



OREGON WHEAT

The Oregon Wheat Growers League is proud to represent the nearly 2000 farms across Oregon that produce wheat, one of our State's largest and most valuable crops. The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's most comprehensive general agricultural association, representing over 6,700 farm and ranch families. Wheat contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in direct and indirect value to Oregon's economy and combined with Oregon's other 225 different crops supports Oregon's rural economy.

In the last few years, fires have become a major concern across much of Oregon. Fire frequency, intensity, and damage have increased, and there is no reason to expect these trends to change in the years ahead. This was especially true in 2018. Many Oregon dryland wheat growers across the Columbia Plateau suffered devastating losses to their operations, not just the loss of excellent, high-quality wheat, but also lost homes, outbuildings, equipment, fences, and critical vegetative cover to protect their soil. Worst of all, we lost a farmer, working to protect a neighbor's property, to the Substation Fire.

In many areas, our growers were the first to respond to fires, working side-by-side with firefighting crews for days, using their equipment and their knowledge of the landscape to help contain the fires and stop the damage.

Many farmers take full advantage of crop insurance, and other types of coverage, to help them recover from fire losses, but we all know that insurance can never make you whole for all the damage suffered when fire strikes a farm.

We are very appreciative of Senator Hansell, Senator Thatcher, Representative Barreto, and Representative Boshart Davis for sponsoring SB 784. The bill will allow farmers who suffer crop loss due to fire to reduce their taxable income by the amount of their crop loss that is not covered by insurance or other payments. This will be a big help to farmers trying to recover and rebuild after fires in the future, and it will help to ensure that farmers can do what is necessary to sustain their operations.

We urge you to support SB 784 to help farmers recover from losses due to fire.