

# Committee Selects Jeremiah Dung

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Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center and Oregon State University's Selection Committee are pleased to announce the COARC Plant Pathologist position has officially been filled. After an extensive search and interview process, the selection committee offered the COARC plant pathologist position to Jeremiah Dung, which he accepted. Jeremiah began working at COARC on December 31, 2013.

Jeremiah received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Eastern Washington University (Cheney, WA), where his studies focused on botany and mycology. After graduating from EWU, Jeremiah went on to earn his Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Plant Pathology at Washington State University (Pullman, WA) under the direction of Dr. Dennis Johnson, where he conducted research on *Verticillium* wilt and other diseases found in mint and potatoes. Before arriving at COARC, Jeremiah was a postdoctoral scholar with Philip Hamm at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center. During his time there, he investigated the epidemiology and control of ergot in grass seed crops. Jeremiah has extensive experience working in applied, extension-based research programs. He particularly enjoys working with growers and stakeholders to find solutions to local and regional plant disease problems.

Jeremiah's research program at COARC will focus on plant disease epidemiology, or the study of factors that influence the initiation, development, and spread of plant diseases. The objective of this research will be to advance the understanding of diseases impacting high-value seed and specialty crops grown in Central Oregon, with the ultimate goal of improved and sustainable plant disease management. Specific research areas will include: identifying and detecting sources of disease inoculum; developing a better understanding of how plant pathogens become established and spread; determining environmental factors that contribute to plant disease epidemics; and developing or improving chemical, cultural, and other disease control methods.

Jeremiah was born in Berkeley, California before moving to his adopted hometown of Spokane, Washington. As a youth, he spent his summers at his grandparents' home in Pomeroy, Washington, where he was exposed to agriculture and nature at an early age. In his spare time, Jeremiah enjoys backpacking, fishing, gardening, cooking, bicycling, and spending time in the outdoors. He is also an active member of the American Phytopathological Society, the Mycological Society of America, and the Potato Association of America.