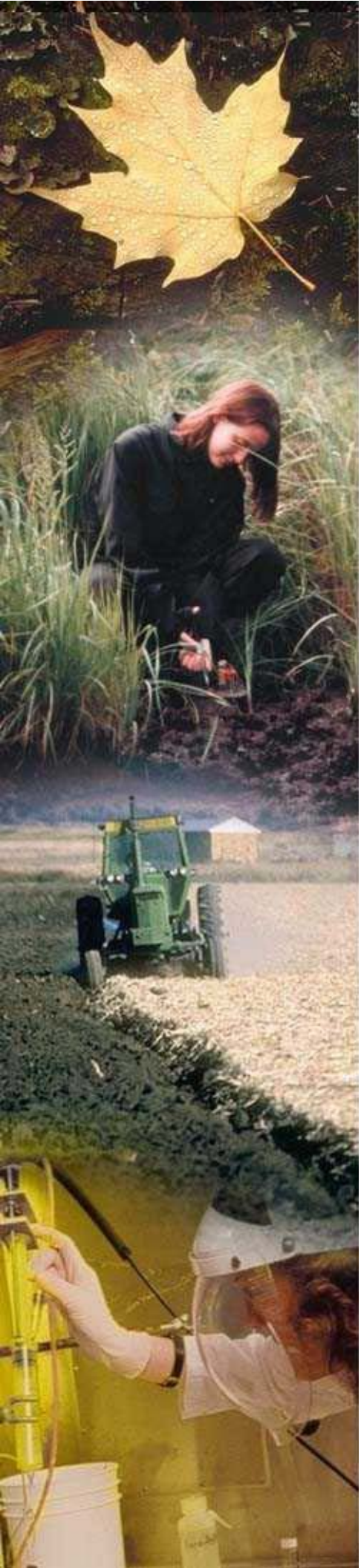


CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy **July 2005**

President's Message

I would like to start my first message by extending a sincere appreciation to Paul Jefferson for his hard work during the past two years in providing a strong leadership to our organization. Starting with the CSA 2005 annual meeting in Edmonton, the new CSA executive began formulating plans for conducting the business of our organization. The new team is full of energy and enthusiasm which gives me confidence that our organization has what is needed to move ahead with new initiatives to foster information exchange and cooperation among agronomists.

One of the strongest messages I sensed during our annual meeting is that we need to work hard to insure that we are fulfilling the objective of the CSA. Namely: '1) to bring about a closer cooperation and coordination of the work of Canadian agronomists and agronomists of other countries who are members of the Society; 2) to provide the opportunity to report, exchange, and evaluate information pertinent to agronomy in Canada and globally'. As you go through this issue of our newsletter you should sense that the new executive team is focused on improving our ability to fulfill this mandate.

The last five years has been very busy dealing with the impact of AIC restructuring which resulted in the CSA taking charge of all aspects of the daily operations of the organization, as well as, future planning. To spread some of the additional work which resulted from the CSA becoming an independent organization a new committee was formed and activated at the 2005 annual meeting - CSA Conference Committee (please see page 7 and 8 for details). This committee will ensure that effective planning is being conducted in a timely fashion and the committee members will take an active role in supporting the local organizing committees of CSA conferences.

Your executive team is in the process of developing a two-year action plan. We would appreciate your input. Please forward your ideas and suggestions directly to me or any member of the executive team. I encourage you to become more involved in the business of your organization. The CSA needs your contribution in order to fulfill its mandate.

Yousef A. Papadopoulos,
President

From the Office

Hope summer has been good. Manitoba has really become involved in climate change, and we have a new season … called the Manitoba Monsoon. But everyone seems to have a weather story this year.

There are weather cycles, and there are CSA cycles, and its time to rev up the CSA cycle again. Plans are already underway for the meeting in 2006, and the Executive anticipate rolling out a number of changes in the next few months. Part of this has to be to involve members as much as possible.

