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Phone: 541-276-7330 • Fax: 541-276-1723
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February 17, 2010

Volume 23, No. 4

OWGL Board of Directors

*Proud to Serve Oregon’s
Wheat Producers*

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OWGL Celebrates Oregon’s Birthday in the Capitol

The OWGL Board of Directors together with OWGL staff participated in a “Day at the Capitol” on Friday, February 12 in honor of Oregon’s Birthday which fell on Sunday this year. Governor Kulon-goski addressed the audience comprised of interested citizens and school children prior to cutting the birthday cake sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League. Special thanks to the Governor and Lisa Hanson, Oregon Department of Agriculture, for their remarks and willingness to participate.

The day was filled with legislative meetings to outline areas of concern and priority issues for the industry. The Legislators were grateful for the update and

complimented the Board members for spending time in the Capitol.



OWGL Executive Team members led the Birthday Celebration at the Capitol: Tammy Dennee, Executive; Jeff Newton, Immediate Past President; Darren Padget, President; and Tyson Raymond, Secretary/Treasurer.

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Your Oregon WheatPAC Contribution –

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For more information on how your contribution can come off of your tax bill, see page 6.



“The Oregon Wheat Growers League is a not-for-profit Trade Association funded in part (approx. \$.01/bu.) by the statutorily mandated \$.05/bu. assessment paid by every wheat producer/landlord when their grain is marketed at the first point of sale. This assessment is collected by the Oregon Wheat Commission, a State Agency, located in Portland, Oregon. The balance of the OWGL budget is comprised of voluntary membership dues from producers and business owners throughout the State of Oregon.”

Oregon's Birthday....cont. from page 1

A Legislative Reception was hosted the evening previous to greet members of the Legislature and build working relationships with all who attended. The Reception was a tremendous success and comments of appreciation were offered by Legislators about the opportunity to meet wheat producers from around the State.

Immediate Past President, Jeff Newton, took advantage of the opportunity to present four of the remaining "Friend of Oregon Wheat" Awards to legislators who were unable to join the League during the recent Annual Conference in Coeur d'Alene.



Jeff Newton presents the 'Friend of Oregon Wheat' award to Senator Martha Schrader



Senator Joanne Verger accepts her award from Jeff Newton



Senator David Nelson accepts his award from Jeff Newton



Representative Bruce Hanna accepts his award from Jeff Newton



Jobs Bill Debate Continues Despite Crippling D.C. Snow

Despite historic snowfall and blizzard conditions that shut down most of Washington, D.C., debate continued about what Congress should do to deal with continued high unemployment.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) have been working toward a bipartisan bill that would tackle a range of issues in addition

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Calendar

Klamath Falls Winter Workshop
March 1, Klamath Falls *(See Adjacent)*

AgFest
April 24, 25, - Fairgrounds, Salem

Klamath County Plans Grower Workshop

JW Walker, Klamath County President, and Mike Noonan, Marketing Committee Chair have selected **Monday, March 1** for a morning workshop from 9:00 am - Noon at the Shilo Inn, Klamath Falls, to address the special concerns of producers who farm in both Northern California and Klamath County, Oregon. The workshop will focus on RMA and NRCS programs with differing regulations between the two states.

NRCS Deputy Chief Craig

Derickson, Washington, DC, and RMA Administrator William Murphy, Washington, DC *(invited)* will answer growers questions and clarify regulations. RMA Regional Director Dave Paul and NRCS State Conservationist Ron Alvarado, and FSA State Executive Director Lynn Voigt *(invited)* as well as local representatives, will also be present to field questions and provide input.

Lunch, following the workshop, will be hosted in part by Marshall Insurance. RSVP to the OWGL office is requested by calling 541-276-7330 or via email: schrist@owgl.org.

Snow....continued... from Page 2

to employment, including the estate tax, which expired at the end of 2009, and continued funding for surface transportation projects.

