

Oklahoma WHEAT BRIEF

Summer/Fall 2023



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OWC Hosts CHILEAN TRADE DELEGATION

The Oklahoma Wheat Commission recently hosted a trade delegation from Chile in southwest Oklahoma. The purpose of this visit was to gain insights into the various stages of the marketing chain in the Southern Plains, with a specific focus on identifying sources of Hard Red Winter wheat.

The delegation's journey began July 27 with a warm welcome at Will Rogers Airport, followed by a tour of southwest Oklahoma. Key meetings were held at Cenex Harvest States in Frederick, where discussions centered around the wheat marketing process. A lunch meeting took place at the Museum of the Plains in Altus, during which Farmrail Corp. presented transportation and logistic routes for sourcing grain in the region.

Post-lunch, the group visited Muller Farms, where Matt and Kellie Muller discussed crop rotations involving wheat and cotton production. The delegation then met at a loading facility in


Headrick, operated by Co-Mark Equity, and discussed sourcing possibilities from various locations including Lawton's Coop Services and Lone Wolf's Planters Coop. The discussions delved into wheat quality data from the region and the market outlook for the upcoming year.

The day's activities wrapped up with a trade dinner hosted by the OWC and the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association in Medicine Park. A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into by the Chilean Millers; the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; OWC and OWGA. It was signed by Blayne Arthur, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture; Miguel Galdos of U.S. Wheat Associates in Santiago, Chile; Michael Peters, OWC board member and USW President, Okarche; and Keefe Felty, OWGA board member and Vice-Chairman of the National Association of Wheat Growers, Altus.

Chile annually imports around 1.0 to 1.3 million metric tons of wheat, equivalent to approximately 42.25

million bushels. The United States typically holds a market share ranging from 20% to 40% of these imports, representing 8 million to 16 million bushels. Factors that impact purchases of U.S. wheat from Chile often depend on wheat prices in Argentina and Canada. In 2022, the United States exported 256,684 metric tons, equivalent to more than 9.4 million bushels of wheat, marking a 19% increase from the previous year. Chile has purchased combined cargoes of Hard Red Winter wheat from the Gulf, Soft White wheat from the Pacific Northwest and Soft Red Winter wheat from Atlantic ports, driven by price considerations.

The overall wheat consumption, including food, seed and industrial use, has remained relatively flat at 2.1 to 2.4 million metric tons annually. Chile, not being a substantial wheat exporter, relies on imports from Argentina, the United States and Canada to meet its citizens' needs. Flour usage is estimated to be 76% for bread, 10% for pasta, 5% for cookies, crackers, and confectionery, and 9% for animal feed. "Regular bread" is sold in bulk in every bakery in the



From left are Andres Bustos, Molinera San Cristobal; Javier Heredia, Heredia Molinos; Troy Rigel, Co-Mark Equity; Rafael Thomas, Importadora de Granos G9; Brandon Bryer, Great Plains Commodity; Jose Grohnert, Molino La Estampa; Miguel Galdos, USW Santiago; Jose Vargas, Molinos Cunaco, posing in front of the loading facility in Headrick.

country. Subcategories are “marraqueta” (French-style bread) and “hallulla.”

With 68 mills concentrated mainly in the central region, Chile possesses an installed milling capacity of 2.9 million metric tons of wheat per year. Chile’s annual per capita bread consumption of 90 to 93 kg ranks as the highest in the South American region. Major wheat milling entities are San Cristobal and Cunaco, each with 25-28% of total wheat imports, and Grupo G9, an agency with eight member mills accounting for 30-35% of total imports. ♦



Devin Martin and Lori Peterson, Farmrail Inc., speak to the Chilean buyers about Oklahoma rail infrastructure and sourcing capabilities.

Chile delegation representatives included:

- José Vargas, Finance Manager, Molinos Cunaco
- Andrés Bustos, Operation Manager, Molinera San Cristobal
- Javier Heredia, Executive Director, Heredia Molinos
- Rafael Thomas, General Manager, Importadora de Granos G9
- Jose Grohnert, General Manager, Molino La Estampa
- Miguel Galdos, Regional Director, USW/Santiago



From left are Javier Heredia, Heredia Molinos; Rafael Thomas, Importadora de Granos G9; Michael Peters, USW and OWC board member; Blayne Arthur, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, ODAFF; Miguel Galdos, USW Santiago; Keeff Felty, NAWG Vice President and OWGA board member. Second row from left are Jose Grohnert, Molino La Estampa; Andres Bustos, Molinera San Cristobal; Jose Vargas, Molinos Cunaco; Mike Schulte, OWC; and Troy Rigel, Co-Mark Equity.



