Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and House Ag Committee Chairman, Congressman Glen “GT” Thompson (R-PA) released their own separate five-year Farm Bill proposals.

Senator Stabenow’s Farm Bill proposal includes some improvements to the farm safety net in the Commodity Title, however the improvements also come with reductions elsewhere due to limited funding. Some of the Senator’s other key provisions include:

- Changing the definition of “effective reference price” by updating the formula for the 2025 through 2029 crop years to incorporate recent high price years.
- Restricting commodity program payments from being made on land owned by an individual or legal entity for which the average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) exceeds \$700,000 to discourage further investor purchases
- Maintaining the annual choice for producers to choose between Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) on a crop-by-crop basis. Providing clarity that the farm program election for producers will continue for those who do not change their farm program election.
- Establishing that for the 2025 through 2029 crop years, PLC payments will be based on the difference between the newly improved effective reference price and the effective price for each covered commodity.
- Establishing a payment band on PLC based on 20% of the effective reference price, similar to the payment band on ARC based on 10% of the revenue guarantee.
- Increasing the ARC guarantee to 88% of the benchmark revenue for the 2025 through 2029 crop years.

Congressman Thompson has also released a detailed, title-by-title overview of his Farm

Bill proposal. Some of the key provisions include:

- Increasing statutory reference prices by 10 to 20 percent for all covered commodities in Title I
- Increasing the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) guarantee to 90 percent of the benchmark revenue and expanding the maximum payment band to 12.5 percent for both ARC-IC and ARC-CO
- Increasing marketing loan rates for most loan commodities
- Expanding base acres
- Enhancing standing disaster programs and eligibility for assistance
- Providing historic investments in conservation by expanding access to funding
- Increasing premium support and maximum coverage levels for SCO
- Expanding premium support for beginning and veteran farmers,
- Increasing funding for Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD)

Congressman Thompson plans to release the full text for his bill in the House on May 17th, with markup starting on May 23rd. Senator Stabenow has not yet released any plans to move her proposal forward.

Wheat Groups Welcome New Funding for Food Assistance

The United States Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) recently announced they will invest \$1 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation funding to provide for the purchase, shipment and distribution of U.S. wheat and other commodities for USAID international food assistance programming.

The National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates have long advocated for an increase in funding to U.S food assistance programs, especially for in-kind commodity donation programs. Wheat makes up the largest portion of emergency food assistance managed by USAID's Food for Peace office. Through the USDA's Food for Progress and USAID Food for Peace programs, the American people have donated more than one million metric tons of wheat annually for the past three years. 🌾

JOIN THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS TODAY!

The Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) is a bipartisan group of wheat farmers united together to be a strong voice for agriculture. Call 970-449-6994 to become a member. *While you likely pay a wheat assessment, it does not automatically make you a member of CAWG. By law, assessment dollars may not be used on legislative activities.

•Individual Producer Membership - \$125

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Payment Type: Check Enclosed Cash Enclosed Credit Card (Call 970-449-6994)

Membership benefits include: Dan Maltby Weekly Marketing Wires, a yearly subscription to "The Colorado Wheat Grower" publication, daily representation at the Colorado State Capitol by Capitol Focus LLC, a discounted rate for AirMed Care, and membership in the National Association of Wheat Growers

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