To start, we are revamping the Careers Service. Valtcho Jeliazkov (vjeliazkov@nsac.ns.ca) did a review of the career service we offer on the CSA website. This is run by BrainHunter, and is linked to AIC and CSSS at this stage. There are competitive suppliers, such as AgCall JobAds (www.agcall.com). If you have had any experiences with the CSA site career site or any others, please let Valtcho know what you discovered. I suspect people have not been using our site as fully as could be.

CSA has continued as a paying partner in the Plant Management Network (PMN), which gives each of you a discount for their on-line publications. There was a brochure and discount coupon mailed to you this year, and you'll hear more about the other discounts through the year. PMN also provides CSA with enhanced visibility, and we hope other opportunities. It costs CSA, so see if there are benefits you can use. Check out http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/.

Corporate sponsorship remains important to CSA, both for the society as a whole and for special events such as the conference and the student awards. This is not a free ride. Our sponsors are under enormous financial pressure, and they scrutinize CSA very carefully. We are leaders in Canada, this is what the sponsors respect about CSA, and we need to keep CSA sharp and on top.

Remember that the best way to keep CSA effective is to help it grow. Please promote CSA to students, and if anyone would like brochures to pass out at meetings or leave in strategic locations in your office, let us know! As always, any comments about CSA or the head office functions, very welcome. Thanks.

Steve S.
Executive Director, Canadian Society of Agronomy

CSA 2006 Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) will be on August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, in Halifax, NS. The Meeting will be jointly conducted with the Annual Meeting of Canadian Society of Animal Science (CSAS). We have compiled a list of possible symposia for this conference which include:

- Whole Farm Nutrient Management
- Organic Food Production and Farming
- Feed and Food Quality
- Farm Nutrient Management
- Forages and Pasture Management
- Cropping Systems
- Oil Seeds and Other High-Value Crops
- Heavy Metals and Other Toxins in Soils, Plants, and Animals
- Genetics for an Uncertain Climate
- Novel Animal, Feeds, and Foods
- Modeling – Biological and Agricultural Systems Dynamics and Complexity.

We would appreciate any input regarding selecting the right program for the 2006 conference. Suggestions for other symposia are welcome. Please forward your comments and ideas directly to the co-chairs of the local organizing committee.

Co-chairs of the local organizing committee from the CSA:
Dr. Valtcho Jeliazkov at the NSAC, Ph: 902 893 7859, vjeliazkov@nsac.ca

Announcement of

THE ATLANTIC AGRONOMY WORKSHOP

Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, 75 Kent Street, Charlottetown, PEI
January 17-18, 2006

Organized by Canadian Society of Agronomy

Additional information concerning the program, submitting volunteer papers / posters, hotel, and registration will be sent out to regional organizations and posted in the fall of 2005 under Events on the Canadian Society of Agronomy web page at: http://www.agronomycanada.com

The Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) is organizing the third forum in the Atlantic Region for those interested in agronomy (cereals, corn, forages, pulse crops, soybeans, etc.) to get together to exchange ideas and research results. The Workshop was changed from an annual meeting to one held on even numbered years starting in 2006. The Workshop will be organized as a 2-day meeting of invited papers in specific Symposium topic areas, and volunteer papers and posters. The event is for Agrologists, CCAs, professors and graduate students, and it will be run as an "at cost" event covered by registration fees.

This meeting is planned to provide a forum for presentation of new information and discussion on all aspects of agronomic crop production in the Atlantic Region such as:

Crop Production

- Crop management practices - conventional and organic
- Crop rotations
- Crop fertility
- Cropping effects on environment and greenhouse gasses
- Cultivar development and evaluation
- Soil and water

Pest Management (diseases, insects, nematodes, weeds)

- Field experiments and results from long-term / rotation studies
- Interaction of management practices for pest control
- Plant and pest biodiversity and changes in cropping systems
- Management and control of individual pest species and weeds

Mark your calendar, and plan to attend to present the latest results from your research.