Matt Muller of Muller Farms discusses crop rotations and the benefits of wheat with the Chilean trade delegation while hosting them at his family farm in Martha.



Jason Kroener, CHS General Manager; Johnna Warden, CHS Grain Merchandiser/Procurement; and Brandon Winters, CHS Senior Manager, discuss delivery and rail capacity options for wheat buyers purchasing in the Southern Plains Gulf region at Frederick.

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into by and between the Chilean millers, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (hereinafter “ODAFF”) and the Oklahoma Wheat Commission (hereinafter the “OWC”) and, together with the Chilean millers, are collectively referred to as the “Parties”, and is effective as of July 27, 2023.

WHEREAS, Chile and the United States enjoy a close and longstanding partnership built on a shared dedication to freedom, democracy, and a market economy;

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to foster mutual understanding and cooperation so as to strengthen their trade relations and friendship; and

WHEREAS, Chile has purchased a total of 1.8 million metric tons (66.5 million bushels) of US wheat since 2016 resulting in the purchase of US agricultural wheat products worth \$481,460,000 US dollars, and the enhancement of friendship and mutually beneficial trade relations between Chilean millers and the United States; and

WHEREAS, with US agricultural exports and Oklahoma wheat enjoying an excellent reputation in Chile, and with several Agricultural Trade Goodwill Missions that have been sent to the United States since 1965; and

WHEREAS, due to its high-quality functionality characteristics, the US remains one of Chile’s largest sources of Hard Red Winter wheat; and

WHEREAS, in addition to visiting the states of Oklahoma, Washington and Kansas, the 2023 Technical Team is supplying a letter of intent, planning to make future purchases for the 2023-2024 marketing year; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma is a major wheat producing state, and through the ODAFF and OWC are full supporting members of U.S. Wheat Associates and join them in recognizing the importance of our relationship with the Chilean millers.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties mutually understand and declare that:

Oklahoma and Chilean Millers are important links in the vital industry that produces, processes and delivers healthy and nutritious wheat food products for the people of Chile and around the world.

Oklahoma and Chilean millers recognize that there is value earned and returned to each Party by working together to advance the industry.

Oklahoma and Chilean millers do hereby affirm their promise to one another to support and foster the relationship between the US and Chilean wheat food industries and to partner together to promote the general welfare and prosperity of each other.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have signed this Letter of Intent

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture
Food & Forestry

Blayne Arthur

By: Blayne Arthur, Secretary of Agriculture

Date: 7-27-2023

Witness:

Mike Schulte

US Wheat Associates

Miguel Galdos

By: Miguel Galdos

Date: 7-27-2023

Witness:

Mike Schulte

US Wheat Associates
Oklahoma Wheat Commission

Michael Peters

By: Michael Peters

Chairman of US Wheat

Past President of Oklahoma Wheat Commission

Date: 07/27/2023

Witness:

Mike Schulte

National Association of Wheat Grower's
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association

Keef Felty

By: Keef Felty

NAWG Vice Chairman

OWGA Board Member

Date: 7-27-2023

Witness:

Mike Schulte



From left are Javier Heredia, Heredia Molinos; Devin Martin, Farmrail Inc.; Lori Peterson, FarmRail Inc.; Jennie Buchanan, Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus; Rafael Thomas, Importadora de Granos G9; Jose Grohnert, Molino La Estampa; Jose Vargas, Molinos Cunaco; Andrés Bustos, Molinera San Cristobal; Keef Felty, NAWG Vice President and OWGA board member; Miguel Galdos, USW Santiago; and Mike Schulte, OWC. ♦

OKLAHOMA WHEAT LEADERS

Explore New Approach to Capturing Value

by Candace Krebs for OKGenetics.com

Oklahoma's wheat industry leaders are putting together a foundation they hope will create opportunities for the next generation to capture more value from new and improved varieties and deliver improved nutrition and bread quality to consumers.

The centerpiece of that effort is a new genetic line with exceptional milling and baking characteristics.

