



# THE FAR-B NEWS

Dedicated to promoting the research and education programs of the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD

*Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville, Incorporated P.O. Box 1061, Beltsville, MD 20704-1061*

JANUARY 2022

Editor: Hank Becker

## President's Message

I am sure many employees at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center don't realize that FAR-B has been serving the Center for 32 years. In the January 2020 newsletter, the then President, Alan Stoner, described how and why FAR-B was formed. I am including some of his comments in order to help inform employees about the history of FAR-B and maybe why employees and retirees should continue to support FAR-B.

From *THE FAR-B NEWS* January 2020 newsletter: "The original mission of FAR-B was largely to support and handle the funds associated with conducting, and publishing the proceedings of, the annual Beltsville Symposia that dealt with topics of major and timely scientific interest. Also, FAR-B frequently assisted with the handling of funds and other details associated with many scientific meeting and training programs organized by Beltsville employees and management units."

Beltsville Symposia are no longer held annually, and the number of scientific meetings organized and hosted at Beltsville, has declined significantly over time. So FAR-B's focus has changed markedly. Although FAR-B still responds to requests for assistance with special programs and meetings, today, FAR-B's efforts largely focus on supporting student interns working in Beltsville laboratories; providing funds to support a wide variety of programs dealing with diversity education and training for Beltsville employees; and an outreach program that provides students from a local elementary school exposure to science and agriculture. Also, we continue the long-standing practice of providing annual written testimony in support of the Beltsville research programs and facilities to the U.S. Congress and members of the Maryland congressional delegation."

Shortly after that newsletter of January 2020, the Center was closed, except for essential work, because of Covid-19. FAR-B continued to function, albeit, at a reduced pace. The Board of Directors initiated monthly meetings via Zoom beginning in September 2020. FAR-B plans to continue supporting a variety of activities focused on education, outreach, and diversity within the Beltsville community. These include support for the Hispanic student summer programs, poster day, and Beltsville Academy science enrichment. The Board is happy to entertain additional projects. Much of our recent efforts during this past year has been devoted to developing a history of the Research Center. This will be headed by Board members Rob Griesbach and Susan Fugate. I am sure these folks will be looking for help in developing this history. While a lot has been written about some aspects of the history of the Center, this committee will want to organize this as well as include a lot of other significant research accomplished by Beltsville scientists. FAR-B is also planning to support a Beltsville field day, hopefully in the fall of 2022.

FAR-B is in desperate need of NEW BOARD MEMBERS. FOR THE ORGANIZATION TO CONTINUE, FAR-B urgently needs new Board members with fresh ideas. Jim Anderson and Walter Mulbry will step down from their respective posts of Acting President and Treasurer, respectively, as of January 1, 2022, and will leave the Board. With their departure, FAR-B may not have enough board members to maintain FAR-B's activities. To be a Board member, one must be retired or not a member of ARS. If you are retired or planning to retire in the near future and interested in joining the FAR-B Board of Directors, please let Gary Kinard know. WE NEED TO HAVE your EMAIL ADDRESSES AFTER RETIREMENT, not your work email ad-

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dress. It is anticipated that the FAR-B board meetings will be via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Therefore, retirees who no longer live in the area can still be a board member because we will be using Zoom.

As I leave the Board, I thank all FAR-B members and friends who helped me and FAR-B. I joined the Board after I retired in 2005. I have probably stayed too long, but I was enjoying all the interactions and meetings and help FAR-B rendered to the research community at Beltsville.

*James Anderson, Past President*

## Area Director's Message

Season's Greetings! As 2021 winds down, we reflect on the past and look ahead to the future. We are finishing another challenging year as we navigated the second year of the pandemic. Beltsville ARS staff and contractors have responded well, continuing to accomplish the agency's mission, while keeping employees safe. The coming year should include a return to more normal operations, with more people in offices, laboratories, greenhouses, and the field. The Department of Agriculture has rolled out guidance for a safe and orderly return to work, beginning in January.

The end of the year is also a time to look back and celebrate our achievements. The Presidential



**Dr. Steve Kappes, Associate Administrator**

Rank Awards were established to recognize senior leaders in government for sustained excellence. Three from ARS were recognized, including two scientists from BARC. This year's winners included Drs. **Steve Kappes**, Associate Administrator, **Moon Kim**, Research Leader, and **Autur Mattoo**, Research Plant Physiologist.

Dr. Kim is the Research Leader for the Environmental Microbial & Food Safety Laboratory, and Dr. Mattoo is in the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory. Congratulations to both, and to Dr. Kappes, for their outstanding work and this most deserved recognition.

