



## Lee Tilleman

**Vice President, Agribusiness & Food Solutions**

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Lee Tilleman has focused his entire 35-year career providing risk management advice and insurance services to commercial clients including food, grain, feed, agronomy, energy, retail, construction, and transportation. Originating from north central Montana, Lee has deep roots in the rural farming communities. He graduated with Honors from Washington State University with a degree in Business Administration/Finance after a successful football career.

Lee started his risk management career with The Mill Mutuals in 1991 as a Field Representative. In 1994, Lee continued his career with CHS serving in various roles including National Broker and Regional Sales Manager, but always focused on servicing his clients. In 2021, Lee made the move to Alliant Insurance Services, now serving in his current role as a First Vice President in their National Agribusiness Practice. During his career, Lee has earned his Certified Insurance Counselor and Certified Risk Manager designations. Most recently, Lee structured an industry specific group captive program focused on commercial agriculture related clients.

Lee spends his free time chasing grandkids and recreational endeavors in the woods of Idaho.



## Jake Liening

**Market Development Manager**  
**Washington Grain Commission**  
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Jake Liening serves as Market Development Manager for the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), where he works to strengthen demand for Washington grain through market development, trade engagement, and producer outreach.

Liening comes from a production agriculture background and remains closely connected to farming through his family's grass seed operation in the Walla Walla Valley. During summers between school years, he worked harvest, helped unload trucks and load barges for Northwest Grain Growers, and spent time on a custom harvest crew throughout Oregon and Washington. He also spent a brief stint riding bulls as a member of the Northwest Pro Rodeo Association.

Before joining WGC in September 2024, Liening worked in land management, agricultural consulting, and advisory roles. He served as Pacific Northwest Land Manager for Peoples Company, where he led full-service land management activities for approximately \$60 million in farmland assets across the Pacific Northwest. Prior to that, he worked with Root Agricultural Advisory in Boise, supporting financial analysis, revenue tracking, and asset-level due diligence for 30,000 farmland acres in the Mountain West.

Liening earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, with a concentration in economics, from Whitworth University. He has served seven years in the Air National Guard, deployed with the Washington Air National Guard, and was recently selected to fly the F-35 for the Oregon Air National Guard.



## Luke Muller

**Market Analyst, U.S. Wheat Associates**

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Luke Muller is the market analyst in the USW West Coast Office in Portland, Oregon, where he works to transform raw data and news into actionable market commentary. Through his work on the weekly USW Price Report, he provides the reliable, timely insights necessary to foster mutual understanding between domestic producers and international buyers.

Muller joined U.S. Wheat in 2023 as the assistant director of the USW West Coast Office. In this role, he helped host and coordinate foreign delegations and international workshop participants traveling to Portland. He also oversaw the Wheat Analysis Program, coordinating sample collection, milling and testing as well as preparing weekly and seasonal reports on sales, pending export business, futures closing and PNW prices.

Prior to joining U.S. Wheat, he worked as a research assistant in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics at Michigan State University, where he investigated fungal and insect effect on crops in the Midwest. He also served as a consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy.

Muller earned a bachelor's degree in plant and soil sciences from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree in agriculture, food and resource economics from Michigan State University. He was raised on his family's wheat, cotton and sorghum farm in southwestern Oklahoma.



## Leslie Druffel

**Outreach Director, The McGregor Company**  
**Co-Chair, Inland Ports & Navigation Group (IPNG)**  
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Raised near Moscow, Idaho, Leslie values her upbringing in a rural setting, which taught her the importance of hard work. Leslie has put her Agricultural Economics degree from the University of Idaho to good use across the many roles she has held within the company. Today, she serves as Director of Outreach and actively collaborates on public policy, rural economic development, and environmental issues while also engaging in agricultural literacy and workforce development projects. Leslie enjoys working with her hands, from crafting to tinkering in the shop, and the view from her front porch on a dryland wheat farm near Colton, Washington.



## **Eric Haines**

**President**  
**Electri-Tech, Inc. (ETI)**  
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Eric Haines is President of Electri-Tech, Inc. and an experienced automation and industrial control systems specialist with a strong background in PLC programming, SCADA development, and industrial networking. He has led automation projects spanning grain exporting, manufacturing, water, energy, and infrastructure, helping facilities modernize operations through practical, scalable solutions that improve efficiency, reliability, and operational visibility. Eric's work includes integrating technologies such as Ignition, Aveva, OSI PI, SQL databases, and cloud-based solutions, along with supporting system migrations, cybersecurity, and analytics in complex industrial environments. Known for a hands-on, results-oriented approach, he focuses on applying automation in ways that deliver measurable value and long-term performance. Eric is passionate about innovation and sharing industry best practices that help organizations make smarter, more effective use of automation.



## Dave Foster

**Managing Partner, Head of Business Development**  
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Dave Foster is the Co-Founder & Managing Partner of IndeHR, with over 15 years of experience in commercial leadership, logistics, and workforce strategy. A combat veteran with an MBA and SHRM-CP certification, Dave partners with business owners and executive teams to align workforce operations with growth, compliance, and profitability. He brings a practical, disciplined, and results-driven approach to building scalable organizations. Outside of work, he is an active youth sports coach and enjoys hunting and fishing.



## T. Randy Fortenbery

**Endowed Chair, School of Economic Sciences**

**Professor**

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Randy is professor and Thomas B. Mick Endowed Chair in the School of Economic Sciences, and former Director of the IMPACT Center, at Washington State University. Through August 2020 he served as Chairman of the Ag Markets Advisory Committee to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the agency responsible for oversight of U.S. derivative markets. His research focuses on agricultural markets and price performance, international market development, and trade.

Prior to Washington State University, Randy was at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1992-1997. He held the Renk Endowed Chair in Agribusiness, and served as the Associate Director of the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative. He taught in the Ag and Applied Economics Department in the College of Agriculture, and the Finance Department at the UW-Madison School of Business.

From 1998 through 1999 Randy was Director of Research for Frontier Risk Management, a Chicago futures trading company that manages speculative funds and is a risk management consultant and broker to some of the largest agribusiness firms in the U.S. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, and his B.S. and M.S. in Applied Economics from Montana State University.