



## chapter one

# INTRODUCTION

### **Project History**

The Pacific Northwest Risk Management Education Project is a three-state effort among Idaho, Oregon, and Washington with the goal of improving the survivability and profitability of wheat producers by helping them improve and apply their risk management skills. The primary focus has been on cereal grain producers; however, many of the materials are applicable to producers of other commodities as well.

During the winter of 1998-99, a series of risk management workshops were held in each of the three states to provide useful materials and concepts to wheat producers. The private and public partnerships developed through this project were key in delivering the workshops and creating the curriculum. The curriculum is designed for self-study or educating agricultural professionals or producers in workshop settings. It could be incorporated into in-house training for agri-business and agri-financial firms or into the educational programs those businesses deliver to their clientele.

### **Project Partners**

Washington State University Cooperative Extension  
NW Farm Management Instructors  
Columbia River Bank  
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System  
Oregon Wheat Growers League  
USDA Risk Management Agency, Spokane Regional Office  
Oregon State University Extension Service  
Farm Credit Services  
Intertribal Agriculture Council  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
NCIS Regional Insurance Companies  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
Country Hedging Inc.

## **Project Funding**

The Pacific Northwest Risk Management Education Project was funded by the USDA's Risk Management Education Initiative with the help of the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), Risk Management Agency (RMA), Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and USDA Office of Outreach. Five million dollars was allocated in federal fiscal year 1998 for risk management education. Of that money 3 million dollars was allocated for national competitive grants. The Pacific Northwest Risk Management Education Project was one of 17 to receive funding.

## **Special Thanks**

...to all the partners on the coordinating committee who made this project a success. The coordinating committee consisted of commodity brokers, farmers, insurance agents, lenders, grain growers associations, tribal organizations, the regional risk management agency, community college farm business management instructors, and extension educators. We appreciate the time and effort the committee members devoted to the project. Thank you.

## **Credits**

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Oregon Wheat Growers League

Oregon State University Extension Service

Idaho Grain Producers Association

University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System

Washington Association of Wheat Growers

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### **Funded by**

USDA's Risk Management Education Initiative  
Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service  
USDA Risk Management Agency  
Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
USDA Office of Outreach

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