



Washington State Department of Agriculture

PO Box 42560
Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

Visit our Web site at: agr.wa.gov

[Subscribe to WSDA News Releases](#)

For immediate release: May 29, 2013 (13-17)

Contact: [Hector Castro](#) (360) 902-1815

Statement from Director Bud Hover on discovery of genetically engineered wheat in Oregon wheat field

OLYMPIA – “The [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) has been informed that the federal government is investigating how genetically engineered wheat was grown in an Oregon farm this past spring.

“No genetically engineered wheat is currently approved for cultivation anywhere in the U.S. The wheat discovered in Oregon was modified to resist glyphosate-based pesticides, often referred to by the trade name “Roundup.”

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which has regulatory authority over these products, is conducting the investigation into this situation.

“Although this discovery was made in Oregon, there could be impacts to all Pacific Northwest wheat, including Washington.

“Washington’s wheat industry plays a significant role in our state’s agriculture economy and is currently the state’s third most valuable agriculture commodity, generating more than \$1 billion in revenue each year and supporting 25,000 jobs across the state. Nearly 90 percent of all Washington-grown wheat is exported.

“The USDA will work with the wheat industry and their customers domestically and abroad to make sure measures are in place to maintain consumer confidence in all Northwest wheat. The WSDA is ready to help in that effort to meet marketplace assurance needs and also assist the investigation in any way requested.

“It is important to note that the USDA has assured us that there is no public health risk with this wheat, as the strain of wheat discovered was previously reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, though it was never placed into commercial cultivation.

“Washington wheat farmers have long prided themselves on producing the finest wheat in the world and this situation does not change that. Nothing is more important to the WSDA and Washington growers than ensuring a safe and high quality supply of wheat for consumers.”

###

Connect with WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).