However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) seemed to discard that concept and filed cloture on a smaller bill, worth about \$15 billion, so the Senate could move forward with it after returning on Feb. 22 from a week-long President's Day recess.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) has been pushing for a \$1.5 billion disaster package as part of the jobs legislation. Agricultural disaster funding was included in the bipartisan bill but appears to have been jettisoned in the smaller bill Reid is championing.

Lincoln said in a press release that the package, based on legislation she and Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) introduced in November, would provide an estimated \$1.1 billion in direct payment assistance to producers in counties declared primary disaster areas by USDA. The Lincoln release said these direct payments would be intended to "bridge the gap" until payments are made under the new Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) program, which was included in the 2008 Farm Bill to cover disaster losses.

The federal government and much of Capitol Hill were closed Monday through Thursday because of the unusual winter weather.

Both chambers were out of session on Friday and are scheduled to be out, returning on Feb. 22.

Cuba Trade, Rail Hearings Postponed Due to Snowstorm

Historic snow in Washington, D.C. led to the virtual shut-down of Capitol Hill and postponement of three hearings of interest to wheat growers.

The House Agriculture Committee

had been set to receive testimony on the agricultural trade environment with respect to Cuba.

Opening the Cuban market is an important priority for NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates, who represent wheat growers' trade interests at home and abroad, and NAWG First Vice President Jerry McReynolds, a producer from Kansas, had been scheduled to testify.

Committee staff is currently working to pick a date for a rescheduled hearing.

Another Agriculture Committee hearing, looking at changes to the Commodity Exchange Act in the 2008 Farm Bill, was also postponed. The committees covering agriculture in both chambers have jurisdiction over commodity trading and related items.

A third hearing, scheduled by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, was also postponed.

That hearing would have examined the reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Board. That process is ongoing; a bill to reauthorize the STB and make needed changes to its powers with

regards to rail oversight was approved by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in December.

Agriculture Committee information can be accessed online at <http://agriculture.house.gov>, while Transportation Committee information can be accessed at <http://transportation.house.gov>.

WASDE Shows Greater Production of Corn, Wheat and Soybeans

From U.S. Wheat Associates

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released its February World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE). USDA continued to increase global crop production across the board for wheat, corn and soybeans.

USDA raised global wheat output to 677 million metric tons (MMT), just 6

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Members' Corner...

Notice to members - Annual Automatic Dues Renewal Available

OWGL members - You can now renew your dues from year to year, automatically, with a credit card. Your information will be kept on file, securely, and may be charged each year for your dues renewal. Simply note it on your dues renewal form, or contact the OWGL office for details.

Final notices for memberships expiring December 2009 have been mailed. You may remit your dues via

phone at 541-276-7330 or fax to 541-276-1723. If you have not yet renewed your dues, this will be your last newsletter, and Membership privileges will be discontinued. Call today to make sure you are current!

Renewal forms for March renewals will be mailed soon. Should you have any questions regarding your membership, dues, or your dues renewal date, please contact the OWGL office.

Thank you for your continued support of Oregon Wheat Growers League and the Oregon wheat industry!



Receive the Newsletter via email! This method not only saves our valuable natural resources, it arrives in your inbox the day it is published in full color. Simply call the OWGL office at 541-276-7330 or email schrist@owgl.org. **Your contact information is NEVER shared.**

WASDE...Continued from Page 3

MMT less than last year's record crop and 1.3 MMT greater than last month's estimate. USDA increased Argentina's production estimate by 1 MMT, to 9 MMT, after Argentina received beneficial rainfall in major wheat-growing areas. This level would match last year's production, but would still be well behind Argentina's five-year average of 14.8 MMT. USDA also increased Ukrainian production by 0.4 MMT, to 20.9 MMT, due to better-than-expected yields. While this is down from Ukraine's production last year (25.9 MMT), it is 16 percent greater than its five-year average.

Along with increasing output, USDA raised 2009/2010 global wheat consumption by 1.1 MMT. The increase pushes this year's record level to 646 MMT, which is 6 MMT greater than the previous record set last year. USDA increased total wheat consumption due to greater food use in Afghanistan and greater feed use in Canada.