But there's a catch. As a specialty ingredient, it will require a dedicated marketing channel.

Board members of Oklahoma Genetics Inc., the entity responsible for licensing new varieties developed by Oklahoma State University, are currently exploring how to best accomplish that.

Seeds of innovation

The idea of capturing a premium by segregating grain on the farm and delivering it directly to the end-user is nothing new, according to J.B. Stewart, who farms near Boise City.

"We've been doing that for a long time," he said. "In the Panhandle, if you have any fertility at all in your fields, it's pretty easy to get high protein wheat, because of the arid conditions. So, we've been gearing for quality for many years. In fact, everything we grow goes directly to the end-user."

Now OGI is ready to take that concept to the next level. A new experimental line developed by OSU has four times the typical dough strength, which could allow select bakeries to completely revolutionize how they turn wheat into bread.

The trait — technically referred to as Bx7oe — was originally introduced by Colorado State University in 2009 in a variety called Snowmass.

The trait is bred into several existing Oklahoma varieties suited to different environments and management systems around the state, beginning with what OSU wheat breeder Brett Carver calls "a new caliber Gallagher."

"This super-charged version is so high performing it would allow bakeries to eliminate vital wheat gluten and other conditioning agents and still get a fluffier loaf," Carver said.

Removing additives would also satisfy a consumer trend toward cleaner ingredient labels, according to Mike Schulte, executive director of the Oklahoma Wheat Commission, a shift that could become even more pronounced if the potential health effects were better understood.

Since early 2019, Schulte and Carver have been collaborating with dietary experts at OSU to study wheat's nutritional profile and its impact on gluten sensitivities and human health. Those studies are ongoing.

In the meantime, this higher caliber Gallagher is already being grown by 25 farmers on roughly 5,000 acres under production contracts with three designated grain elevators. Part of the resulting 200,000 bushels from the pilot project will be held back for seed, while the rest will be used for commercial flour tests.

After being approached by his local elevator, Richard Wuerflein, of Kremlin,

agreed to grow 300 acres, equivalent to around 15 to 20 percent of his total acreage. He hasn't been paid for it yet and doesn't have a price locked in. Early on, he said, the wheat looked "puny," which was likely a function of dry weather conditions and late planting.

Due to an exceptionally dry fall, many farmers couldn't get their wheat planted until November. Early-to-mid October is considered ideal.

The drought only intensified over the winter, reducing U.S. winter wheat conditions to their lowest level in at least four decades and leaving many farmers questioning how much wheat would be harvested.

Developing new markets

Adverse growing conditions aren't the only challenge. As competitive pressures drive farmers, grain handlers, mills and bakeries to keep prices low through increased speed and volume, identity preserved marketing has become more difficult.

Wuerflein notes his local elevator tried doing a value-added identity-preserved program in the past, segregating other OSU varieties known for exceptional milling and baking qualities, such as Baker's Ann and Smith's Gold. But the modern milling industry demands wheat in such high volume that even Farmers Grain Cooperative, one of the state's largest grain elevator networks with 13 branch locations, had a difficult time segregating and delivering enough grain to make the program effective.



Other attempts have also fallen short.

Don Schieber, a farmer from Ponca City, recalled being involved in recent years with an investor-funded start-up called Indigo Ag that was trying to capture more value through online marketing.

"They just couldn't find the market they thought they would," he recalled. "Our local co-op was storing 100,000 bushels for them, but they couldn't get it moved by the time the contract ran out. So, they sold it to the co-op at a \$2 a bushel loss."

Schieber got his money for growing the specific wheat they wanted, but Indigo took the hit and has since shifted out of grain marketing and into generating and selling carbon credits and fine-tuning biological seed treatments.

Some mills, such as Grain Craft, do offer a small premium for preferred varieties. In Colorado, Snowmass and newer derivatives are being grown under contract for the nation's largest flour miller, Ardent Mills, in exchange for a base premium of 40 cents per bushel with protein incentives that can push it up above 60 cents.

OGI leaders want to build a program of their own that is less restrictive and open to multiple end-users. To do that, they've brought in Farm Strategy LLC, a specialized marketing firm based in Kansas.

Founder Andrew Hoelscher, who grew up on a farm, was surprised when he first got involved in grain merchandizing to learn how siloed the milling and baking industry is from the farmers who grow the product.

