

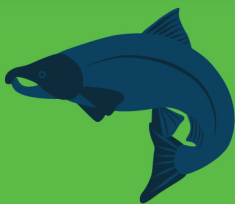


Sustainable Transitions

“Farming is my life and it’s what I’ve always wanted to do. I never thought of doing anything else. My father’s life was farming and he passed that on to me and I hope to pass it on to Chris.”

Bob Johns, Oregon
Soft White Winter Wheat Farmer

Bob Johns has been farming all his life. After graduating from Oregon State University in 1973 with a degree in agronomy, he came back to the family farm in Northeast Oregon, where he farms today with his partner, Chris Williams. The young and seasoned farmer work together to grow Soft White Winter wheat, green peas and alfalfa. Bob’s farm has been in his family since 1873, but as he’ll be ready to retire soon and there’s no family to take over, he’s handing the reins to Chris, who began working summers for Bob when he was in high school. The two share a passion for farming and taking care of the land. Implementing the latest technology and best management practices is important to both farmers. They want to grow the best crop possible, while at the same time leaving the land better for the next generation.



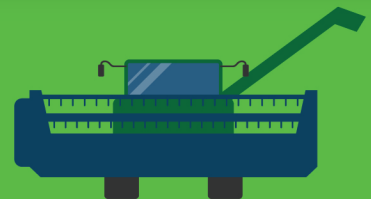
SALMON SAFE

Bob and Chris have worked to become a certified Salmon - safe farm by restricting products used on land near water and introducing biological plantings for increased biodiversity on their farm.



NO-TILL FARMING

Bob’s farm transitioned to 100% no-till farming in 2011. The goal was to reduce soil erosion completely and since implementing no-till farming, their soil health has improved immensely.



ORGANIC FARMING

Bob and Chris have transitioned some of their acres to Organic. Though a small part of their operation, they use a combination of organic and conventional methods on their farm.



Passing the Baton

Farming is often a tradition passed from father to son, from generation to generation. However, that's not always an option. Bob wanted to ensure that his farmland continues to remain farmland and with no children to pass the farm to, he turned to a long-time family friend, Chris Williams. Chris farms alongside Bob now, and will eventually take over the operation when Bob retires.



“ Chris loves the land. He keeps me on the cutting edge of how to reinvent the wheel and remain progressive. Chris pushes me hard on looking at the newest and latest for technology and I don't have a problem with that. We're both a good team to work toward progressing together. ”

Better Technology, Higher Sustainability

In the more than 50 years, Bob has been farming, he says technological changes have enhanced his farm the most. From improved breeding programs creating better seeds to their latest purchase of a drone to monitor crop health, technology has helped Bob and Chris improve the management of their land. The more they utilize technology to gather data and information, Bob and Chris are better able to make informed decisions about what inputs (fertilizer, insecticides, herbicides) to use and how their management is effecting their yield, profitability and the health of their land.