Global corn production now stands at a projected 798 MMT, up 1.4 MMT from last month's estimate. USDA expects Argentine production to reach 17.2 MMT, up from 15.0 MMT last month. U.S. production remained at 334 MMT, unchanged from the 6 MMT increase seen last month.

With South America expecting a record soybean harvest, global soybean production was increased 1.6 MMT, to 255 MMT. USDA estimates Brazilian production to reach 66 MMT, up from the 65 MMT projected last month. U.S. and Argentina production remained unchanged, at 91.5 MMT and 53 MMT, respectively.

The full WASDE is available online at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/>

NAWG Policy Committees to Meet Jointly on Farm Bill at Classic

NAWG's Domestic and Trade Policy Committee (DTPC) and Environmental and Renewable Resources (ERR) Committee will meet in a joint session at Commodity Classic to discuss 2012 Farm

Boehner Taps Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) to Serve as House GOP Leadership Chairman

Oregon Congressman Joins Republican Leadership Team, Assumes Post Previously Held by Former GOP Reps. Walker, Paxon, Portman



House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH) recently announced he has appointed Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) to join the House Republican leadership team as Chairman of the Republican Leadership, a leadership position previously held by former GOP Reps. Bob Walker (R-PA), Bill Paxon (R-NY), and Rob Portman (R-OH). Rep. Walden will immediately assume the post.

Boehner made the announcement at his weekly press briefing.

"Greg Walden is a proven leader and a champion for smaller, more accountable government. We need him at the leadership table as we enter this critical year for our country, and I deeply appreciate his willingness to serve as our leadership chairman," Boehner said.

As Republican Leadership Chairman, Walden will participate in regular GOP leadership strategy meetings and direct key projects such as the House GOP Congressional Transparency Initiative, a reform project aimed at making the House more open and accountable to the American people. Walden will also continue to serve as a deputy whip and deputy chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC).

"I am humbled by Leader Boehner's trust to serve in this leadership capacity,"

Rep. Walden said. "Having been a small business owner through both good times and bad, I look forward to using that experience at the leadership table to help continue to push the Republican case for common sense policies that create more jobs, not bigger government and more reckless spending. The American people expect Republicans to develop sound policy alternatives, and I am eager to help contribute to the good work already being done in that area."

Rep. Walden and his wife owned and operated radio stations in the Columbia River Gorge region in Oregon for more than 21 years. Now in his sixth term in Congress, Walden will go on temporary leave from his seat on the House Energy & Commerce Committee, but will retain his full seniority on the panel.

Rep. Bob Walker (R-PA) served as Republican leadership chairman during the 104th Congress under Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA). After Rep. Walker's retirement at the end of 1996, Rep. Bill Paxon (R-NY) was tapped by Speaker Gingrich to serve in the post. In 2001, Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-GA) appointed Rep. Rob Portman (R-OH) to serve as leadership chairman. Rep. Portman served in the post until 2005, when he was appointed U.S. Trade Representative under President George W. Bush.

Bill priorities and strategy.

Both committees have policy areas within their jurisdiction that are likely to play prominent roles in the 2012 Farm Bill debate. DTPC recommends policy to the NAWG Board on issues including all Title I programs, crop insurance, transportation and trade. ERR recommends policy on conservation and bioenergy programs,

climate change and crop protection issues.

All of NAWG's committees have been charged at the Classic meeting with having initial discussions about priorities for the 2012 bill, which will likely be even more challenging to write than the 2008 Farm Bill due to massive federal budget

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Farm Bill....Continued from page 4

deficits and an ever-growing list of interested parties who seek to influence the bill. The joint DTPC and ERR session is meant to help coordinate policy between farm safety net and conservation programs.

Though parts of the 2008 Farm Bill are just beginning to be implemented, discussions about the 2012 bill have already begun, and NAWG and other groups are seeking to clarify top-level priorities as soon as possible.