"The millers and bakers were talking about things that we were never incentivized to think about back on the farm," he said.

He started Farm Strategy to figure out how to change that.

According to Hoelscher, rapid communication technology and better information sharing and collaboration within the industry are keys to delivering stronger market signals back to growers and rewarding them for improved quality.

OSU's new line is perfect for constructing what he calls a "convoy marketing system," which begins with identifying the advantage the trait

provides to the bakery and relaying that value back to the farmer.

"From a baking standpoint, this is special stuff," he said. "Now the question for us is, what's the best pathway to bring it forward into the marketplace?"

Farm Strategy started the process by compiling a cost stack diagram, which breaks down the value that gets added at each step in the production process.

Based on Hoelscher's estimates, the trait could be worth significantly more than ordinary wheat by eliminating the need for costly additives in standard bakery recipes and improving milling performance.

Interested millers and bakers will have a chance to conduct their own sample runs after the first wheat from the new line is harvested in early June.

A foundation for the future

Stewart and Schieber say many questions remain. Will the value of the trait change from year to year, based on crop supply and overall quality? Especially in a climate as variable as Oklahoma's? Who will assume the risk if the crop fails?

"The farmer needs to know when that wheat goes in the wheat drill what his potential return is," Stewart said. "Will he know that then or is he going to have to finish out the process of growing and harvesting it before he knows? The higher cost of that seed is going to be there whether you can net the premium or not."

But OGI leaders are committed to moving forward. They recognize it's not enough to release outstanding varieties; it's also necessary to shepherd these new traits into the marketplace in a way that creates value for producers and consumers.

"We've never been able to fully capture the added value for producing a quality product, and it looks to me like this might be the way to go for farming in the future," said Tom Null, of Hobart, a charter board member of OGI since its inception in 2002.

Null recently completed an extensive estate planning process to ensure his family farm will continue for the next generation.

But he's also thinking beyond his own farm to the future of groups like OGI and the wheat industry as a whole.

The new marketing project is ambitious, with some details that could take years to sort out. But it's also essential, he believes.

After all, there's already more specialty wheat in the pipeline. Among other innovations, OSU's breeding program is exploring the potential for wheat with purple kernels that contain the same antioxidant compounds found in super health foods like blueberries.

"In the coming years, I think the opportunities are endless," Null said. "I'm excited to see the younger generation come on board and take over what we've started." ♦



Oklahoma State University wheat breeder Brett Carver holds up a one-pound bag of vital wheat gluten that retails for around \$10. Right now, wheat farmers are only capturing a small fraction of the value. One of his latest breeding projects aims to change that.

Peters Assumes Role as USW Chairman

The U.S. Wheat Associates board of directors seated officers for 2023-24 at their annual meeting the week of July 12 in Minneapolis. USW is the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry.

Michael Peters, Okarche, accepted the USW Chairman's gavel from Rhonda Larson, the 2022-23 Chair from East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Clark Hamilton, Ririe, Idaho, now serves as Vice Chair, and Jim Pellman, McClusky, North Dakota, starts his term as Secretary-Treasurer. This slate of officers was elected in February 2023.

USW promotes the reliability, quality and value of all six U.S. wheat classes to wheat buyers, millers, bakers, food processors and government officials in more than 100 countries around the world. Its mission is to "Develop, maintain and expand international

markets to enhance wheat's profitability for U.S. wheat producers and its value for their customers."

Funding is made possible through checkoff dollars, goods and services from 17 state wheat commissions and cost-share grants from the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

USW does not buy, sell or process wheat, but makes it easier for everyone else who does. USW proudly represents the hard-working farm families that take great care in producing the highest quality wheat in the most sustainable ways possible to honor their family legacies and ensure greater value for their customers at home and abroad.

[Click here](#) to learn more about our state wheat commission members. Also, learn more about USW's public-private partnership [here](#).