NOTE: Application has been made for Certified Education Credits to be awarded for this Workshop.

CSA—New Executive Members:

Tom Bruulsema (President-Elect):

Tom Bruulsema was born in Hamilton, Ontario and grew up in Ancaster on a mixed crop and hog farm. He received a BSc (Agriculture) in 1983 and MSc (Crop Science) in 1985 from the University of Guelph. He subsequently worked for a year in crop physiology research with Dr. M. Tollenaar in Guelph and for four years as a research agronomist with the Mennonite Central Committee in Bangladesh. Beginning in 1991, he undertook research in nitrogen cycling with Dr. J.M. Duxbury at Cornell University, leading to development of a method to simultaneously determine carbon and nitrogen isotopes in soil microbial biomass. He received his PhD (Soil Science) in 1994.

In 1994, Dr. Bruulsema worked for nine months in a research associate position in Soil Science at the University of Minnesota with Dr. G.L. Malzer. His research focused on site-specific management of nitrogen on corn, and explored relationships among crop yield, crop response to nitrogen, soil properties and topography.

Dr. Bruulsema joined the Potash & Phosphate Institute at the end of 1994. He is based in Guelph, Ontario, and covers the Northeast Region. His research program focuses on the benefits of phosphorus and potassium for the crops of the region. Important discoveries include an increased frequency of response to potassium fertilizer in minimum tillage corn in Ontario, and a relationship between health-promoting isoflavones and potassium nutrition in soybeans.

Dr. Bruulsema served as president for the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America, from 1999-2002. He has also been active in promoting the Certified Crop Adviser Program, leading the committees responsible for developing the performance objectives and exams for Ontario and Atlantic Canada. He has served on the exam and procedures committee for the International CCA Program, as chair of the Ontario exam committee, as chair of the Ontario Board (1999-2000), and as Canadian regional representative to the International CCA Board. He served as chair of the International CCA Board from 2001 through 2004.

Dr. Bruulsema is actively involved in the leadership of the fertilizer industry. He chairs the Agronomy, Research & Environment Committee of the Ontario Agri Business Association and the Canadian Fertilizer Institute's Agronomy-Environment Committee. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Canadian Society of Agronomy, the Canadian Society of Soil Science, the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America. He holds membership in the Gamma Sigma Delta honor society and is a Certified Crop Adviser in the Northeast Region.

Gavin Humphreys (Western Director):

Gavin Humphreys has been a wheat breeder at AAFC Cereal Research Centre in Winnipeg since 1996. His work is focused on the development of new and improved varieties of hard white and early maturing bread wheat. To date, Gavin has released or shared in the release of 9 wheat varieties from 4 different wheat classes.

Gavin graduated with a M.Sc. in forage breeding and biotechnology from the University of Guelph in 1988, and earned his Ph.D. in Oat Breeding and Quality from McGill University, Montreal, in 1994. After his PhD, he accepted a position as a postdoctoral fellow at the Cereal Research Centre, conducting research in molecular genetics of protein in wheat.

Dr. Humphreys is an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Plant Science of the University of Manitoba where he supervises a PhD student whose research focuses on preharvest sprouting resistance in white wheat. Dr. Humphreys is beginning his second term as Western Director on the executive of the Canadian Society of Agronomy and was recently elected Secretary of Plant Canada.

