

April 20 2015

Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee

Statewide Public Services Testimony

Co-Chairman Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chairman Senator Richard Devlin, and members of the committee, my name is Denver Pugh. I am a sixth generation farmer in the Shedd area where my family and I raise seed crops such as grass seed, wheat, meadowfoam, white clover, radish, and white mustard. We have also grown various other crops including fiber flax and barley in the hopes to help develop other markets. And we are currently in the early developmental stages of establishing our hazelnut orchard.

Oregon State University has played a strong role in where my farm is today for I am also a fourth generation graduate from Oregon State University. Oregon State programs such as the extension services and research stations have not only helped my farm personally but Oregon's agricultural industry as a whole. Many of the crops raised and cultural practices we do have been researched and developed at various research stations then brought to us by extension. From plant breeding to water and nutrient management and chemical efficacy trials, these are just some of what OSU's research and extension have given the farmers. Because of this, I urge you to consider the Statewide Public Services budget and know that funding Extension and Research Stations is of utmost importance to Oregon's Agricultural Industry.

The following are just some of the examples of how my farm uses the resources from Oregon State's research stations and extension. The soft white wheat I produce on my farm came from Oregon State's wheat breeding program. At their Hyslop research station they are able to breed wheat that is specific to the Willamette Valley, looking at high yield potential, disease resistance, and other characteristics that are desirable for valley farms. Through tours of the research station and various wheat management meetings presented by OSU Extension, I am able to learn about these new varieties. As with the wheat breeding program, OSU also has other cereal grain crops they are breeding and looking at and it is through the experiment stations annual open house is how I learned about a particular new type of barley that I was later privileged to grow. Meadowfoam is a white flowering plant native to northern California that was propagated and later developed into an oil seed crop grown here in the valley which also got its start from one of OSU's research stations.

Cultural farming practices that have been researched and developed on OSU's research stations have also played an intricate part on how I execute some of the tasks on my own farm. For instance, I learned from, yet another research station open house, that the possible reason why the white mustard I was trying to grow on my farm wasn't producing as much might be directly related to my plant density being to light. I saw that OSU had a white mustard they were researching was similar to the variety I was trying to produce myself, however, their established stand in their plot was considerably better than what I had in my field. It was through seeing this and talking with the researcher at that experiment station that I should try higher seeding rates and narrower row spacings. I am currently applying these new strategies on my farm now. When the phase down of field burning hit the majority of the valley in the '90's OSU was on the forefront at looking at various residue management practices. They looked at many different aspects such as cost analysis of chopping the straw residue back and nutrient loss in removing

the straw. Most of the research was started on the research station then later moved onto the farms for large scale research facilitated by the help of extension. To this day, I base my decision whether or not to remove residue from the nutrient loss analysis done from that research.

Oregon State Extension has been a like a partner on my farm as well as to the industry. It is through OSU Extension that farmers are able to learn about these new cultural practices and varieties that are being developed on various experiment stations. I have been attending multiple seminars learning as much as I can about growing hazelnut trees of which OSU Extension was presenting at all. Learning anything from which is the better variety to plant for what I want to achieve to pruning of the trees for the highest yield potential. And similar to OSU's wheat breeding program, they are also developing various hazelnut varieties with many desirable characteristics for the Willamette Valley.

I recently attended Oregon State's Slug Summit, which was held out of strong requests from various Oregon agricultural industries need to find a solution to the multimillion dollar slug problem. Oregon State Extension and researchers got together to hear various members from the grass seed, christmas tree, and nursery industries concerns and desires to try and find a resolution to this problem. I can't help but feel that it is only going to be through the help of OSU that we may find a solution.

I am also currently working with my Oregon State County Extension agent and OSU's Seed Certification program to do research to try and help convert uncertified Annual Ryegrass fields to certified standards in a shorter time frame without sacrificing quality so growers may produce certified Annual Ryegrass seed that is becoming more of a market demand.

As you can see, I hold Oregon State Extension and their research stations in high regard. I see that they are a very valuable asset to the agricultural industry and more personally, my farm. I encourage you to please consider all that they do for farmers like myself when determining their monetary needs for their budget.

Sincerely,

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