

# Armando Tasistro Joins IPNI Staff as Communications Specialist

Dr. Armando S. Tasistro has joined the staff of the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) as Communications Specialist, effective April 1, 2009. He will be based at the IPNI headquarters office in Norcross, Georgia.

“This key addition to our staff further strengthens IPNI capabilities in communicating science-based information related to plant nutrition,” said IPNI President Dr. Terry Roberts. “With his unique and diverse background and skills, Dr. Tasistro will be involved in furthering our agronomic research and education programs around the globe.”

A native of Uruguay, Dr. Tasistro was most recently Research Scientist at the University of Georgia-Athens, Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories. His work there included study of phosphorus dynamics and analysis in poultry wastes, with focus on bioavailable forms. He studied development of alternatives to abate ammonia emissions from poultry production facilities and wastes, including the use of chars derived from the pyrolysis of agricultural wastes. Another focus was on calibrating Near-Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy for the quicker determination of water and potentially mineralizable nitrogen in poultry litter. He is also Adjunct Assistant Research Scientist with the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences.

Dr. Tasistro received his B.Sc. in agronomy at the University of Uruguay at Montevideo in 1976. In 1981, he completed

his M.Sc. in weed science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and later received his Ph.D. in soil fertility in 1993 at the University of Georgia.

From 1993 to 2001, Dr. Tasistro worked as an independent agricultural consultant and successfully advised more than 30 clients (mostly in Latin America) on soil and crop management and crop protection. He also assisted agribusiness companies and project management firms in research and development. He emphasized hands-on training programs for agronomists and growers in field diagnostic techniques for corn, conservation tillage systems, and soil and weed management.

Earlier, Dr. Tasistro was with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in Mexico from 1984 to 1992 as Assistant Head/Agronomist/Training Officer, Experiment Stations. He was involved in planning, budgeting, and field and administrative operations for CIMMYT’s four experiment stations in Mexico, plus other off-station sites. His responsibilities included training and advising in agronomic and experiment station management at headquarters and internationally. **BC**



Dr. Tasistro

## 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 <sup>1</sup> (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

<sup>1</sup>The 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.