Tiequan Zhang (Eastern Director):

Awards Presented in 2005

CSA Fellows - 2005

Dr. Surya Acharya:

Dr. Acharya is recognized as a leading scientist in Western Canada for his work on traditional and non-traditional forage crops. He has developed and commercialized two high yielding alfalfa cultivars (AC Blue J & AC Longview), one high yielding cicer milkvetch cultivar (AC Oxley II) and in collaboration with Dr. S. Bittman of Agassiz BC, three Cocksfoot Mottle virus resistant cultivars Chilliwack-VR, Haida-VR & Cheam-VR registered in 2005. Dr. Acharya has developed the first North American perennial cereal rye (PC rye) cultivar ACE-1 and released it for multiplication and distribution in Canada. He also developed the first forage fenugreek cultivar Tristar with high yield. Dr. Acharya collected genetic material from the Canadian Rocky Mountains and helped in the development of nine native Alberta grasses: AEC Highlander slender wheatgrass, AEC Hillcrest awned slender wheatgrass, AEC Blueridge alpine bluegrass, AEC Glacier alpine bluegrass; AEC Mountaineer broad-glumed wheatgrass; ARC Mountain View June grass; ARC Sentinel spike trisetum; ARC Vista alpine fescue and ARC Plateau Rocky Mountain fescue. These cultivars were developed for reclamation and revegetation of high elevation disturbances.

Dr. Acharya developed new knowledge on the health benefits of fenugreek. With Dr. Basu of U of A, he has found important constituents in fenugreek seeds that are responsible for lowering blood sugar and cholesterol in human. Dr. Acharya at present is working on increasing seed yield and quality to improve usefulness of prairie grown fenugreek seed as a nutraceutical and/or health food. The extent of Dr. Acharya's research has been captured in a total of 77 scientific manuscripts, 1 book, 2 book chapters, 6 review articles and over 200 other publications.

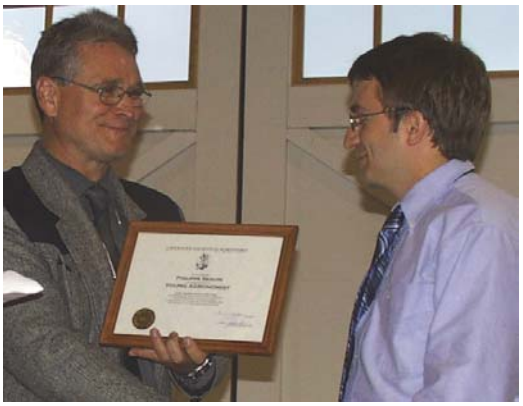
Dr. George Clayton:

Since starting his career in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 1982, Dr. Clayton has investigated innovative integrated crop management techniques to address constraints and develop opportunities in cropping systems in western Canada. Dr. Clayton was an early innovator in the area of conservation tillage management. His vision has been to move beyond the study of effects of single factors on different crop species to investigate complex interactions of multiple factors on various crops. This integrated approach, involving active collaboration with scientists working in a range of disciplines, has resulted in new findings related to integrated associations between insect herbivores, weeds, soil fertility levels, and insect natural enemies. His findings have been published in more than 65 scientific papers, 8 book chapters and over 200 proceedings articles. This body of work has resulted in improved understanding of complex relationships among weeds, disease and soil microbial associations, particularly in conservation tillage systems.

Dr. Clayton has contributed extensively to extension and industrial education in the areas of integrated crop management, field pea management, barley production and conservation tillage - locally, nationally and internationally. He has presented well over 400 technology transfer presentations throughout North America and overseas. Dr. Clayton is actively involved with a number of producer organizations, such as the Alberta Canola Growers, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Barley Commission, and Conservation Farmers' Association. Dr. Clayton led an effort sponsored by the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute to develop an Integrated Crop Management Strategy for Alberta, with the goal of uniting researchers from various disciplines and different research institutions across Alberta to work together on complex integrated crop management issues facing the agricultural industry. The project resulted in development of the ICM Strategy for the province. Dr. Clayton co-developed, with Drs. Chang and Morgan Jones from Lethbridge Research Centre, the CIDA-funded Hebei Dryland Project Outreach program that was designed to extend the adoption of project results to 3 million Chinese farmers covering 15 M hectares. The economic and environmental benefits have the potential to increase net farm income, enhance soil and water conservation, and increase research management and scientific capacity in China.

