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To: Oregon Wheat Growers and Industry Representatives

Re: Eastern Oregon Stripe Rust Update

From: Christina Hagerty

Dear Growers and Stakeholders,

Significant stripe rust has been confirmed at a research trial in Milton Freewater on the varieties LCS Dagger AX and LCS Artdeco. A key determinant of how severe stripe rust will be is the time when rust first appears, as early epidemics allow for more generations of the pathogen to occur during the growing season.

Based on warm weather in November and December 2025, stripe rust pressure in the 2026 wheat growing season is expected to be high. The current rust forecast from Dr. Chen indicate conditions are favorable for a severe stripe rust outbreak if the disease is not managed.

- On highly susceptible winter wheat varieties, yield losses could be very large, potentially averaging around 50% in untreated fields.

Growers are encouraged to scout fields, especially those planted with known susceptible cultivars such as LCS Dagger AX and UI Magic CL+. CoAxiom cultivars, in particular, should be monitored closely – we do not yet have the depth of knowledge on this suite of germplasm.

If stripe rust is present, a timely fungicide application is recommended.

For highly susceptible varieties, do not wait for flag leaf emergence—it's best to spray as soon as rust is detected. In most cases, application timing is more critical than the specific fungicide product used.

- Triazole fungicides offer effective and economical control when applied promptly.
- Fungicide mixes containing both a triazole and a strobilurin may provide longer-lasting protection in high-pressure situations but come at a higher cost.
- SDHI fungicides have not shown superior control over triazole/strobilurin mixes in our region.

Your product choice should factor in variety susceptibility, crop yield potential, product cost, and your budget.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns—we're here to help.



Stripe rust on LCS Dagger AX, January 27th, 2026, Umatilla County, OR. Rust is a biotroph; it needs living tissue to replicate.



Stripe rust on LCS Artdeco, January 27th, 2026, Umatilla County, OR