

Harold F. Reetz, Jr. Honored with ASA Agronomic Industry Award

Dr. Harold F. Reetz, Jr., Midwest Director of PPI, received the Agronomic Industry Award at the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) in Minneapolis. The award recognizes outstanding performance by a private sector agronomist in the development, acceptance, and implementation of advanced agronomic programs, practices, and/or products.



Harold F. Reetz, Jr.

Dr. Reetz is widely recognized for leadership in promoting the use of site-specific systems and information technology in support of high-yield crop and soil management.

Before joining the staff of PPI in 1982, he was Extension/Research Corn Production Specialist in the Purdue University Agronomy Department for eight years and coordinated

Extension and research in computer applications in agronomy.

A native of Milford, Illinois, Dr. Reetz earned his B.S. degree from the University of Illinois and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University in crop physiology and ecology. He has been active in ASA, with leadership roles in ARCPACS and in development of the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) program. He served as editor for *Agronomy Journal* and *Journal of Production Agriculture*, and has served on a variety of committees. He is Fellow in both ASA and the Crop Science Society of America.

As Midwest Director of PPI, Dr. Reetz has responsibility for agronomic research and education programs in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. **BC**

B.C. Darst Receives ASA Agronomic Service Award

Dr. B.C. Darst, Executive Vice President of PPI, received the Agronomic Service Award at the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) in Minneapolis. The award recognizes development of agronomic service programs, practices, and products and acceptance thereof by the public.



B.C. Darst

Dr. Darst joined the staff of PPI in 1973 as Southwest Director. Previously, he was Supervisor of Soil and Plant Testing, Chief Agronomist, and Regional Sales Manager with Custom Farm Services in Atlanta and Albany, Georgia. He helped design and managed the world's first high volume, automated, and computerized soil testing laboratory. Many of its technological advancements have served as models for laboratories being operated today.

In 1978, Dr. Darst wrote PPI's well known *Soil Fertility Manual*. Since that time, it has been revised and reprinted several times. It has been translated to Spanish, French, Portuguese, Chinese, and Hindi, and a new adaptation was recently completed in Australia. The manual has been widely used in teaching and is now a popular study resource for the Certified Crop Adviser program.

Dr. Darst was appointed Vice President of Communications for PPI and elected Vice President and Executive Director of the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR) in 1986. He served as President of FAR from 1988 to 1999. Dr. Darst was elected Executive Vice President of PPI in 1992.

He is Fellow in both ASA and the Soil Science Society of America. **BC**