CSA Young Agronomist - 2005

Dr. Philippe Seguin:



Since arriving at McGill University in July 2000 Dr. Seguin has developed a successful independent research program in basic and applied agricultural sciences. Currently, his main research objectives are to increase knowledge of:

- Factors affecting the flavonoid content of legumes in order to develop their use as nutraceuticals
- Nodulation specificity in legume-rhizobia symbioses
- The potential and limitations of forage species in Eastern Canada.

Dr. Seguin's own research program has attracted over $1 million in support and he has written or contributed to proposals that have secured a total of over $5 million in research funding. He has established successful and productive collaborations with scientists within McGill University's Departments of Animal Science and Biosystems Engineering and with researchers in other institutions in Quebec, the U.S.A. and overseas. Dr. Seguin's research has led to 25 peer-reviewed publications.

CSA Student Awards - 2005

Saikat Kumar Basu:

Saikat Basu, from the University of Lethbridge, was awarded Best Student Oral Paper for "Seed yield improvement in fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum graecum* L.) using mutation breeding".

Heather Mason:

Heather Mason, from the University of Alberta, was awarded Best Student Poster Paper for "What constitutes a competitive wheat variety under organic management"?

Meeting: Identifying Strategies to Support Sustainable Agriculture in Canada

The Agricultural Institute of Canada, in collaboration with l'Ordre des agronomes du Québec, and other partners, is hosting the national forum: Identifying Strategies to Support Sustainable Agriculture in Canada to address the issues and explore approaches to achieving measurable advances towards the goals for sustainability. The preliminary program is posted on the AIC website at http://www.aic.ca/conferences/upcoming.cfm

The forum will bring together researchers, professional agrologists, producers, environmental NGOs and government policy makers to provide status and trends updates on the issues, examine advances in technology and innovation, present case studies of best environmental on-farm practices, and stimulate discussion on existing gaps in research and policy that need to be addressed.

The deadline for early registration is August 31, 2005. Registration fees include participation in all sessions, morning and afternoon beverage breaks, two luncheons and a networking reception on Monday, November 7. There is an additional reception for AIC members only, on Sunday, November 6.

Payment of registration fees can be made by purchase order, cheque, or money order payable to AIC Sustainable Agriculture Forum. You may also pay by MasterCard or Visa. Please send the completed registration form with payment to:

Forum Administrator 1027 Pembroke Street East, Suite 200 Pembroke, Ontario, K8A 3M4
T: 1-800-868-8776 (North America)
T: 613-732-7068 (International)
F: 613-732-3386

You may also register on the AIC Web site and provide credit card information through the secure server. Registrations on-line will be considered complete when payment has been processed. www.aic.ca/conferences/registration_online.cfm

Newly Formed CSA Conference Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the CSA Conference Committee is to provide an effective framework to ensure conferences and workshops organized by CSA is the choice forum to present and share agronomic scientific findings, as well as, facilitate networking opportunities among current and future Canadian agronomists. There needs to be change in the CSA approach and format in organizing the CSA Annual Conference and workshops. The committee will be mandated to develop bold long-term formats and programs.

Terms of Reference

Function(s):

1. Forward planning and/or facilitation future conferences and workshops;
2. Suggest venues for future conferences (location, dates, themes . . .);
3. Receive invitations or invite other societies to have a joint conference with the CSA;
4. Develop appropriate structure for future conferences;
5. Support the local organizing committee (possibly oversee the scientific program, abstracts, proceedings, publication of manuscripts. . .).

