



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Kim Garland Campbell, USDA Agricultural Research Service club wheat breeder.

## AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB

### Unique wheat variety popular among Asian customers

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — With a keen eye, USDA club wheat breeder Kim Garland Campbell surveyed her newest varieties on a recent September morning.

She paused several times, inspecting this line or that, the plants glowing gold in the sun inside the greenhouse on the Washington State University campus.

Campbell talked excitedly about working with other breeders to develop varieties and pondered out loud why the first farmers 10,000 years ago might have raised the odd-looking variety of

wheat, whose club-like shape is unlike any other.

She was brimming with enthusiasm about her subject. “I could stand and talk about club wheat all day,” she said.

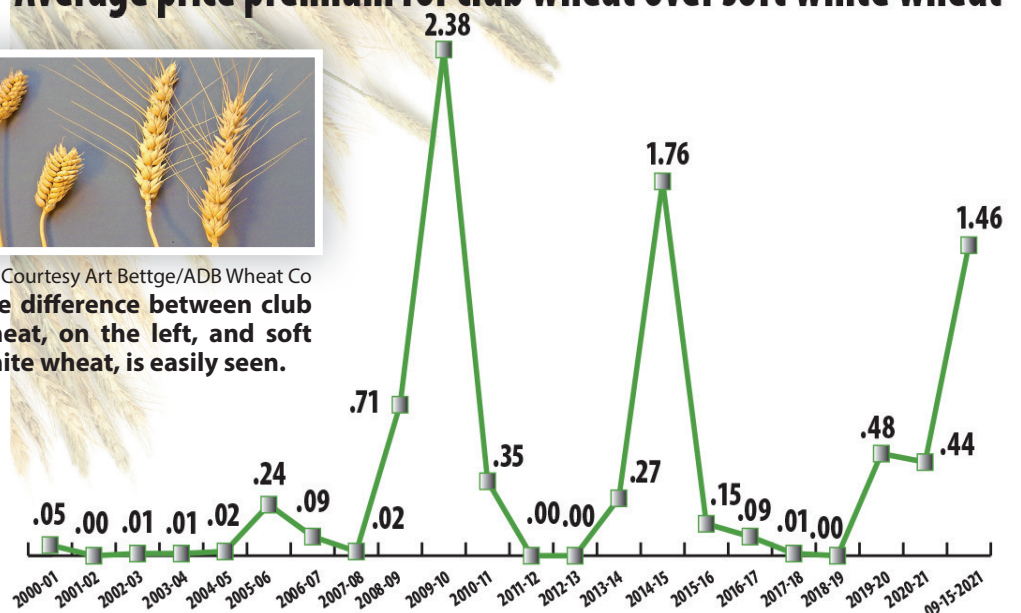
Club wheat is only grown in the Pacific Northwest. Farmers raise it when it commands a higher price compared to soft white wheat, the region’s dominant wheat. But customers overseas, particularly in Japan, can’t get enough of it. Demand is strong and steady, but supplies are at a 12-year low after this summer’s drought.

See Wheat, Page 9

#### Average price premium for club wheat over soft white wheat



Courtesy Art Bettge/ADB Wheat Co  
The difference between club wheat, on the left, and soft white wheat, is easily seen.



Capital Press graphic

## Regulatory changes coming for Oregon hemp growers

Revisions bring state hemp program into compliance with USDA

By GEORGE PLAIVEN  
Capital Press

SALEM — New rules are coming for Oregon hemp producers as the state brings its Hemp Program into compliance with the USDA.

The state Department of Agriculture filed draft revisions for the



Sunny Summers

program on Aug. 30. A public comment period is now underway, with a deadline of Oct. 22.

Once adopted, the agency will submit the plan to the USDA for final approval. The changes would take effect for the 2022 growing season, said Sunny Summers, ODA cannabis policy coordinator.

“It’s really important to follow

the requirements,” Summers said. “There are a lot of people looking at this industry, and you can’t afford to be naive to the requirements any longer.”

Perhaps the biggest change, Summers said, is ODA’s new statutory authority to conduct background checks on growers applying for a hemp license.

Under the USDA hemp rule, anyone convicted of a felony cannot participate in growing or processing hemp for 10 years. But ODA previously was unable to conduct back-

ground checks into applicants’ criminal records.

House Bill 3000 — a broad cannabis bill signed by Gov. Kate Brown in July to crack down on illegal marijuana operations — changed that, granting ODA the ability to conduct background checks in partnership with the Oregon State Police.

“The background check is probably one of the biggest, if not the biggest, change that growers are going to need to anticipate,” Summers said.

HB 3000 also gives ODA stron-

ger authority to deny or revoke hemp licenses, Summers said. For example, if applicants have already planted hemp before their license applications are approved, the agency can require the crop be destroyed.

“Just because you submitted an application to ODA does not mean you are legal to grow,” Summers said. “We’re trying to get that message out, that you have to have fully received your license.”

See Hemp, Page 9

## Upper Klamath irrigators challenge water transfer to wildlife refuge

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

A lawsuit claims Oregon water regulators have authorized a water transfer to a wildlife refuge without properly analyzing the impacts on Upper Klamath irrigators.

The state’s Water Resources Department in July approved a transfer of 3,750 acre-feet of water from the Wood River and Crooked Creek in the Upper Klamath Basin



to the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge for five years.

The California Waterfowl nonprofit had bought the water from a ranch in the Upper Klamath

Basin in Oregon to convey to the national refuge in California to benefit bird habitat under threat from the drought.

However, the Fort Klamath Critical Habitat Landowners nonprofit and several irrigators in the Upper Klamath Basin have filed a petition for judicial review challenging the decision, which has the effect of automatically blocking it under Oregon water law.

Racquel Rancier, senior water policy coordinator with OWRD,

said the agency will review the petition but “generally does not comment on matters of pending litigation.”

The petitioners argue that OWRD failed to account for return flows from irrigation, since much of the diverted water would normally flow back into the waterways and contribute to the stream flows.

By sending the water out of the

See Water, Page 9

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