

UNITED WHEATGROWERS (NZ) LTD



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Chairman's Report – August 2025

Presented by: Michael Tayler, Chair

Electoral College members and guests,

On behalf of the Board of United Wheat Growers (NZ), I'm pleased to present the Chairman's Report for the 2024/25 season.

This past year has once again tested our resilience, with a few extreme weather events — notably a significant frost in Southland and some recent flooding in Mid Canterbury. These occurrences again highlight the essential role that our disaster relief Insurance Scheme continues to play in supporting New Zealand wheat growers.

This Insurance Scheme which has provided disaster relief for its members for over 35 years was established following the deregulation of the wheat industry. Its purpose remains to provide disaster relief to wheat growers right across New Zealand during their growing season.

After a high claim year last year due to widespread hail, this season saw a significant decrease in claims with 32 confirmed claims compared to 55 last year. This equates to estimates of \$263,000 paid out to affected growers. Volume wise the past season was one of our biggest with over 430,000 tonnes of wheat insured.

Levy Adjustment

Due to a lower-than-average claims year, the Board are pleased to announce that they have negotiated with FMG a drop in the per tonne premium this year as well as a lift in the cover paid in the event of a claim.

The Board proposes:

- **New levy:** \$3.80/tonne (reduced from \$3.95/tonne)
- **Cover level:** \$250/tonne (lifted from \$245/tonne)

Hail continues to be the predominant risk, followed by frost, flooding, and fire.

QAgainz

One of the key priorities identified in the **Arable Growth Strategy** earlier this year was the need to ensure the New Zealand arable sector can confidently provide customer assurance around its systems and products. This capability is critical for:

- Building new relationships
- Introducing new products
- Entering and competing in new markets

In support of this, UWG continues to administer the recognised Quality Assurance Scheme — a program that has become important for both local buyers and end processors.

Since its launch in 2006, the Scheme has consistently upheld high standards in grain traceability, ensuring that New Zealand-grown grain meets the expectations of an increasingly quality-conscious market.

To cover administration and audit costs, growers contribute via a structured fee system.

- Initial Registration
 - One-off fee: \$450 + GST
 - Covers an initial audit and if compliant registers the grower for three years
- Ongoing Audits
 - Random audits every three years
 - Audit fee: \$450 + GST

If you sell wheat and are not currently part of the Quality Assurance Scheme, we encourage you to join. Simply contact Allison at the office at Brown Glassford & Co, and she'll guide you through the process.

Wheat Competition

The annual UWG Wheat Competition is being held tonight, promoting and celebrating excellence in wheat production. Special thanks to Guy Wigley, Brian Leadley, and Allison Brook for their efforts in coordinating these awards and congratulations to all of this evening's winners.

Insurance Levy Referendum – 2026

Currently we are preparing for the next Commodity Levy Referendum, scheduled for 2026. Under the Commodity Levy Act 1990, United Wheatgrowers (NZ) Ltd collect a levy from all wheat growers for the purpose of providing disaster relief insurance.

Grower participation is vital to maintaining the long-term stability and continuity of the Insurance Scheme. A successful outcome in the levy renewal process will depend on strong support from eligible growers who take part and vote in favour of the levy. Voting will be open from Wednesday, 27th August to Friday, 19th September—make sure your vote counts.

Claims Process for 2025/26

As we look forward to the 2025/26 growing season, growers who do suffer crop damage can make a claim by contacting **FMG on 0800 366 466**. FMG will issue a claim number and pass it on to UWG for assessment.

Please remember the cover periods:

- Hail, Fire: from 1 November 2025
- Frost: from 15 November 2025
- Flooding: from sowing 2025

Acknowledgements

A sincere thank you to the team at Brown Glassford & Co.—including David Seath and Nicola French—for their continued support. A special thanks to Allison Brook for everything she does—thank you, Allison!

Finally, to my fellow directors Brian Leadley, Guy Wigley, and Steve Wilkins, once again thank you for your contributions and ongoing commitment throughout the year.

Guy, as this is your final meeting, I would like to acknowledge the significant impact you've made—not only to United Wheat Growers, but to the wider industry over many years. Your passion, positivity, and dedication have left a lasting mark, and you will be greatly missed. Thank you, Guy.

And to the Electoral College, thank you, your involvement remains crucial to the success of United Wheat Growers.

We look forward to a successful 2025/26 season.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Michael Tayler

Chair

United WheatGrowers (NZ)