[Click here to watch Michael Peters being interviewed.](#)



U.S. Wheat Associates officers for 2023-24 from left are Clark Hamilton, Ririe, Idaho, Vice Chairman; Jim Pellman, McClusky, North Dakota, Secretary-Treasurer; Rhonda Larson, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, Past Chairperson; and Michael Peters, Okarche, Chairman. ♦



OWC Welcomes New Marketing Assistant Brent Bowers

Born in Alva, Oklahoma, Brent grew up in Cherokee where he graduated high school in 2006. He is the son of Jack and Carol Bowers of Cherokee. After high school, Brent attended Oklahoma State University where he received a degree in Marketing. The last 10 years he has been in the banking industry working as a personal banker with Bank of Oklahoma and more recently BancFirst. He has lived in Edmond for the past six years. Brent is excited to join the Oklahoma Wheat Commission staff and the future of Oklahoma wheat! ♦



Gary Strickland, Jackson County Extension Director and Agricultural Educator, Altus, poses with Amanda Silva, Ph.D., at the Apache field day. Gary will be retiring from OSU extension after 43 years of service. The Oklahoma wheat industry wants to thank Gary for his service and commend him on a job well done! ♦

Lusk Named Vice President, Dean of OSU Agriculture



Photo courtesy of OSU Agriculture

Oklahoma State University named Jayson Lusk, Ph.D., as vice president and dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Lusk was selected following a national search and will provide leadership for the Ferguson College of Agriculture, OSU Extension and OSU Ag Research.

OSU Provost Jeanette Mendez, Ph.D., said the extensive search process returned a strong pool of candidates.

"I am delighted that Lusk, a member of the Cowboy family, has chosen to return and lead the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources," Mendez said. "OSU is a national leader in agriculture, and I believe Lusk will continue to build on the strong foundation of retiring vice president and dean Tom Coon.

"As part of the systemwide strategy OSU unveiled in October 2022, the university has a focus on fighting food insecurity with the concept of using research to help 'nourish the world.' Lusk's background in partnering

technology and agriculture dovetails perfectly with OSU's commitment to leveraging research and innovation to improve the world's food shortage issues."

Lusk worked at OSU from 2005 to 2017, first as an agricultural economics professor and Willard Sparks Endowed Chair and then as a regents professor. Since 2017, he has served Purdue University as a distinguished professor and department head of ag economics.

During his career, he's been a prominent advocate for agricultural research and innovation, publishing more than 270 articles in peer-reviewed journals and five books. Lusk's latest book, titled "Unnaturally Delicious," is a look at how science and technology can work with agriculture to improve worldwide food insecurity.

Lusk began his duties in August. He oversees academic programs as well as extension and agricultural research efforts on campus and statewide.

He also will lead the move-in and transition to the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall, a \$115 million state-of-the-art teaching, research and extension facility for OSU. Construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2024.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to come home to a place where I worked for 13 years and help build on the foundation in place to move the college and our state forward," Lusk said. "It's an opportunity to make an impact and to make a difference. It's also a place where the students, faculty and staff are doing good things, and OSU Agriculture is well positioned with support of alumni and stakeholders to have an even bigger impact in Oklahoma and beyond."

Agricultural production, which includes crops, livestock and forestry, totals about \$7.7 billion per year in Oklahoma.

"I'm excited to welcome Lusk back to OSU as the new vice president and dean of OSU Agriculture," said Blayne Arthur, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture and member of the OSU/A&M Board of Regents. "Lusk is well-known across the country and will bring a unique perspective and passion to this position. The work of OSU Agriculture faculty and staff, along with the leadership team, is essential to the success of the Oklahoma agriculture industry. I am looking forward to his return to Stillwater and seeing how Lusk's vision helps further Oklahoma agriculture."

Lusk earned a bachelor's degree in food technology from Texas Tech University and a doctorate in agricultural economics from Kansas State University. He held previous appointments at Mississippi State University and the French National Institute for Agricultural Research.

Lusk has received numerous awards including the Borlaug Communication Award from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology and the Lou Ann Aday award — Purdue University's most prestigious research award in the humanities and social sciences. He has served on the executive committee of the USDA National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board and has testified before the U.S. Congress on multiple occasions. He also is a fellow and past president of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. ♦



Michael Peters Re-Appointed to Serve on OWC Board

Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur has reappointed Michael Peters to a five-year term on the OWC Board. Peters, a wheat producer from Okarche, will represent District III, which includes Beckham, Blaine, Canadian, Custer, Dewey, Kingfisher, Roger Mills and Washita counties.