Last month, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) told wheat growers at the NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates winter meetings that he would begin holding hearings regarding the 2012 Farm Bill in March or April and would begin his Committee's process by seeking input from growers.



Serving Export Customers Fulfills USW Mission for Producers

The stated mission of U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) is to develop, maintain, and expand international markets to enhance the profitability of U.S. wheat producers. That is why USW was pleased to see results of a recent econometric study showing that it is indeed fulfilling that mission.

When it comes to export customers, however, USW is also pleased that representing U.S. producers and the six classes of wheat they grow has not included price manipulation or hard-sell deals. Our organization believes the base of competition should be wheat's true value. It is why we focus on helping buyers, millers, and food processors learn how our wheat can enhance their profitability and the suc-

cess of their enterprises. What makes U.S. wheat so valuable is a combination of reliability, transparent prices, excellent quality, and service.

Reliable. When it comes to producing a reliable supply of wheat with a range of functional characteristics to fit any product, U.S. producers are second-to-none. They openly invite their customers to their family farms to see the care and dedication invested in their crops. They take the risks so the U.S. wheat store can stay open even when supplies get tight. It is easy to overlook that at a time when every wheat-exporting country is aggressively offering their product.

Transparent. The ability to know at any time of day or night what you can expect to pay for U.S. wheat is an important advantage for wheat buyers. With well-functioning futures and options exchanges providing the most efficient and equitable price discovery mechanism available and facilitating physical trade, our open market system gives buyers the information they need to manage risk as efficiently as possible.

Quality. The U.S. wheat industry is committed to continually improving milling and baking quality. The Wheat Quality Council cooperates with the USDA Agricultural Research Service wheat quality laboratories to connect wheat breeders with U.S. millers and bakers to test and share varietal quality information. USW takes that concept internationally by operating an Overseas Varietal Analysis program that helps U.S. wheat breeders meet your quality needs. USW also sponsors Wheat Quality Improvement Teams of U.S. breeders and wheat quality specialists to visit overseas customers. The resulting quality preference and varietal data provide the basis for Wheat Class Quality Targets developed by the Wheat Quality Council for five U.S. wheat classes and for Recommended Variety Lists published in several wheat-producing states to encourage seeding of higher quality varieties. Finally, USW reports extensively on annual harvest quality by class, protein and port regions through published Crop Quality Reports and annual Crop Quality Seminars.

Service. With 15 offices staffed by exceptionally experienced wheat trade managers, USW works directly with buyers to answer

questions and resolve issues in purchasing, shipping, or using U.S. wheat. Our professional technical assistants provide education, information, and personalized consulting that help strengthen overseas milling, storage and handling, and end-product industries. We gather and analyze relevant market data, trade policies, and standards or specifications that may affect your business and project future wheat production and consumption.

When you consider all these advantages and prices that have temporarily fallen to levels that are actually below production costs, we can confidently suggest that U.S. wheat value is greater today than it has been, or probably will be, for many years.

An Inspirational Legacy

"The first essential component for social justice is adequate food for all mankind," said the late Dr. Norman E. Borlaug. His remarkable story is one where science, research, and a deep respect for communities in the developing world ignited a global movement that would feed billions. His legacy continues to inspire many organizations to find new ways to address future challenges for agriculture and human nutrition.

For example, the Council on Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) Issue Paper, *Agricultural Productivity Strategies for the Future: Addressing U.S. and Global Challenges*, is dedicated to Dr. Borlaug and features a preface written by him shortly before his death. CAST calls this paper "a forthright appraisal of the unprecedented challenges facing twenty-first century agriculture."

You can download the paper free of charge at the CAST Web site (www.cast-science.org). CAST is an international consortium of 30 scientific and professional societies. It assembles, interprets, and communicates credible science-based information regionally, nationally, and inter-

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Borlaug..Continued from page 5

nationally to legislators, regulators, policy-makers, the media, the private sector, and the public.

