

## *J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships... A Heritage of Higher Learning*

**F**ifteen years ago the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) established a program of fellowships for students seeking advanced degrees (M.S. or Ph.D.) in soil and plant sciences and related academic fields. In 1987, the PPI Board of Directors named the grants the "J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowships" in recognition of Dr. Reed, President of the Institute from 1963 to 1975.

Dr. Reed's lifetime commitment to agronomic improvement has been fundamental to his dedication to soil testing as a diagnostic tool. Working closely with the American Society of Agronomy and the university system, he was responsible for establishing several soil and plant analysis laboratories. In the early 1950s he was instrumental in organizing the Georgia Plant Food Educational Society, promoting educational programs on proper fertilizer use. His influence has helped numerous

groups and individuals from academic to industry to production and other interests.

Since the first \$2,000 Fellowship was awarded in 1980, there have been 99 recipients representing 36 different universities. Dr. W.R. Thompson, Jr., PPI Midsouth Director (retired October, 1995), chaired the selection committee through 1995. The challenge involved evaluating 653 applications, appropriate transcripts, supporting letters and related information from candidates at 83 universities.

The selection process for the "J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowship" will now be handled by a committee chaired by Dr. Albert E. Ludwick, PPI Western Director. The Potash & Phosphate Institute is proud to continue the award to students with a preference in soil fertility, soil chemistry and plant nutrition, based on merit, scholarship, research projects and activities. **BC**

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Donald L. Armstrong, Editor