# NEWS BREAK

**Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, April 24th** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

**Stewardship and Conservation in Agriculture** (Special Section**,** Read article "Washington Wheat Farmers use the Best Technology to produce the Best Wheat"**, page J4**).

### Pre-Reading and Vocabulary
1. What is "agriculture"? What is "conservation" and how do you think it is important in agriculture? What are some conservation methods farmers might use when producing the food we eat?
2. *Vocabulary:  Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.*

| A. **acre** | 1. something that changes or that can be changed; something that varies |
|---|---|
| B. **crop** | 2. someone who sells (goods or services) or ship (goods) to a foreign country or countries |
| C. **customized** | 3. best or most effective |
| D. **exporter** | 4. a plant or plant product that is grown by farmers |
| E. **global positioning system (GPS)** | 5. to gather (a crop) |
| F. **harvested** | 6. designed for very accurate measurement or operation |
| G. **natural resources** | 7. a measure of land area in the U.S. and Britain that equals 4,840 square yards (about 4,047 square meters) |
| H. **optimal** | 8. the amount of something that is produced by a plant, farm, etc. |
| I. **overlap** | 9. a radio system that uses signals from satellites to tell you where you are and to give you directions to other places |
| J. **precision** | 10. to lie over the edge of (something); to cover part of the edge of (something) |
| K. **remotely** | 11. an area that is different from other areas in a particular way |
| L. **sensors** | 12. naturally occurring materials such as coal, fertile land, etc., that can be used by man |
| M. **variable** | 13. to change (something) in order to fit the needs or requirements of a person, business, etc. |
| N. **yield** | 14. a device that detects or senses heat, light, sound, motion, etc., and then reacts to it in a particular way |
| O. **zone** | 15. from a distance |

**Comprehension**

1.  Washington state is the _____ largest wheat-producing state in the United States. **(Multiple choice)**
    a) second
    b) third
    c) fourth
    d) None of the above
2.  _____ agriculture is how Washington wheat farmers are producing some of the best wheat in the world, using less land a fewer resources. **(Fill in the blank)**
3.  According to the article, in what part of Washington is most Washington wheat grown?
4.  Washington is the lead exporter of this type of wheat. **(Multiple choice)**
    a) Hard white wheat
    b) Soft white wheat
    c) Hard red spring wheat
    d) Hard red winter wheat
5.  Name one of the countries, mentioned in the article, that 85 – 90 percent of this exported wheat goes to.
6.  Within a single wheat field, growing conditions can vary greatly just a few yards apart – **true or false**?
7.  One of the most powerful advances in agriculture technology is _____ mapping. **(Fill in the blank)**
8.  Name one thing wheat farmers can use specialized sensors to detect.

**Additional Activities**

1.  Read more about "Wonderful Washington Wheat" at: **http://letsgrowtogether.ws/822-2/** Then write down one interesting fact you learned about to share with your class.

2.  Find a detailed map listing each of the counties in Washington state. Then label each county with a crop that is produced there or something else it produces/makes that is important to the economy of Washington state. Were you surprised by the variety of crops and industries in our state?

**Answer Key to Vocabulary**

A. 7
B. 4
C. 13
D. 2
E. 9
F. 5
G. 12
H. 3
I. 10
J. 6
K. 15
L. 14
M. 1
N. 8
O. 11

**Answer Key to Comprehension Questions**

1. c) fourth
2. Precision
3. Eastern Washington
4. b) soft white wheat
5. Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia and Yemen **(Only one example necessary – answers may vary)**
6. True
7. yield
8. They can use specialized sensors to detect differences in soil moisture, mineral content, to detect the presence of weed, insects. They can detect differences in light reflection on the crop. **(Only one example necessary – answers may vary)**