

5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer looking  
for solutions to soil health and  
sustainability.



## C Farms

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# How did we get here?

- Emotional response to Spring erosion





# WSU

## holistic management program

- Think outside the box



- Learn from the past, but use it wisely
  - Your car has a rear-view mirror for a reason... you don't drive by looking at it all the time but it's a great tool to see where you have come from.



- “OK – given that it ‘can not’ be done .....  
**IF** it could, what would that look like ?”



# Improve soil health #1 : Transition to direct seed & grass strips





# Improve soil health #2 : Rotations

Choices limited by soil type and very low rainfall

- Typically grow Spring and Winter wheat & barley



- Continuous cropping of same plant species depletes soil of nutrients
- Chemical additives (fertilizer & herbicides) are only band-aids

*“Growers need to respond to market signals to stay in business, but they should do so within the context of sound agronomic crop rotation systems. To do otherwise is to risk the long-term sustainability of their farming enterprise. Growers must remain aware of opportunities to incorporate other crops into their wheat-based operations. Although there is little doubt winter wheat will remain the foundation of dryland cropping systems in Eastern Washington for the foreseeable future, greater cropping diversity should be the goal of all wheat growers”*

*Quote from WSU personnel Drew Lyons and Scot Hulbert in Wheat life Magazine, January 2016*



# Thank You



# Have A Great Day