"We're excited Michael Peters has been reappointed to the OWC board," said Mike Schulte, OWC Executive Director. "His knowledge and experience with wheat production as a farmer and active roles with the OWC Board and U.S. Wheat Associates Board continue to make him a valuable leader for the industry on both state and national levels. It's been wonderful having him move up in leadership roles for our industry at a national level, serving as USW Chairman."

USW is the export market development organization for U.S. wheat. USW promotes the reliability, quality and value of all six U.S. wheat classes to buyers, millers, bakers, food processors and government officials in more than 100 countries. Its mission is to develop, maintain and expand international markets to enhance

wheat's profitability for U.S. producers and its value for their customers.

Peters' responsibilities as an OWC director will include working with members to develop and oversee policy and program implementation, approving budget expenditures, directing the funding of research, market development, public education, representing district producer interests and promoting Oklahoma wheat.

Michael and his wife, Linda, farm approximately 2,800 acres, with 2,100 acres of that in wheat production. Peters serves on the Board of Directors for the CHS Coop Board in Oklahoma, the First Bank of Okarche, the Wheat Marketing Center and the Okarche Rural Fire Association. He and his family are members of St. John's Lutheran Church and Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

He will continue his service with current commission members David Gammill, Chattanooga; Don Schieber, Ponca City; Raymond Parrish, Hunter; and Jerry Wiebe, Hooker.

OWC promotes greater use of wheat in both domestic and international markets through research, market development and public education. ♦



Michael Peters handed over the gavel at the July OWC board meeting to David Gammill, Chattanooga, who will serve as OWC Chairman for 2023-2024. David represents District IV. He has served on the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association and OWC boards. David has been instrumental in owning and managing a successful insurance business and full-time wheat farming operation.

"We want to thank Michael Peters, District 3 Commissioner from Okarche, for serving as Chairman this past year and are looking forward to working with David under his leadership this year," said Mike Schulte, OWC Executive Director. ♦



USW Hires Muller as Assistant Director

U.S. Wheat Associates has hired Luke Muller as Assistant Director of its West Coast Office in Portland, Ore.

Raised on his family's wheat, cotton, sorghum, canola, soybean and alfalfa farm in southwestern Oklahoma, Muller has a bachelor's degree in plant and soil sciences and agribusiness from Oklahoma State University. He earned a master's degree in agriculture, food and resource economics at Michigan State University.

Muller worked as a Research Assistant in MSU's Department of Agriculture, Food, and Resource Economics, where he investigated fungal and insect effect on Midwestern crops. He served as a consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy.

"Luke's expertise in agricultural economics, coupled with his understanding of wheat farming and his excellent communication skills, will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts to support and promote U.S. wheat in the overseas market," said Steve Wirsching, Vice President, and Director of USW's West Coast Office.

Muller has been active on the local, state and international levels, serving in leadership roles focused on food security and sustainability.

"I really look forward to helping USW in a variety of ways, and I think my educational background in agriculture and experience in research and farming will help me excel in the role," said Muller. "My knowledge of agriculture has been shaped by different countries and through peer-reviewed research, but I also have a personal connection to farming." ♦

Baking Champs Named

2023 Best of Wheat Contest

Renee Howard, Headrick, in Jackson County, placed first in the White Bread Category of the senior division at the State “Best of Wheat” Bread Baking contest held Sept. 24 at the Oklahoma State Fair. Her light, fluffy, fine-textured entry with sizeable loaf volume of “White Bread” topped the division before winning her the title of grand champion with her entry.

Taylor Spray, Sharon, in Woodward County, placed first in the Other Wheat Breads Category of the junior division at the contest. Her entry of “Taylor’s Punch Veggie Bread” had a beautiful display of Focaccia bread art, an exquisite flavor and perfect bake consistency. This allowed her loaf to be tapped in the final round of competition giving her the title of the junior division grand champion with her entry.

The contest is an annual event sponsored by the Oklahoma Wheat Commission and Oklahoma State Fair. “We had 98 entries from 44 counties this year, all champion or reserve champion winners in the county contests,” said David Gammill, OWC Chairman. “We had great attendance and always enjoy the opportunity to award the top bread bakers in the state.”

The contest consists of 12 classes — six in the senior division and six in the junior division. In addition to Howard’s division, other senior division state champions included Priscilla Miller, Payne County, Whole Wheat Breads; Courtnie Robinson, Love County, Dinner Rolls; Glen Simonsen, Murray County, Other Wheat Breads; Mary Ellen Wooderson, Kay County, Sweet Breads; and Melody Thorn, Woodward County, Bread Machine.

