



Foundation for Agronomic Research Marks 25 Years of Progress

In 1980, the U.S. hockey team won the gold medal in the Olympics...Post-It Notes were introduced...and the first all news cable network was launched. That year also saw the beginning of the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR), established by the PPI Board of Directors. In the 25 years since then, FAR has greatly broadened the scope of agronomic research and education through support of contributors and funding beyond potash and phosphate producers. The in-kind contribution of PPI/PPIC staff time in North America is a key to monitoring various research projects and maintaining communication with researchers.

The Foundation facilitates agronomic research and education programs in crop and soil management by developing cooperative teams among universities and between universities and industry to address specific needs, then finding teams of supporters to provide the necessary funding. FAR has helped launch and sustain research projects on the cutting edge of technology, helped maintain long-term studies to protect important data series, and helped find matching funds from a variety of sources to sustain and expand research programs.

“As traditional funding sources for research programs has continued to decline, FAR is one of the few sources that has maintained a major program in applied and on-farm studies that are vital to modern production agriculture,” says Dr. Harold F. Reetz, President of FAR, located at Monticello, Illinois. Some current important initiatives of the Foundation include: high yield systems, best management practices (BMPs) for nutrient management, technology for fertilizer place-



This map illustrates distribution of current and total research projects supported by FAR since 1980.

ment, and nutrients and plant health.

Recently, more than 20 new contributors have joined in supporting FAR programs. A new DVD, “Facilitating the Future of Agronomy”, is helping heighten awareness of FAR.

FAR has now been awarded a 3-year Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from USDA-NRCS which will be used to develop a series of Fertilizer Best Management Practice Guidelines for six different cropping systems, along with other resources to promote implementation.

In its 25-year history, FAR has supported hundreds of projects on a wide range of crops, soil types, and geographic regions. The map above shows a distribution of projects across North America.



Information on current and completed projects can be found in the Research Database on the FAR websites:

>www.ppi-far.org<

>www.FARmresearch.com< **BC**