

Good afternoon.

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to share with the members of the Joint ways and means committee. My name is Chris Williams and I am a wheat and pea farmer from Athena and a member of the Liaison Committee for the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center. I have spent the last 12 years working for a family farm established in the 1870's, and this year have had the incredible opportunity to take it over. I would like to share with you some of my experiences where the OSU Statewides have significantly impacted our farm.

A few years ago, we had a field of wheat that fell down as flat as a table. As you can imagine, not only did we lose some production, but it was very difficult to harvest. I called Dr. Hagerty out, and after much investigation and lab time, she determined that we had a resistant strain of a wheat disease called foot rot. Dr. Hagerty was able to recommend different varieties and a chemical treatment that we have implemented with great success.

Recently we also had some fields that needed a different rotation crop. We were interested in growing winter canola, but had no experience with that crop. We are fortunate that Dr. Wysocki in our local OSU extension office has extensive experience with this crop. Dr. Wysocki made several trips to our farm during the course of the season, discussing fertility management, seed selection, pest identification, irrigation management, harvest technique and so on. His experience through years of research and collaboration with growers and industry helped us raise a profitable rotation crop.

We have also had the privilege to partner with Dr. Muchado to look at improving soil health with biochar, and Dr. Barosso helped us with weed control options when we tried adjuki beans.

The research and expertise developed and shared by the Agricultural experiment stations and OSU Extension are critical to the success of my operation as I strive to be a good steward of the land and a good employer in the community, while managing the climate, pest and market challenges that will come. I ask you to fully support the funding request of the OSU Statewides.

Thank you for this opportunity.