The Mathile Institute for the Advancement of Human Nutrition (<http://www.mathileinstitute.org/>), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the health of the world's children, created the concept of Hunger Fighters "to educate viewers about the life, work and views of... Borlaug...and inspire the next generation to help bring food and nutrition security to the world." Hunger Fighters has produced an educational documentary called "Freedom From Famine: The Norman Borlaug Story." You can see an excerpt and order a copy of the film at the Hunger Fighters Web site (<http://www.hunger-fighters.org>).

Trade Agenda Makes an Appearance in State of the Union

By Melissa Kessler, Director of Communications, NAWG

President Barack Obama's first State of the Union address contained an unexpected defense of trade and a renewed commitment to the trade agenda that wheat growers hope portend more aggressive action in this policy area.

In a passage about creating jobs and maintaining America's competitiveness that also touched on financial reform, innovation and climate change, Obama said:

"...[W]e need to export more of our goods. Because the more products we

make and sell to other countries, the more jobs we support right here in America. So tonight, we set a new goal: We will double our exports over the next five years, an increase that will support two million jobs in America. To help meet this goal, we're launching a National Export Initiative that will help farmers and small businesses increase their exports, and reform export controls consistent with national security.

"We have to seek new markets aggressively, just as our competitors are. If America sits on the sidelines while other nations sign trade deals, we will lose the chance to create jobs on our shores. But realizing those benefits also means enforcing those agreements so our trading partners play by the rules. And that's why we'll continue to shape a Doha trade agreement that opens global markets, and why we will strengthen our trade relations in Asia and

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~ Oregon WheatPAC ~

Help Elect a Pro-Agriculture Oregon Legislature

The political Tax Credit is a no-cost way to support the Oregon WheatPAC, allowing you to direct a portion of your tax dollars in a way that YOU choose. It is a **tax credit**, not a deduction. You can give up to \$100 for joint tax filers or \$50 for individuals and **that amount will be credited back to you on tax day.**

The OWGL tracked about 300 of the nearly 4,000 proposed new laws introduced by the policymakers in the 2009 Legislative Session. As a result of our collaboration with a broad stakeholder group, we were successful in defeating a number of proposed laws that would have been devastating for agricultural producers. Electing able leaders is more important than ever and we strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to contribute.

To make your contribution to the Oregon WheatPAC, please complete the form below and mail it to the OWGL office at 115 SE 8th, Pendleton, OR 97801. Credit card contributions can be faxed to 541-276-1723.

Amount of donation: \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other \$ _____

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Phone _____ Email: _____

___ Business contribuion ___ Personal contribution

Payment Information: (Please make your check payable to *Oregon WheatPAC*)

Check # _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____

Card number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____



*Thank you
for your support!*

Oregon WheatPAC Tax ID #20-5086793

Trade Agenda...Cont. from page 6

with key partners like South Korea and Panama and Colombia.”

Obama did not specifically call for passage of three pending trade agreements – with Colombia, Panama and South Korea – nor did he lay out specifics of how his new Initiative will help increase exports.

Still, the very fact that the trade agenda...made it into the important speech is cause for optimism in the U.S. wheat industry, which typically exports about half of its annual production and is deeply concerned about the loss of up to \$90 million in sales to Colombia if the U.S.-Colombia agreement isn't ratified soon. Thursday morning, NAWG and USW, who work jointly on trade policy on behalf of wheat growers, released a joint statement...

“As leaders of an industry dependent on exports for half its sales, we were thrilled to hear that President Obama plans to give trade a more prominent role in his administration's economic recovery agenda,” said NAWG President Karl Scronce and USW Chair Janice Mattson.

“...We couldn't agree more, and we believe that an ideal way to kick-start this trade initiative is to finalize the pending U.S.-Colombia free trade agreement... We encourage the Administration to send these agreements to the Hill, and Congress to approve them as soon as possible. We also encourage the Senate to find solutions to the disagreements holding up key trade nominees, without which our country cannot negotiate new agreements in good faith.”

NAWG and USW will continue to work with the Administration and Congress on the Colombia agreement and other key trade priorities, including opening trade with Cuba and achieving a reasonable Doha Round agreement.

