Bio:

Kelsey Galimba received her PhD from the University of Washington in 2015 where she characterized genes responsible for floral organ development in meadow-rue. She then completed a post-doc with USDA-ARS that used a combination of molecular and horticultural approaches to study fruit development in apple, peach and plum. She joined MCAREC as an assistant professor of horticulture in November of 2020, and is currently developing project plans to address issues related to fruit quality and yield in pear and sweet cherry. The overall goal of her research program will be to optimize orchard production systems for these two crops in order to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of Mid-Columbia growers.

Abstract:

The Mid-Columbia region of northern Oregon is well-known for its tree fruit agriculture, and is a top producer of both pear and sweet cherry. In fall of 2020, I started as the assistant professor of tree fruit horticulture at the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center (MCAREC), the OSU branch station located in Hood River, OR. In addition to introducing both the region and the station, this presentation will highlight my career path, from grad school where I focused on more basic research, to a post-doc with USDA-ARS, to my current program and its areas of focus. Projects in my lab span a wide range of topics, including the modeling of cold hardiness, Plant Growth Regulator effects, and rootstock performance. These, as well as my future plans for my program, focus on the common theme of plant reproductive development, with an emphasis on applied science that benefits the growers of the region.