

Robert E. Wagner Award Winners Announced

Two outstanding agronomic scientists have been selected to receive the 2001-2002 Robert E. Wagner Award by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (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.

Dr. David B. Mengel, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, Manhattan, was selected in the Senior Scientist category. **Dr. Michael A. Schmitt**, Professor and Associate Dean (Interim), College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, receives the honor in the Young Scientist division.

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 his development of the MEY management concept...for profitable, efficient agriculture.

"We congratulate Dr. Mengel and Dr. Schmitt for notable achievements in their profession. The standards for this award are high, and the recipients are truly deserving of this honor," said Dr. David W. Dibb, President of PPI.

Dr. Mengel is widely recognized for his pioneering work with efficient fertilizer practices for reduced tillage and no-tillage systems in corn production. His research improved the understanding of stratification of immobile nutrients and led to management practices which reduced nutrient carryover and runoff, lessening potential impacts on water quality.

Dr. Mengel was Extension Specialist in Soil Fertility and Crop Production, Purdue University Agronomy Department, from 1979 to 1998. A native of Indiana, Dr. Mengel earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Purdue, then completed his Ph.D. in Soil Science at North Carolina State University in 1975.

Dr. Mengel has received numerous awards, including recognition as Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America.

Dr. Schmitt has gained national recognition and respect for his excellent work with the management of both livestock manure and nitrogen fertilizer for crop production. The valuable database that has evolved from this research has been used to develop an excellent series of Extension publications focused on manure management and best management practices for nitrogen. His programs have enabled growers to integrate effective management of organic and inorganic nitrogen sources into crop production systems, thereby improving net returns.

After receiving his B.S. degree at the University of Minnesota in 1980, Dr. Schmitt completed his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in soil science at the University of Illinois. He worked as training coordinator for CENEX/Land O'Lakes Agronomy Company before returning to the University of Minnesota, first as an Extension Agronomist and then as an Extension Soil Scientist and in the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate. He became Associate Professor in 1994 and Professor in 1999. He accepted his current position in 2000. In 2001, Dr. Schmitt was recognized as Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy. **BC**



Dr. David Mengel



Dr. Michael Schmitt