

## **Josh Duling: Born to Farm**

Josh Duling knew he was destined to be farmer from the time he spoke his first word, which happened to be “tractor”. He’s a 4<sup>th</sup> generation wheat farmer in Maupin whose great grandfather moved to the area in the 1940s from Madras.

Over the years Josh’s grandfather, then his father, became involved in the operation as a tradition that was passed down in the family. When it came time for Josh to become involved in the farm operation his dad encouraged him to try something else first— so that he could make sure it was truly what he wanted.

“Dad said go spend four years doing something else before you can come back. He really tried to talk me out of it, but I wanted to do it one way or another.”

That’s exactly what Josh did. He got a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Sciences with minors in Crop Science, Soil Science and Business at Eastern Oregon University so that he would be prepared when the time came to move back to take over the family farm.

The sense of tradition and legacy associated with the farm and how the practices have changed are things that Josh is often reminded of.

“Grandpa told me when they used to harvest, they had a John Deere 55 combine and it had a 10 or 12 foot header. It would take weeks to just harvest the home place. Now with what we have, it takes 3 or 4 days.”

Josh said the other major change was transitioning to no-till farming in 2013. The transition has helped their operation significantly by saving them time and resources, reducing passing through the ground multiple times.

Sustainable practices are important so that he can continue his family legacy. He wants to enable his son Reece to have the same opportunity to take over the farm operation in the future that he got from this father.

“I want our farm to be sustainable for my son to be able to come back and farm so we can carry on to the next generation after that.”

When Josh isn’t with his family or in a combine, you will find him serving his community. Whether it’s serving as the Wasco County President of the Oregon Wheat Growers League or fighting fires as a volunteer member of the local Juniper Flats Rural Fire Protection District, Josh serves others and works to give back as part of his own legacy.