

## Winners of Robert E. Wagner Award for 2006

Two outstanding agronomic scientists have been selected to receive the 2005-2006 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. David E. Kissel**, Professor and Director, Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories, University of Georgia, receives the Senior Scientist Award. **Dr. Nathan A. Slaton**, Associate Professor, Director of Soil Testing, University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, receives the Young Scientist Award.

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

**Dr. Kissel** is a highly respected scientist and administrator whose career has been devoted to enhancing and understanding the fate and dynamics of fertilizer nutrient applications. He has worked diligently to transfer his research results into management practices that will increase fertilizer efficiency, crop yields, and producer profitability. Dr. Kissel's research on plant nitrogen (N) nutrition has significantly contributed to improved efficiencies of urea fertilizers. His recent efforts related to variability in southeast U.S. soils have had considerable impact in that he has integrated the effects of soil physical and chemical properties into management sys-



Dr. D.E. Kissel



Dr. N.A. Slaton

tems that increase productivity and protect the environment. Dr. Kissel earned his B.S. degree at Purdue University in 1965 and his M.S. in 1967 and Ph.D. in 1969 at the University of Kentucky in soil chemistry. He studied yield response by forages and crops at the Blackland Research Center in central Texas and identified key management practices that improve N use efficiency. Dr. Kissel was at Kansas State University from 1978 to 1988 where he continued research on N-phosphorus (P) fertilizer placement and expanded that work to determine the effect of band spacing, P source, and other factors on efficient fertilizer use and wheat yield.

**Dr. Slaton's** current research program focus is to update P and potassium (K) recommendations in Arkansas for rice, soybeans, and winter wheat by conducting correlation-calibration studies. His program is also developing guidelines for use of poultry litter as a nutrient source for crops, examining polymer coated-urea as a potential preplant incorporated N source for flood irrigated rice, relationships among rice diseases/nutrient management/production practices, and sustainable K fertilization strategies for rotations involving rice and soybeans. Many of his earlier research findings have been incorporated into management recommendations and adopted by growers. A native of Indiana, Dr. Slaton earned his B.S. degree at Murray State University (Kentucky) in 1986, then moved to the University of Arkansas where he completed his M.S. in 1989 and Ph.D. in soil fertility in 1998. From 1995 to 2001, he was Extension Agronomist—Rice, with University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension. **BC**

For more about the Wagner Award and 2006 recipients, visit the website at: [www.ppi-ppic.org/pr](http://www.ppi-ppic.org/pr).