

GO Team Spotlight

Phill Lindgren



The year was 1980-something when a young man walked into his local employment office and wrote down a phone number from the bulletin board. A local seed company was looking for seed cleaner operator. Although he didn't know exactly what that job entailed, he applied and was offered the position. Little did he know it at the time, but that one little decision would make a big impact on the Oregon grass seed industry.

Phill Lindgren started his career in the seed industry more than 30 years ago. In that time, he has held nearly every job in the warehouse and office. Over the years, his many titles have included: warehouse worker, truck driver, shipping and receiving clerk, assistant warehouse manager and more. Since 2014, he has been Grassland Oregon's Logistics Manager and as of June 2019, he can add President of the Oregon Seed Association to that list.

Phill describes himself as hard-working, conscientious, sometimes grumpy (depending who you ask) and someone who always tries to do what is right. Working in the seed industry for more than three decades, in various positions, has given Phill what he believes to be a totally different perspective than what others in the industry might have. "Not many top-level management people in this industry can say they've blended seed, slung bags and driven the delivery truck," he claims, "I believe that's what sets me apart."

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In his position with Grassland Oregon, he handles all the inbound and outbound freight, making sure inventory is correct and product is where it needs to be, when it needs to be there. Despite the 35-minute commute, he enjoys coming to work every day because there is always something different, even doing the same job. "Each day is a new challenge, a new puzzle for me to solve," he says. Being a part of the GO Team gives him purpose. He loves the laid-back atmosphere at the GO office saying, "it's not your typical corporate hierarchy. The bosses genuinely care about the employees. Everybody on the team is asked their opinion and everyone's opinion matters. It's really more like a family here." Phill also enjoys that, more often than not, donuts can be found in the office breakroom.



Not only does he enjoy coming to work, Phill says he sleeps better at night and is happier with life in general since joining the GO team. “There’s just something about working for a company that’s not afraid to think outside the box. Everyone here puts the customer’s needs first. We try and find the solution to their problem. If we don’t know the answer, we will find out. If we don’t have the right products, we will refer them to the person who does, even if that’s the competition.” In all his years in the industry, he says he hasn’t seen many other companies that have that level of commitment to their customers.

It wasn’t long after starting at Grassland Oregon, another GO Team member, Duane Klundt, convinced Phill to join the Board of Directors for the Oregon Seed Association. Phill had not been involved in a position like that before but he was up for the new experience. His hope in joining was that it would challenge him and get him outside of his comfort zone. “I’ve always been afraid of public speaking, but with my role at OSA, I have to get over that fear.” He believes that facing his fears will not only help to make him a better employee for Grassland Oregon but also a better working partner for others in the industry. He’s hoping that in his year of presidency with the OSA he can help make some positive changes. “I’d love to see more people involved in the meetings and functions, whether that’s new members or existing one. More people at the table means more ideas and that’s better for the whole industry.”



When looking ahead, Phill is hopeful. He sees himself still doing what he is doing 10 years from now, just on a larger scale. He notes, “Grassland Oregon continues to grow. We continue to add new employees and are continually releasing new, innovative products for consumers.” He may have been at this for 30 years, but he shows no signs of stopping.