

## **“J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships” Awarded To Four Graduate Students**

**F**our outstanding graduate students have been announced as the 1998 winners of the “J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowship” awards by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). Grants of \$2,000 each are presented to the individuals. All are candidates for either the Master of Science (M.S.) or the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in soil fertility and related sciences.

The 1998 winners were chosen from more than 20 applicants who sought the Fellowships. The four are:

- **Kipling S. Balkcom**, Iowa State University, Ames
- **Jean Brokish**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
- **John Dennis Lauzon**, University of Guelph, Ontario
- **Grant Russell Manning**, University of Manitoba

“Each year, we have the privilege of recognizing and encouraging an outstanding group of graduate students in agronomic sciences,” said Dr. David W. Dibb, President of PPI. “All of the applicants this year and their educational institutions can take pride in the level of achievement represented.”

Funding for the Fellowships is provided through support of potash and phosphate producers who are member companies of PPI.

Scholastic record, leadership, and excellence in original research are among the important criteria evaluated for the Fellowships. Following is a brief summary of information for each of the 1998 recipients.

**Kip Balkcom** is a native of Midland City, Alabama. He earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Auburn University. He is currently working toward his Ph.D. degree at Iowa State University. Included among



his awards while at Auburn were the A. L. Smith Outstanding Graduate Student Award, 1996, and the Charles Chapman Memorial Scholarship, 1996. His research is focusing on ‘smart’ sampling of corn fields to reduce sampling costs and increase the accuracy of nitrogen (N) recommendations. By combining aerial photography with other field variables...yield, soil type, topography and other factors ...he hopes to be able to develop standardized protocols for corn fields in Iowa. He is planning a career in university research or Extension.

**Jean Brokish** was born in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. She studied for her B.S. degree at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls. She is currently working toward an M.S. degree at Purdue University. She has



received many awards and honors during her college career, including the Northrup King Company Scholarship, 1994, and the American Society of Agronomy:

Outstanding Student Member Award, 1996. Her overall research objective is to improve understanding of phosphorus (P) desorption as influenced by soil properties. This will allow the development of improved P management strategies that will sustain optimum crop productivity while protecting water quality. Following graduate school, Jean would like to work in international agriculture.

**John Dennis Lauzon** comes from



St. Thomas, Ontario. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Guelph and is currently studying for his Ph.D. there. Among his various scholarships and awards were the Kenneth McAlpine Pretty Scholarship, 1994, 1996 and 1997, and Ted Mcgrail Memorial Scholarship, 1994. The title of his research problem is "Seed-placed P Use with Corn: Its Benefits in Soils with Variable Phosphorus Levels and under Different Tillage Systems." The main objective of his studies is to determine the benefits of seed-placed P when used to manage soils with variable soil test P and when used in different tillage systems. Following his graduate studies, he would like to be a university professor.

**Grant Russell Manning** is a native



of Pilot Mound, Manitoba, where he is involved in the family farm. He is currently studying toward an M.Sc. degree at the University of Manitoba, where he received his

B.S.A. degree in 1997. He was the recipient of such awards as the Zeneca Agro Achievement Award in 1997 and the Steffansson Award for Excellence in Plant Science in 1996. He has received an NSERC post-graduate scholarship to focus on researching effects of numerous spatially-variable agronomic parameters on hard red spring wheat yield, in order to evaluate potential for making N recommendations based on soil-landscape properties. Following his graduate studies, he hopes to gain employment in the agriculture industry in Western Canada.

The Fellowships are named in honor of Dr. J. Fielding Reed, retired President of the Institute, who lives in Athens, Georgia. The Fellowship winners are selected by a committee of PPI scientists. Dr. A.E. Ludwick, PPI's Western U.S. Director, served as chairman of the selection committee for the 1998 Fellowships. 