

Winners of Robert E. Wagner Award for 2004

Two well known agonomic scientists have been selected to receive the 2003-2004 Robert E. Wagner Award by PPI. The award encourages worldwide candidate nominations and has two categories...Senior Scientist and Young Scientist, under the age of 45. The recipient in each category receives \$5,000 along with the award plaque.

Dr. Emerson D. Nafziger, Professor of Crop Sciences-Crop Production Extension, University of Illinois, was selected for the Senior Scientist award.

Dr. Frances L. Walley, Associate Professor, Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan, receives the Young Scientist award.

The Robert E. Wagner Award recognizes distinguished contributions to advanced crop yields through maximum yield research (MYR) and maximum economic yield (MEY) management. The award honors Dr. Robert E. Wagner, President (retired) of PPI, for his many achievements and in recognition of development of the MEY concept...for profitable, efficient agriculture.

Dr. Nafziger has provided crop producers and advisers scientifically sound research and extension programs resulting in significant impact on yields and subsequently economic return on crop production throughout the Corn Belt. His ability to conduct leading edge research and to take the results to producers in an easily understood and convincing manner has translated to rapid adoption of progressive ideas.

In recent situations related to spiking natural gas prices, Dr. Nafziger has applied sound economic principles in addressing



Dr. E.D. Nafziger



Dr. F.L. Walley

use of nitrogen (N) cost:corn price ratios to adjust rates of fertilizer N. He has studied the potential for site-specific N fertilizer application in corn production.

Dr. Nafziger is coauthor of the book *Modern Corn and Soybean Production*. He was involved in adapting the highly popular *Illinois Agronomy Handbook* publication as an on-line, interactive resource. He created innovative features such as calculators for seeding rates, N rates, soil fertility recommendations, planting dates, replant decisions, and yield estimates, and is the author of a chapter in the *Handbook* on use of on-farm research to test and confirm crop management practices.

Each year, Dr. Nafziger is a leader in the Corn and Soybean Classics, a series of regional meetings in Illinois to provide the latest research and management information to crop producers and advisers. He is credited with encouraging higher corn populations in Illinois fields, resulting in increased yields and profits. Dr. Nafziger has an impressive record of professional publications and involvement in professional-society programs. His honors include election as Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and Crop Science Society of America. A native of Ohio, he received his M.S. degree at Purdue University and his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois in 1982.

Dr. Walley has played an important role in the advancement of the pulse industry (chickpeas, beans) in Saskatchewan and western Canada. Her research related to pulse crop fertility and in particular in development of inoculants and inoculation

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Quincke is interested in management practices that might better favor soil microbes that directly stimulate crop growth...the thesis for his M.S. degree, completed in 2003, was on the influence of starter fertilizer on soil microbial community dynamics. While no-till is well known for soil conservation and organic matter (OM) benefits, stratification of phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and OM can become pronounced. His study will look at carbon pools, microbial community composition, redistribution of nutrients, and yield comparisons after a one-time, occasional tillage under rainfed corn-soybean or sorghum-soybean rotations.



Micah Woods

Micah Woods began his Ph.D. program at Cornell University in 2003. His research is addressing current issues regarding K fertilization and soil analysis in sand dominated systems. The lack of available information for K

requirement in sand rootzones leaves practitioners without a science-based strategy

for managing high value sports turf and golf course greens. A native of Oregon, Mr. Woods earned his B.S. degree at Oregon State University in 1994. He then worked at various golf courses in the U.S. before becoming a golf course superintendent in Shanghai, China, from 1998 to 2000, and later an agronomic consultant on turfgrass in Japan. He has been widely recognized for his diverse work experience and academic accomplishments. Completion of his current studies will lay the groundwork for future research into nutrient management of recreational and aesthetic turf, while also providing a valuable database of information for today's turfgrass managers.

The PPI Fellowships are named in honor of Dr. J. Fielding Reed, who served as president of the Institute from 1964 to 1975. Dr. Reed, who passed away in 1999, was well-known for inspiring advanced study and for encouragement of students and teachers.

The Fellowship winners were selected by a committee of PPI scientists. Dr. Tom W. Bruulsema, PPI/PPIC Northeast Region Director, served as chairman of the selection committee. **BC**

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strategies for pulse crops has been key in providing growers with a wealth of practical production information and inoculant products.

Her research focuses on soil fertility and agronomy for maximized nutrient use efficiency. A focus on soil N-cycling includes testing and development of appropriate N fertilizer recommendations with applications for precision farming and optimized fertilizer use efficiency. More recently, her research has examined the variability of soil-available copper and boron with the objective of determining factors influencing variable fertilizer responses, particularly on soils testing within the marginal range.

Dr. Walley was involved in establishing two major extension events in Saskatchewan...the Field Diagnostic School and the Agronomy Training Workshop. She has also chaired the provincial Saskatchewan Soil Fertility Subcouncil. As a teacher, Dr. Walley is recognized as a dedicated, effective, and popular educator with the ability to reach many different types of students.

She is an active member of ASA, Soil Science Society of America, Canadian Society of Soil Science, and Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists. A native of Manitoba, Dr. Walley received her M.Sc. degree at the University of Manitoba and her Ph.D. at the University of Saskatchewan in 1993. **BC**