CSU Crops Testing Hires New Agronomist

Ed Asfeld recently joined CSU’s Crops Testing Program as our new agronomist. He is replacing Jim Hain, who spent over 30 years working with the Crops Testing program and retired in February. Ed is based at the USDA-ARS Central Great Plains Research Station in Akron, Colorado. He will plant and harvest multiple crop variety trials across eastern Colorado, including trials of wheat, corn, sunflower, grain sorghum, and oilseeds. He also repairs and maintains equipment, machinery, and vehicles valued at nearly $1 million that are used in the program. As the principal field person for the Crops Testing program, Ed will work with graduate students, Cooperative Extension agents, Agricultural Research Station personnel, and staff at CSU and other universities. He will also collaborate with area farmers, scientists, government representatives, and crop commodity groups.

Ed grew up on a family farm and graduated from high school in a small West-Central Minnesota town. After high school he went to North Dakota State University – all while working as a custom combiner. He married his wife Michelle in 1989, and graduated from college in 1990. After graduation he worked in Wisconsin for a year as a crop consultant, and then from 1991 through 2002 they farmed full-time while Ed did custom combining. From 2002 through 2010 Ed was a retail agronomist with Farmers Co-op of Wilmot in South Dakota. In 2010, they moved to Colorado and he worked at Sterling as a manager and retail agronomist. In 2014, until he was hired for this position, Ed worked in South Dakota. Ed has been a Certified Crop Advisor since 2004.

Crop variety testing has been a public service offered by Colorado State University for over 75 years. Our current Crops Testing Program provides Colorado crop producers with current, reliable, unbiased, and research-based crop variety information for making better variety planting decisions.

We welcome Ed and his family into the CSU community. We are looking forward to the contribution and will make to Colorado agriculture and Colorado State University.