

The Wonder of Wheat!

Acre Per Acre, No State Can Match Washington's Abundant Wheat Production.

Facts You Never Knew About Wheat

- ▶ Washington's **Whitman County produces more wheat than any other county in the United States** and ranks number two nationally in barley production.
- ▶ **Wheat placed third in the ranking of our state's most valuable crops** produced in 2010, with a value of \$925 million.
- ▶ **The First Wheat Crop in the Northwest** was Planted in 1825 at Fort Vancouver, Washington.
- ▶ **One acre of land** (about the size of a football field) **can produce 2,784 pounds** (46.4 bushels) **of wheat.**
- ▶ **One bushel of wheat contains** approximately 1 million individual kernels, weighs approximately 60 pounds, yields approximately 42 pounds of white flour or 60 pounds of whole-wheat flour, yields 42 commercial loaves of white bread or 90 one-pound loaves of whole wheat bread.
- ▶ **Washington wheat farmers grow five classes of wheat:** soft white, hard red winter, hard red spring, hard white and durum.
- ▶ **Different Wheat for Different Wheat Products**
Soft White Wheat (uses): pastries, pancakes, cakes, cookies, crackers, flat breads and cereals. *Hard Red Wheat (uses):* yeast breads, hard rolls and bagels. *Hard White Wheat (uses):* blended flours, Asian noodles, steambreads. *Durum (uses):* Pasta.
- ▶ **About 70 percent of the wheat grown is for human consumption.** About 10 percent is used for seed. The remainder is processed for industrial products such as adhesives, fuel, and synthetic rubber, and for livestock feed.



Washington Exports Wheat for the World

Today, the Northwest is the principal white wheat-producing area in the United States, and a major supplier for both national and international markets. Nearly \$15 billion in food and agricultural products were exported through Washington ports in 2008 – the third largest total in the U.S.

(sources: <http://agr.wa.gov/AboutWSDA/Docs/AgrFunFacts.PDF>; www.wheatfoods.org; <http://agr.wa.gov/AgInWA/docs/PrideOfWashingtonState2010.pdf>; www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington; USDA; American Farm Bureau Federation 2011 Food and Farm Facts; <http://www.bluefish.org/wheatfax.htm> and www.nsea.org/news/Vogel.htm)