As for the future, 2022 will begin with some of the same challenges due to the pandemic. As noted above, we anticipate having more people on site due to high vaccination rates and coordinated safety protocols. We also look forward to additional facility improvements, continuing the process of refurbishing and upgrading the BARC campus. We will also hold an orientation session for newly recruited scientists in the Northeast Area. More than 35 scientists have been hired in the past year. This is an exciting time as newly recruited scientists, technicians, and administrative staff bring enthusiasm and fresh ideas into the agency.

Thank you again for your support in 2021, and best wishes for 2022.

*Tom Shanower, Area Director, NEA*

## Treasurer's Report

In 2021, FAR-B had an operating income of \$5,342. This included \$2,185 from dues/donations and \$3157 from the Combined Federal Campaign. Since all of the programs that FAR-B supports have been on hold since March 2020, our expenditures have been similarly suspended until programs restart. Looking forward on new initiatives, FAR-B plans to support an intern to work on a BARC history project in 2022 and to update our website so that it is a useful resource for the NEA community. The approved budget plan for 2021 projected a deficit, but we are likely to end the year with a surplus. We have reserves held in mutual funds of around \$100,000 which will continue to support our program needs, when required.

I will be leaving the board at the end of December. It has been a pleasure to be a member of the FAR-B board. Keep up the good work!

*Walter Mulbry, Treasurer*

## CFC Update

It is again time for FAR-B's annual application process to participate in the next Campaign Year, which will be later this year in 2022. There is very little to report on the 2021 campaign because as of this writing, the campaign has time left for donations and pledges. The CFC theme for 2021, "You can be the face of change," applies as well to how employees sought ways to carry on their jobs despite limited physical access to BARC, BHNRC, and USNA to perform them, navigate Zoom calls, and perhaps use email, Skype, and the telephone more than before.

FAR-B faced change in some activities that we normally support not being held at all. Yet we continued monthly Zoom meetings with BARC directors as their schedules permitted; supplied testimony to the House and Senate in support of Beltsville programs; held our Annual Meeting via Zoom that was well attended; discussed future activities with Beltsville Directors; and performed other things reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, such as planning actively underway to revise the FAR-B website to reach a wider audience.

More than ever the FAR-B needs additional Board members, as turnover continues. USDA retirees are eligible and being out of the area in retirement is not an obstacle as Zoom is a comfortable way to effectively operate. Please suggest FAR-B Board membership to any retired or eligible ARS/USDA employee as a way to continue their interest and support of agricultural research.

*Dave Prevar, CFC*

## 2021 PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD WINNERS

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 established the Presidential Rank Awards Program to recognize a select group of career members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) for exceptional performance over an extended period of time. Later, the Rank Award statute was amended to extend eligibility to senior career employees with a sustained record of exceptional professional, tech-

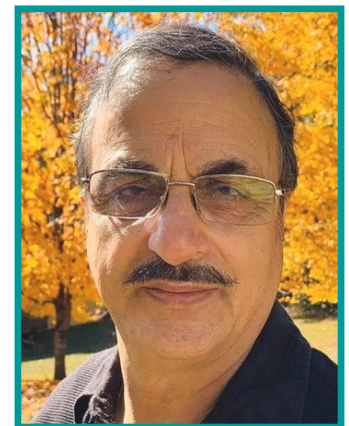
nical, and/or scientific achievement recognized on a national or international level.

The Presidential Rank Awards were established to recognize senior leaders in government for sustained excellence. Three from ARS were recognized, including two scientists from BARC. This year's winners included Drs. Steve Kappes, Associate Administrator; Moon Kim, Research Leader; and Autur Mattoo, Research Plant Physiologist. Dr. Kim is the Research Leader for the Environmental Microbial & Food Safety Laboratory, and Dr. Mattoo is in the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory. Congratulations to both, and to Dr. Kappes, for their outstanding work and this most deserved recognition.

Our Meritorious Senior Professional winners are doctors Moon S. Kim and Autur Mattoo. Below are their qualifications for the awards.

### Dr. Mattoo

As an ST level scientist at the Agricultural Research Service, over the past 40 years in the Department of Agriculture he pioneered in-depth investigations that resulted in innovative fundamental knowledge and novel concepts about critical elements in plant photosynthesis, insightful science leading to the classification of growth regulator polyamines as plant hormones, generated a novel approach to engineering high levels of lycopene, the anti-cancer carotenoid, in the tomato, and deciphered basic tenets associated with sustainable agriculture for food production and resistance to disease. His scientific breakthroughs have had a major impact on science and in the research directions of agricultural scientists worldwide in the areas of plant physiology, biochemistry and molecular biology. Dr. Mattoo challenged dogmas, created new knowledge, and opened research areas seminal to plant biology and agriculture. He stands out for his creative scientific



**Dr. Autur Mattoo, Research Plant Physiologist.**

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**Mattoo . . . continued**

discoveries, outstanding communications, and outreach efforts in disseminating to the public worldwide the basic principles of biotechnology and its potential in enhancing and sustaining world agriculture and food nutrition.

