

WSARE Grain Case Study Fry Family Farm

Name of Farm: Fry Family Farm

Website: [Fry Family Farm](#)

Point of Contact: Amber Fry

About the farm: Suzi and Steve Fry started farming in the Rogue Valley in 1990. What was then a couple acres on Wagner Creek Road in Talent has expanded to more than 90 acres of vegetables, flowers and berries being grown in Talent, Phoenix, Medford and Ashland.



Participated by: Fry Family Farm (Medford, OR) is a fifty acre vegetable and fruit farm with sandy loam soils and increasingly limited irrigation. Producer Steve Fry is interested in adding ten to twenty acres of non-irrigated grain crops to his rotation.

Bed preparation: Producer Fry will till the trialing beds using a rototiller and using no mulch.

-Each farmer in the project measured yield and noted lodging % for each of the four different grain crops (Tibetan Purple Barley, Ukrainian Wheat, Banatka Wheat, Rouge de Bordeaux Wheat).



Goal of the project to grow 4 grains (Tibetan Purple Barley, Ukrainian Wheat, Banatka Wheat, Rouge de Bordeaux Wheat) in order to determine:

- largest yield,
- most amount of biomass,
- which is best suited to include in seed production. (ease for threshing)

Growing Grains: Fry Family Farm

Date	Activity	Notes
Nov. 2023	Planted grains	Need to plant earlier. September will be the goal
Dec. 2023	Grains emerged	Ok, but would be better if sprout in november. More foot hold
May 2024	Grains flowering	Really nice crop, plenty of water
August 24	Grain harvest	Nice and dry, great harvest

Harvest Grains Observations:

Grain Variety	Harvest Amount	Harvest Observation
-Tibetain Purple Barley	5 pounds in a 10 ft row	Was a light harvest,
-Kerangka Wheat	10 pounds in a 10ft row	Great, Very plentiful harvest
-Rouge De Bordeaux	10 pounds in a 10ft row	Very good, high yield
-Banatka Wheat	10 pounds in a 10ft row	Good, would grow again

Amount of lodging: 0 lodging

Amount of Biomass: 500 pounds

“As a result of the grant - We were able to determine the varieties that worked well for our climate and soil! We also were able to take the grain and expand the planting to 100ft rows.” Steve Fry



The Fry Family Farm trial is a huge success! From the 10 foot row they were able to scale up to 100 ft row, and the following year they scaled to a 5 acre plot.

The barley was not the preferred grain and they did not move forward with the Barley.

Banatka also faced challenges with a fungal disease. As a result about 20 acres of Banatka Wheat had to be tilled under, losing most of the seed for replanting as well.

In the 2024-2025 planting season after the period of the grant, Fry Family Farm harvested enough Ukranka Wheat to sell over 7,000 pounds, and was also able to save seed to replant 20 acres.

Fry Family Farm was also able to have 5,000 pounds of the Rogue D Bordeaux to and saved seed to replant 15 acres.



sell

This means that after this grain trail, the Fry Family Farm increased grain production and now in the 2025-2026 season will plant over 35 acres of grains in the Rogue Valley.

In addition, to support the grain expansion, Fry Family Farm was awarded a Rural Infrastructure USDA grant. Although those funds have not been released, it does reflect the intent for Fry Family Farm to grow their business, value-added products, and grain production in the near future.