Other junior division state champions included Alexandra Howard, Jackson County, White Bread; Makayla Jones, Oklahoma County, Dinner Rolls; Kendallyn Gossen, Washita County, Sweet Breads; Korben Gossen, Washita County, Specialty Shape Breads; and Ridge Spray, Woodward County, Bread Machine.



A cookbook with the top five recipes of every class from the Best of Wheat competition will be available online in January 2023 at www.okwheat.org.

OWC is funded by Oklahoma wheat producers and promotes greater utilization of wheat in both domestic and international markets through research, market development and public education.

Five wheat producers representing designated districts across the state serve as OWC’s board of directors. Current officers are David Gammill, Chairman, Chattanooga; Don Schieber, Ponca City, Vice-Chairman; Raymond Parrish, Hunter, Secretary-Treasurer; Jerry Wiebe, Hooker, member, Hooker; and Michael Peters, Okarche, member. ♦



Thank you to all who volunteered or helped to contribute to make this year's 2023 Best of Wheat Contest successful!



Renee Howard, Headrick, received her Grand Champion bread tray at the 2023 State Fair "Best of Wheat" Bread Baking Contest for her entry of White Bread in the White Bread class. Oklahoma Wheat Commissioners Don Schieber, vice-chairman, Ponca City; R.J. Parrish, secretary-treasurer, Hunter; Jerry Wiebe, District 2, Hooker; Karleigh Britt, Oklahoma Spokesmodel for Miss United States Agriculture representing Carter County; and David Gammill, Chairman, Chattanooga also presented the first place ribbon, grand champion ribbon and 2023 state fair medallion.



Taylor Spray, Sharon, received her Grand Champion bread tray at the 2023 State Fair "Best of Wheat" Bread Baking Contest for her entry of Tayler's Punch Veggie Bread in the Other Wheat Bread class. Schieber, Parrish, Wiebe, Abbigail Billings, Oklahoma Cover-Miss for Miss United States Agriculture representing Cotton County; and Gammill also presents the first place ribbon, grand champion ribbon and 2023 state fair medallion.



2023 JUNIOR WHEAT SHOW

Entries Submitted

The 2023 Junior Wheat Show visual competition took place on Tuesday, July 18, at the Payne County Fairgrounds in Stillwater. This 2023 harvest season had many entries given the environment of this crop growing season. 21 4-H entries and 32 FFA entries were submitted by students vying to be this year's top winner. The program's intent is to promote the production quality of wheat and teach 4-H and FFA youth about wheat production, marketing and management.

Each year, more than \$16,000 in scholarships are given to the top 4-H and FFA winners. A maximum of \$6,000 may be awarded to an individual during their 4-H and FFA careers. The Oklahoma Junior Wheat Show is sponsored by the Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Oklahoma Wheat Research Foundation, Oklahoma Department of Career Technology Education, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Genetics Inc. and Westbred Seeds.

The top 25 samples in the 4-H and FFA visual divisions have been sent to the OSU Robert M. Kerr Food and Ag Product Center for milling and baking evaluations. The 2023 Junior Wheat Show Banquet will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30, in Oklahoma City at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest located at 3233 Northwest Expressway. The banquet will begin promptly at 6 p.m., and will be invitation only for the top 25 4-H and FFA student winners, along with parents, 4-H educators and FFA instructors. ♦



Wheat Advocate Addresses Oklahoma Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



Michelle Tuttle, MPH, RD, CSSD, Team USA Amateur elite athlete and Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics, addressed the Oklahoma Academy of Registered Dietitians at the 2023 Annual Spring Convention in Oklahoma City. Her presentation entitled, “Stop Forking Around the Unintended Consequences of Being Healthy” delved into the subject about people and if they really know how to eat?

People want to be healthy, but they usually do it by cutting things out. What happens when a client decides no dairy, no wheat, no fast food, no juice or no animal foods? The consequences often lead to some fairly

serious nutritional gaps that lead to disease overtime.