Dr. Mattoo's world-wide recognition include being listed among the Top 2% of the worldwide scientists (2020) and quality of research output by citation h-index of over 63 (Google Scholar). Not only has Dr. Autar Mattoo produced key scientific advances within his field but he has also been acknowledged for his executive leadership.

Mr. Brian Klippenstein, who took over as Chair of the USDA Secretary's Executive Resources Board in 2017, acknowledged that Dr. Mattoo was a part of the dedication and executive leadership that contributed to the continuity of USDA's executive policies and programs, resulting in USDA becoming one of the top 10 best places to work in Federal Government.

**Dr. Kim**

After earning his B.S. degree from the University of Maryland (UMD) in Math/Physics, Dr. Kim's scientific and engineering career of over 30 years began with research at NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), for development of spectral technologies to remotely assess vegetation vigor (1987-1999), while obtaining his M.A. in Geography/Remote Sensing and Ph.D. in Natural Resource Sciences also from UMD. Since 1999, has worked for USDA, ARS, in developing innovative non-destructive optical sensing technologies and methods to address food safety concerns and to help reduce food safety risks in food production and processing.

- Responsible for 440 scientific and technical publications (including 238 refereed articles, 10

book chapters, and 12 U.S. patents) which, all together, have been cited over 13,400 times by peer scientists.

- Responsible for five USDA exclusive licensing agreements on four patented technologies.
- Established seven ARS Cooperative Research and Development Agreements with US industry partners for approximately \$340K.
- Since 1999, responsible for \$5M in national and foreign trust agreements and grants including US Army, Natick Soldier Center; NASA, Kennedy Space Center; South Korean government agencies such as the Rural Development Administration (RDA is ARS counterpart) in collaboration with ARS Office of International Research Engagement and Cooperation; and two European Union Marie Curie Outgoing Fellowships. Includes approx. \$3.0M in extramural funds to expand in-house USDA Food Safety research programs. In 2021, his research program received a permanent \$2.25M funding increase to lead development of portable sensing technologies for contamination and sanitation inspection.



**Dr. Moon Kim, Research Leader.**

- The following are the most significant of 35 science honors and awards received. 1) Five awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer, Federal Laboratory Consortium: 2009 National for hyperspectral imaging; 2014 Mid-Atlantic and 2015 National for poultry inspection technology; and 2015 Mid-Atlantic and 2016 National for handheld imaging devices for contamination and sanitation inspection; 2) Scientific and Technical Paper Awards, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), 2003, 2005, 2012, 2012, and 2015; 3) Certificate of Recognition for outstanding international contribution in imaging technology development,

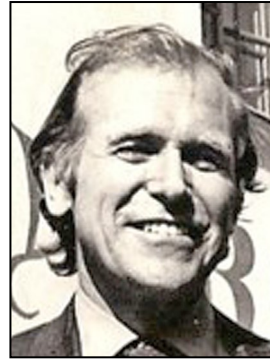
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Kim . . . continued

Breeding Society of Korea, 2015; 4) Certificate of Appreciation, for cooperation in developing sensing technologies, National Academy of Agricultural Science, Korea, 2010; 5) Administrator's Certificate of Appreciation, for outstanding contribution to RDA-ARS cooperation and agricultural R&D, RDA, Korea, 2009; 6) ASA-BE Presidential Citation for Leadership, for creating and chairing the Food Processing Automation Conference, 2008; 7) Outstanding Honorary Senior Scientist of the Year (2 selected from over 200 international nominees), for contribution in development of spectral imaging technologies for agricultural applications, RDA, Korea, 2006; 8) Group Achievement Award, NASA, GSFC, for outstanding contribution to integrated ecosystem modeling and remote sensing of northern forest ecosystems, 1997; and 9) Certificate of Appreciation (1990) and Certificate of Merit (1993) for development of laser-induced fluorescence technology, and for extraordinary team effort and accomplishment in developing remote sensing instrumentation, ARS (special awards to cooperator).