Composition of Committee:

1. Chair
2. Secretary
3. Western Director
4. Eastern Director
5. Current year and the upcoming conference location and co-chairs

Meetings:

1. Bimonthly (more as we get closer to Annual Conference date);
2. Notes from meetings will be kept and circulated.

Reporting to:

1. Executives' meetings
2. Annual CSA meeting

Canadian Journal of Plant Science/Revue Canadien de Phytotechnie
2004 Editor's report for Volume 84 (2004)

Overview

The number of manuscripts submitted to the Journal in 2004 slightly decreased compared to the past year (199 in 2004; 223 in 2003). At the time of writing this report, a total of 121 papers (submitted in 2004) were either accepted or in the late stages of review with a high likelihood of acceptance, compared with 169 in 2003. Some increase in the number of manuscripts submitted is indicated in 2005; with 120 submitted between January and June of this year.

Categorization of the 2004 papers:

54 Accepted Full Papers
11 Accepted Short Communications
15 Accepted Cultivar Descriptions
4 Accepted Reviews (including papers in the Biology of Canadian Weeds series)
37 Manuscripts still in process (as of May 1, 2005)
10 Papers were withdrawn
68 Manuscripts rejected

The number of review and symposium papers submitted to the Journal in 2005 increased compared to the past year. However, the number of accepted cultivar descriptions remains well below average for the Journal. Processing time in 2004 is generally unchanged: the minimum and maximum time with Associate Editors at 45 and 255 days, respectively, while response from authors also improved slightly in 2004, with a minimum turnaround of only 6 days to a maximum of 232. This is an issue the editorial team is trying to address.

Origin and Type of Manuscripts

The majority of manuscripts submitted to the Journal in 2004 were from Canadian research institutions. There was a notable increase in submissions from international institutions but rejection in this category continues to be high. Federal government research labs accounted for the majority of submissions in 2004. University submissions were higher than in any of the 3 previous years. There was a slight increase in manuscripts in agronomy and horticulture while pest management categories decreased. The number of French language manuscripts in 2004 was lower than 2003.

I would like to thank our entire team of Associate Editors for their assistance and unfailing commitment in the Journal affairs and the priceless support provided by the CSA, CSHS and CSWS executive. Once again, on behalf of the editorial team and the Journal, I would like to point out that we continue to be blessed with the extraordinary service provided by Tim Fenton and Laurie Scott.

Yousef A. Papadopoulos

CSA Conference Committee Report

Yousef A. Papadopoulos, Valtcho Jeliazkov, Shabtai Bittman,
Gavin Humphreys and Karamanos Rigas

Concerns were raised regarding the CSA Annual Conference:

1. Attendance is very low;
2. Forward planning is lacking: - By now we should have committees and plans for the 2007 Annual Conference. In fact now is the time to start planning the 2008 conference. Furthermore, we know our society is responsible for coordinating the 2009 Plant Canada meeting; this is a major project and should be activated soon.
3. We must be bold and revamp our approach. We need a new structure and approach; possibly peer review and publish all manuscripts in our program (invited and volunteered)
4. Regional meetings
   - As an organization we need to define how we can serve our members;
   - Expand current scope;
     - One good example – the 3rd CSA Atlantic Workshop.

Plans for the 2006 CSA Annual Meeting/Conference:

1. Location: Nova Scotia
2. Joint meeting with the CSAS (we should approach other societies such as CSHS)
3. Co-Chairs: Valtcho Jelicezkov and Kris Pruski (NSAC)
4. Symposium: Shabtai Bittman and Gavin Humphreys
5. Awards: Rigas Karamanos
6. Sponsorship: Rigas Karamanos and Steve Sheppard
7. Yousef and Valtcho met with organizers of the 2006 CSAS at NSAC and identified possible dates (August 2-4).

Plans for 2007 CSA Annual Meeting/Conference:

1. Location: Saskatoon
2. Joint meeting with Plant Canada

Plans for 2008 CSA Annual Meeting/Conference:

1. Location Options:
   a. Prince George, BC (Joint meeting with CSSS)
   b. Joint meeting with ASA
   c. Guelph, Ontario

Plans for 2009 CSA Annual Meeting/Conference:

1. Location: Nova Scotia
2. Joint meeting with Plant Canada
3. Co-Chairs: Yousef Papadopoulos and Gavin Humphreys will assume this role for now.

