

KBREC Faculty & Staff Biographical Sketch

Name: Darrin Culp, B.S.
Job Title: Faculty Research Assistant

Professional

Background: Employed by Klamath Basin Research & Extension Center (KBREC) since 2007. Bachelors in Crop and Soil Science from Oregon State University (2002). Owner/operator of mixed produce farm since 2005; worked with various Certified Organic farms, New Mexico 2002-2005.

Research and/or Educational Expertise:

Education emphasis in crop science, including various courses in production, disease and pest management, tissue culture, genetics, and breeding. Experience in organic crop production, and the management challenges facing producers. Current research includes potato variety development; cultural management of new potato varieties; production practices related to potatoes as well as other crops.

Current Program Assignments: Member of a broader statewide and regional potato variety development team focused on improving both fresh and processed potatoes. Serves as a member of a multi-person applied research team at KBREC to investigate variety development, cultural management, and various other production practices relating primarily to potatoes but also for other crops. Provides support in evaluating potential alternative crops at a local level and environmental monitoring projects. Works individually and cooperatively with other researchers and KBREC staff to manage experimental plots, collect and analyze data, and report research results.

Emerging Areas of Interest: Research related to increasing producer marketability and profitability while maintaining environmental sustainability. Analyzing feasibility of this objective through lowered inputs or manipulating production practices. Additional areas of interest include release of new varieties with disease and pest resistance; use of biologicals to out compete or control pests; viability of utilizing minimal tillage practices in the Klamath Basin.

Professional Principles:

I believe in

- performing research that is relevant and can be extended to growers
- cooperating with colleagues and growers, across multiple disciplines, to develop projects that are viable for the local community
- seeking advice of close peers before consulting elsewhere
- asking questions and continuing to challenge myself and those I work with to keep growing professionally
- education through example

4/9/2008