Michelle also addressed the group about the importance of well-balanced diets. Discussions also addressed celiac disease and wheat allergies. In those instances, avoiding wheat foods and whole grains all together are necessary, but if one doesn't have these issues, cutting healthy wheat foods out of their diet can have negative consequences with increased risk for diabetes and heart disease. Discussions on cutting certain food groups showed long term negative impacts on human health and a rise in obesity in the United States over the past four decades. ♦



BREAKFAST *On the go!*

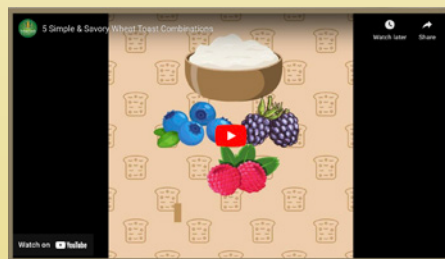
Back-2-School Nutrition Tips



Whole Wheat Pancakes



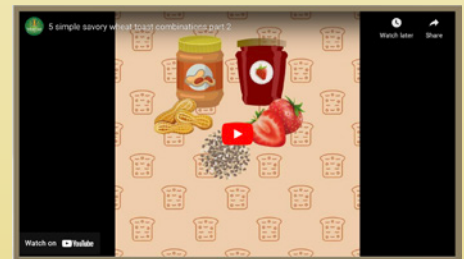
5 Savory Wheat Toast Combinations



Breakfast Muffins with Egg



Wheat Toast Combinations – Part 2



Banana Orange Muffins



Oklahoma State Names Master Agronomists

from Guymon Daily Herald, by Gail Ellis

The Oklahoma State University Department of Plant and Soil Sciences has announced three Master Agronomists: Alisen Anderson, Darren Buck and David Bush. Gary Strickland, Jackson County Extension director and agriculture educator, has been named an OSU Professional Master Agronomist.

The Master Agronomist award recognizes individuals who have participated in agronomic efforts and contributed valuable public service from their efforts in soil management and crop production.

Master Agronomists



Alisen Anderson is an agricultural instructor at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami. She has taught plant science, soil science and agriculture leadership classes while implementing a research farm of five field plots and 22 acres and acquiring a USDA NIFA grant to build a greenhouse. The two campus facilities have hosted more than 100 class and honor projects as well as four field days. The farm has grown soybeans, corn, winter wheat and sunflowers in partnership with OSU and local producers as Anderson teaches students about germination, emergence, weed and pest control.

She and her husband, Jared, farm corn, wheat and soybeans and operate a ranch with 500 commercial cattle in Ottawa County. They have three children and are active in the state and national Young Farmers and Ranchers group.



Darren Buck collaborates with OSU's Oklahoma Panhandle Research and Extension Center and helped establish the McCaull Research and Demonstration Farm in 2018. He has been instrumental in facilitating farm experiments on corn response to nitrogen and irrigation rates as well as Oklahoma Testing Ag Performance Solutions projects for corn and cotton.

Buck actively participates in OSU field day events and other Extension activities and is an early adopter of new technologies related to soil moisture sensors and nutrient management planning. He was honored with the National Resources Conservation Service Outstanding Cooperator Award in 2019 in Texas County and also received the Water for 2060 Excellence Award for Agriculture from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board in 2021.

Jackson County third generation farmer **David Bush** and his family farm several thousand acres of wheat and cotton.

Bush has been involved in many OSU county and state agronomy projects and served in agricultural leadership roles throughout his community, including the Jackson County.



Farm Service Agency board and the Oklahoma FSA advisory board. He is also an avid supporter of the Jackson County Junior Livestock Show. Bush and his wife, Melody, have two sons and five grandchildren.

Professional Master Agronomist



Gary Strickland spent the first 17 years of his OSU career working in the department of plant and soil sciences agriculture research station system and sorghum breeding program. Later, he administered the department's sorghum and corn Extension and variety testing programs and conducted a statewide field trial program in cooperation with OSU Extension and several regional, state and federal programs.

Today, as the Jackson County Extension director and agriculture educator for Jackson County and the Altus area, he focuses on tillage and cropping systems, wheat herbicide studies, wheat production management topics and alternative crops for dryland production systems.

Strickland graduated from OSU with bachelor's and master's degrees in plant and soil sciences. He and his wife, Lynne, have three children and seven grandchildren.

OSU extension uses research-based information to help all Oklahomans solve local issues and concerns, promote leadership and manage resources wisely throughout the state's 77 counties. ♦



Oklahoma Wheat
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