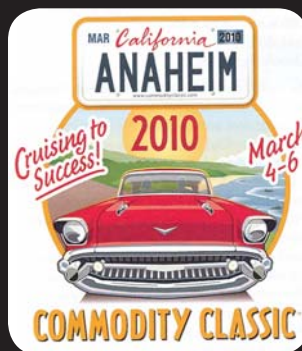
The full NAWG and USW statement is available at <http://www.wheatworld.org/2010/01/wheat-leaders-applaud-obama%E2%80%99s-emphasis-on-trade-in-state-of-the-union-3/>.

Market Development Funding Allocated

U S D A Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced the allocation of \$234.5 million to 70 U.S. trade organizations, including USW, to help promote U.S. food and agricultural products overseas. The funding was allocated under the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Cooperator Program, both administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

The MAP uses funds from USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to share the costs of overseas market development and promotional activities with U.S. nonprofit agricultural trade organizations, state regional trade groups, and cooperatives. Activities conducted with MAP funding include market research, consumer promotions for retail products, technical capacity building, and seminars to educate overseas customers. Under the FMD program, USDA's CCC establishes a partnership with nonprofit U.S. agricultural trade organizations to help fund their overseas presence.

“These programs are deemed to be minimally distorting to world trade and qualified as ‘Green Box’ programs by the World Trade Organization,” said USW President Alan Tracy. “These programs are very successful public-private partnerships that ultimately benefit export customers, too.”



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Add your voice to high energy discussions during Early Riser, Learning Centers and WIN sessions.

Cruise the trade show floor packed with the latest and greatest industry innovations.

Also: Evening of Entertainment with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and optional sight-seeing tours

Welcoming New Leaders to USDA/FAS

USW welcomes the opportunity to work with several strong leaders recently appointed to positions with USDA, including:

- Ms. Darci L. Vetter, named Deputy Under Secretary for the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service. Ms. Vetter served on the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance as an International Trade Advisor before joining FFAS. Her experience includes serving as Director of Agricultural Affairs for the Office of the U.S Trade Representative and Director of Sustainable Development.

- Mr. John Brewer, appointed Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service. Before his appointment as General Sales Manager at FAS, Mr. Brewer worked for the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton as an Associate on the Global Security/Threat Finance Team. In addition, Mr. Brewer brings more than a decade of experience in the federal government, working on U.S. policy toward Latin American and the Caribbean. The USW Board of Directors was very pleased to welcome Mr. Brewer as a guest speaker at their recent Winter Meeting in Washington, DC.

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New Leaders.....continued from page 7

• Ms. Janet Nuzum, joined FAS as Associate Administrator. Before joining USDA, Ms. Nuzum served as a congressional staffer and as VP, General Counsel for the International Dairy Foods Association.

She was also Vice Chairman and Commissioner to the U.S. International Trade Commission where she ruled on trade practices and investigated the economic impacts of U.S. trade negotiations.



OREGON WHEAT FOUNDATION



A Challenge to Growers

At the OWGL Annual Meeting of the Membership on December 1st, Foundation Chair Tom Winn challenged growers present to match his donation of \$100 to the Oregon Wheat Foundation's Bushels for Betsy Program.

If you would like to meet (or beat!) that challenge, you may use the form below to send your donation by check, payable to the **Oregon Wheat Foundation**, to the OWGL office at 115 SE 8th St., Pendleton, OR 97801. Contributions via Visa/Mastercard may be faxed to 541-276-1723, or simply call the OWGL Office at 541-276-7330. A receipt will be mailed upon request.

Bushels for Betsy Contribution Form

Please complete this form and mail with your check to the OWGL office: 115 SE 8th St, Pendleton, OR 97801

*Make your check payable to the **Oregon Wheat Foundation**.*

Credit Card contributions may be faxed to 541-276-1723, or by calling the OWGL office at 541-276-7330.

Please accept my gift in the amount of:

\$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

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My Check # _____ is enclosed (Payable to OWF) Charge: Visa MC

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

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