In Memorium:

Dr. Stan Freyman:

Stan Freyman a retired Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada research scientist passed away on Jan 2nd, 2005. Stan was an active member of CSA for several years, serving as president from 1979-1980 and as an associate editor for the Can. J. Plant Sci. from 1981 to 1983. Born in Warsaw, Poland in 1936, Stan lived a rich life that spanned 4 continents. He lived with his parents and family in Palestine, Egypt and South Africa where Stan received most of his education including a degree in Agriculture. He moved from South Africa to Canada and obtained a doctorate in agronomy from the University of British Columbia. Stan's career with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada includes a wide breadth of research projects conducted at Kamloops, Lethbridge, Agassiz, and at a CIDA sponsored project in Hyderabad India. In addition, Stan managed the University of British Columbia Oyster River Dairy Research Farm at Campbell River B. C. for a few years in the mid-1980s. Stan always had a sense of wonder and curiosity which served him well as a research scientist. Research projects Stan contributed to include: forage research at Kamloops, agronomy of corn production in southern Alberta, factors affecting cold hardiness of winter wheat, alfalfa, and orchardgrass, analysis of yield trends in long-term dryland rotations, and the use of cover crops, living mulches, and geese for pest management in horticultural crops.

In Memorium:

Dr. Hans Georg Nass:

Hans Georg Nass was born March 6, 1941, in Germany to Fritz and Irmgard (Hamm) Nass. He spent the first years of his childhood in his ancestral home in Prussia. As the Second World War raged on, his family became Displaced Persons and moved to Western Germany. In 1951, after the death of his mother, Hans, his grandmother and aunt immigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba. He received his B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba. In 1964 he married Helene Louise Sawatzky. He continued his education at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado and at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. In 1970 they moved to Prince Edward Island where Hans took the position of Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and where daughters Monica and Kathryn were born.

Dr. Hans Nass passed away at the Palliative Care Unit of the Prince Edward Home on Thursday, April 7, 2005, age 64 years, after a short battle with cancer. The funeral service was held at Zion Presbyterian Church, in Charlottetown on April 12 with interment at Sherwood Cemetery.

The Canadian Society of Agronomy lost a well known member with the death of Hans Nass. Hans strongly supported the society over the years with his regular attendance at annual meetings, presentation of papers and posters, activity on committees, and by organizing conferences. He served for several years as Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science.

Hans was a quiet man who took great delight in the arrival of each new spring, of being the first scientist to be in the field to plant the progeny of his latest crosses, of seeing these reach named status, and being grown by local farmers. If one was to ask for Hans, the usual comment would be "he is out in the field". He always felt it was important to do research that supported the farming industry, and throughout his career he worked to improve spring wheat and winter wheat cultivars for the Atlantic Region. His research was centred on four areas: powdery mildew resistance, fusarium head blight resistance, milling quality, and winter survival. The results of his hard work have been many and have had a significant impact on wheat production as a very high percentage of these crops planted in the Region were developed by Dr. Nass. Beginning with Vernon in 1977, Hans released 12 spring wheat cultivars including Milton in 1981, Belvedere in 1986, AC Baltic in 1991, AC Gabriel and AC Walton in 1995, AC Wilmot in 1996, AC Norboro in 1997, AC Hartland and AC Helena in 1999, Brookfield in 2003 and a yet to be named cultivar released in 2004. His winter wheat cultivars raised the standard of winter survival for cultivars and included Borden in 1983, AC Winsloe in 1994, AC Grandview in 2001 and AC Sampson in 2002.

Hans was happiest when walking through a wheat field. His love for his church, his family and his work will be remembered by many. Memorial donations may be made to the Palliative Care Unit of the Prince Edward Home, 5 Brighton Road, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 8T6.

CSA Corporate Sponsors 2005

CSA EXECUTIVE

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