

Written Testimony to Support OSU Extension Funding

The value of OSU Extension Polk County has been enormous for the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (POLK SWCD) in many ways. We collaborate on outreach events and tours to our constituents on topics ranging from ODA Ag Channel Maintenance to How to Use Beneficial Pollinating Insects in your Garden and on your Farm. We co-publish a quarterly magazine titled *Cultivating* in the Polk County Itemizer Observer that reaches more than 15,000 subscribers. This magazine has helped our districts and other natural resource partners achieve great attention for our individual and joint programming as well as to the amount of service we are able to provide to our constituents.

Stemming from the magazine, came the shared vision of a Small Farms Outreach Coordinator position that Polk SWCD, OSU Extension Marion County, and OSU Extension Polk County now share.

The Polk SWCD has also worked hand in hand over the last four years with OSU Extension Watershed Management faculty members Derek Godwin and Carlos Ochoa, on a collaborative effort to help commercial farmers achieve hyper-local weather conditions and water quantity and quality information. This important data will provide real time crop management decision making for the two main crops (hazelnuts and grass seed) and help manage a variety of irrigation practices.

Polk SWCD urges full funding of the budget for OSU Extension so that we may continue these essential services.

Thank you for your consideration.

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