

## *Dr. Keith A. Kelling Receives Robert E. Wagner Award*

**D**r. Keith A. Kelling of the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been selected as the 2000-2001 recipient of the Robert E. Wagner Award (Senior Scientist) by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). The annual recognition, which encourages worldwide candidate nominations, includes a plaque and an award of \$5,000.



*Dr. Keith A. Kelling*

Dr. Kelling who has been with the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin since 1977, is now Professor and Extension Soil Scientist. He is widely recognized as an innovative leader in Extension and applied research programs in nutrient management. His efforts have effectively increased productivity, efficiency, and profitability on Wisconsin farms while maintaining or improving environmental quality. Dr. Kelling is also well-respected regionally and nationally. He has contributed to numerous professional publications.

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. Wagner, President (retired) of PPI, for his many achievements and in recognition of the MEY concept...for profitable, efficient agriculture.

"We congratulate Dr. Kelling for notable achievements in his profession," said Dr. David W. Dibb, President of PPI. "The standards for this award are high, and those chosen are truly deserving of recognition." Nominations were received from North America and other regions of the world. No award was presented this year in the Young Scientist division.

A basic component in Dr. Kelling's programs is the integration of economic considerations into nutrient management decisions. He developed a well-received Extension program entitled 'Getting the most from your fertilizer

dollar' that emphasized improved efficiency of purchased nutrients, complete crediting of on-farm nutrient sources, and innovative ideas for improved profitability.

Dr. Kelling has made important contributions to development and implementation of research-based soil testing and plant analysis programs. His research on alfalfa responses to potassium (K) rates, sources and timing has

created a comprehensive database for determining crop K needs based on soil test results.

Soil fertility management in vegetable crops, especially potato and vegetables grown on organic soils, is also a major component of his program. Dr. Kelling has determined K rates and sources for optimum potato yield, quality, and disease control.

Dr. Kelling's work on manure management addresses a critical need in Wisconsin, where appropriate use of manure in livestock and crop farming systems has important agronomic and environmental implications.

Involving agrichemical dealers in helping farmers make informed nutrient management decisions is one of the priorities of Dr. Kelling's program. He has vigorously promoted implementation of the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) program in Wisconsin. For the past 22 years, Dr. Kelling has coordinated the Wisconsin Fertilizer, Aglime and Pest Management Conference.

A native of Edgerton, Wisconsin, Dr. Kelling completed his B.S. degree in 1966, M.S. in 1972, and Ph.D. in 1974, all at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a member of the Soil Science Society of America and a member and Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy. He has been recognized with numerous other honors and awards and holds membership in several other professional and honorary organizations. **BC**