

## **KBREC Faculty & Staff Biographical Sketch**



**Name:** Brian A. Charlton

**Job Title:** Assistant Professor, Extension Agronomy (Cropping Systems), Potato Research, and Master Gardener

### **Professional Background:**

Employed with Oregon State University since 1994; 10 years with the Klamath Basin Research & Extension Center (KBREC), formerly the Klamath Experiment Station. Assistant Professor since 2006. M.S Degree in Agronomy from Iowa State University (2006) and B.S Degree in Crop & Soil Science from Oregon State University (1994).

### **Research & Educational Expertise:**

Research interests are to provide Klamath Basin growers with superior varieties of agronomic crops with attention towards improving quality, yield, pest and disease resistance, and increased efficacy in cultural management regimes. Research is aimed at improving grower net economic returns allowing our local industry to remain more competitive while maintaining a healthy environment. Research results are disseminated to growers, shippers, agricultural service providers, etc. using various outreach venues.

### **Current Program Assignments:**

Main responsibilities can be grouped into three categories: Research, Extension, and Master Gardeners. I serve as Principal Investigator of Klamath Basin potato variety development and cultural management programs. As such, I conduct applied research to carry out the mission of statewide and Tri-State (ID, OR, WA) potato variety development programs. I also conduct applied research to address cropping systems concerns and opportunities for the Klamath Basin as directed by various crop advisory boards. I also lead efforts to disseminate research results and provide educational programming to appropriate clientele throughout the Klamath Basin to ensure they have the necessary tools to maintain environmentally and economically viable farming operations. Lastly, I provide leadership and program support for the Klamath County Master Gardener Program.

### **Emerging Areas of Interest:**

Identifying alternative crops adaptable to the Klamath Basin could provide new market channels and bolster revenue for basin producers. I've cooperated with colleagues to identify and screen potential alternative crops for the region. In addition, rising input costs (fuel, fertilizer, crop protection chemicals, etc) have created tighter economic margins for Klamath Basin producers. I'm currently conducting research on green manure cover crops to see how they can best be integrated into currently cropping rotations and whether their use can help offset cropping system inputs.

### **Goals:**

Conduct research and provide educational outreach activities to help ensure crop producers in the Klamath Basin remain economically viable and an integral component of the regional economy.