



## California Wheat Commission Internship Report

### Summer Internship at Intermountain Research and Extension Center

**Internship Mentors:** Rob Wilson, IREC Director/Farm Advisor and Steve Orloff, County Director/Farm Advisor Siskiyou County

The mentors would like to thank the California Wheat Commission for sponsoring a summer intern at the Intermountain Research and Extension Center (IREC) in Tulelake, CA. The 2012 summer intern was Matt Barber. Matt was a sophomore at the College of Siskiyous in Weed, CA. Matt is majoring in Agriculture and he plans to finish his degree at Chico State University. Matt's internship started on June 11, 2012 and ended on August 20, 2012. Matt's wages and benefits totaled \$5991.97. The \$991.97 overdraft of wage expense beyond the \$5000 internship award will be covered by IREC.

Matt worked closely with Rob Wilson, Steve Orloff, and IREC staff to implement small grain field studies in Siskiyou County. Matt assisted Steve Orloff with his California Wheat Commission Mini-grant Projects titled "Effect of Nitrogen Fertilization Practices on Spring Wheat Protein Content" and "Broadleaf and Grass Control in Wheat". Matt helped with other small grain projects at IREC including "Development of Wheat Varieties in California", "Improving Spring Barley for Northern Intermountain Region", and "Evaluation of New Spring Hard Red Wheat Varieties".

Matt's internship provided him training in applied research methodologies, field research activities, and educational/outreach methods. Matt shadowed multiple farm advisors and UC Davis academics to learn about their research projects and experimental methodologies. Matt also had the opportunity to spend a day with Northern California Ag. Industry representatives including JW Cope, California Wheat Commission Board member. Matt helped IREC staff with crop production on the center, and he gained experience with Northern California cropping systems. Matt attended UC extension events and read UC extension publications to learn how UCCE farm advisors educate clientele. Matt's experience and excellent job performance allowed him to continue working for Steve Orloff helping him with his research activities in the Yreka area this fall. This internship was an excellent opportunity for Matt and solidified for him his desire to pursue a career in agriculture, perhaps as a Pest Control Advisor or even a UC Farm Advisor.

Sincerely,

Rob Wilson, UC ANR IREC Director and Farm Advisor

Steve Orloff, Siskiyou County Director and Farm Advisor