

Dr. W.R. Raun Selected as Nutrients for Life Foundation Professor at OSU

The Oklahoma State University (OSU) A&M Board of Regents recently approved the appointment of Dr. William R. Raun to the post of Nutrients for Life Foundation Professor of Soil and Crop Nutrition. The professorship was established in 2008 through a matching funds arrangement backed by oil and energy executive T. Boone Pickens, an OSU alumnus. The announcement came from Dr. Robert E. Whitson, Vice President, Dean, and Director of the OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) joined with the Nutrients for Life Foundation (NLF) and The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) in providing monetary gifts totaling US\$250,000 to the university. Those funds were matched by Pickens' Commitment. In turn, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education will match the US\$500,000 for a total impact of US\$1 million in endowed funds.

"Dr. Raun's professorship will allow exploration of linkages between fertilizer use and food nutritional quality. The three sponsoring organizations hope to advance understanding of how nutrients can be managed to optimize the nutritional content of food while also supporting high yields needed for a sufficient and affordable food supply," explained IPNI President Dr. Terry L. Roberts.

In his 7 years at CIMMYT and 18 years at OSU, Dr. Raun has an impressive list of accomplishments in teaching, research, and extension. He has over 144 refereed publications,

six patents, over 300 additional scholarly works, 54 graduate students completed, recognition as Fellow by two professional societies, and numerous other achievements.

"This professorship will

allow us to more fully extend the environmentally sensitive and cost-effective GreenSeeker sensing technology that was developed at OSU," Dr. Raun stated. "We currently have ongoing field projects in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Mexico where third-world farmers have realized increased production and profitability by using our nitrogen recommendations for cereal production." **BC**

For more about Dr. Raun's recent programs and collaborative projects, visit this website: <http://nue.okstate.edu/>



Dr. Bill Raun was named Nutrients for Life Foundation Professor of Soil and Crop Nutrition in July 2009.

Conversion Factors for U.S. System and Metric Units

Because of the diverse readership of *Better Crops with Plant Food*, units of measure are given in U.S. system standards in some articles and in metric units in others...depending on the method commonly used in the region where the information originates. For example, an article reporting on corn yields in Illinois would use units of pounds per acre (lb/A) for fertilizer rates and bushels (bu) for yields; an article on rice production in Southeast Asia would use kilograms (kg), hectares (ha), and other metric units.

Several factors are available to quickly convert units from either system to units more familiar to individual readers. Following are some examples which will be useful in relation to various articles in this issue of *Better Crops with Plant Food*.

To convert Col. 1

into Col. 2, multiply by:

Column 1

Column 2

To convert Col. 2 into

Col. 1, multiply by:

Length			
0.621	kilometer, km	mile, mi	1.609
1.094	meter, m	yard, yd	0.914
0.394	centimeter, cm	inch, in.	2.54
Area			
2.471	hectare, ha	acre, A	0.405
Volume			
1.057	liter, L	quart (liquid), qt	0.946
Mass			
1.102	tonne ¹ (metric, 1,000 kg)	short ton (U.S. 2,000 lb)	0.9072
0.035	gram, g	ounce	28.35
Yield or Rate			
0.446	tonne/ha	ton/A	2.242
0.891	kg/ha	lb/A	1.12
0.159	kg/ha	bu/A, corn (grain)	62.7
0.149	kg/ha	bu/A, wheat or soybeans	67.2

¹The spelling as "tonne" indicates metric ton (1,000 kg). Spelling as "ton" indicates the U.S. short ton (2,000 lb). When used as a unit of measure, tonne or ton may be abbreviated, as in 9 t/ha. A metric expression assumes t=tonne; a U.S. expression assumes t=ton.