- Has served from 2009 to present as chair of annual Sensing for Agriculture and Food Quality and Safety Conference, International Society for Optical Engineering symposia.
- Served as advisory member, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, 2011-2016, and elected scientific committee member for the International Council of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy, 2013-2019.
- Serves as recruitment attraction for recent graduates or visiting scientists and has hosted over 40 US and foreign (Korea, China, Taiwan, Spain, Ireland, Chile, and Nepal) researchers for extended periods of study mostly supported by their own funds or cooperative extramural funds.
- Widely sought for presentations and consultations with over 150 national and international invitations received across 10 countries and multiple scientific disciplines.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Bill Butt

Mr. Bill Butt died at the age of 90 on Saturday, June 26, 2021, in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Butt was an ARS Research Entomologist whose professional career spanned 42 years.

Originally from Indiana, Mr. Butt grew up on a farm near Brazil, Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University with a BS degree in entomology in 1953 followed by his honorable service in the U.S. Army from 1953-1955. Upon the discharge from the military, he gained employment as a Research Entomologist at the USDA-ARS Beltsville Agriculture Research Center in Beltsville, MD. In 1956 he transferred to the USDA/DARS Pink Bollworm Research Laboratory at Brownsville, TX where he worked on biological control of pink worm and identified a natural sex lure for the insect. In 1963 he transferred to another research laboratory in Yakima, WA currently known as the USDA-ARS Temperate Tree Fruit and Vegetable Research at Wapato, WA. Here he coordinated the program on the control of arthropod pests of apple, pear, cherry, peach, and potato until 1979. From 1972-1974, he took a break from his duties in Yakima when he accepted an assignment with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria as head of the agency's entomology laboratory in Seibersdorf, Austria.

In 1979 Bill became the first Director of the newly constructed USDA-ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville, WV. He successfully staffed it with scientists many of whom later became international leaders in their respective scientific fields. At the same time, he continued his personal research on biological control of arthropod pests of deciduous fruit trees, mainly apple.

In 1988 he retired from ARS but not from scientific endeavors as attested by his return to the In-

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**Butt** . . . *continued*

ternational Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. During his 21 months stint at the IAES's headquarters he managed some of the agency's program on F-1 sterility in Lepidoptera for area-wide control and other related activities. In 1994 he became the first director of the newly established Nursery Crop Research Station at Tennessee State University and served in this role until 1997. He oversaw the construction of the new facility and lead its staffing. This cooperative project with the USDA-ARS exemplifies the first time a USDA/ARS research program was installed on the campus of 1890 land-grant college or university as part of the USDA's Centers of Excellence Program. The Station's program develops better ways to propagate, manage and market nursery crop whereas ARS contributes via the development of anthracnose-resistant dogwood and other landscape trees and shrubs that are hardy, attractive and need less pesticides.

He moved from Shepherdstown, West Virginia to Seattle, Washington seven years ago to be with his family.

Mr. Bill Butt was recognized with a Certificate of Merit from the USDA for his work at the Appalachian Fruit Research Station, Kearneysville, WV and a resolution of honor by the Tennessee State Senate for his work at the Tennessee State University Nursery Crop Research Station at McMinnville, TN. He was a unique leader, mentor of many young scientists, strong believer in the role of science in advancing human well-being and understanding among the people nationally and internationally, and in cooperation among scientists.

Mr. Bill Butt is survived by his daughters Cynthia Butt (Richard Furlong) and Jayn (Karen) Goldsen, three grandchildren, Zoe Furlong, Tenaya Goldsen, and Bryce Goldsen, and sister Mary Butts (Steve) Youtz. He was preceded in death by his former wife, Carolyn Campbell.

## **Dr. Roger Gerrits**



Dr. Roger Gerrits, former National Program Leader for Food Animal Production with the Office of National Programs, passed away on November 7, 2021.

Roger was raised on a dairy farm, learned about hard work at a very young age, and began his education in a

one-room school. He graduated from Wrightstown High School, and then earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, and his Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. His education was focused on agriculture education, animal science, genetics, and food production. Following 3 years' service with the Air Force during the Korean War, Roger and his family moved to Maryland in 1963 and he took a position with the Swine Research Branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a research physiologist.

Roger Gerrits served the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in research and administrative positions from 1963 until his retirement in 1998. He started his career with ARS as a research scientist in 1963 and over his career he was a Research Leader, a Branch Chief and National Program Scientist for Swine Production and Disease and for Agricultural Chemicals in Animals. In 1983, he became National Program Leader for Animal Production. In 1992, Gerrits served as leader and coordinator for the establishment of the National Animal Germplasm and Animal Genome Research Programs. He worked with a team of US and Chinese authorities on the successful importation of Meishan, Fengjing and Minzhu pigs in 1989 just before the Tiananmen Square protests.

Gerrits provided guidance for the national swine identification program, the control and eradication programs for trichinosis, toxoplasmosis and pseudorabies, and to the safety of antimicrobials, hormones and sulfas. He assisted in forming the

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**Garrits** . . . *continued*

National Swine Improvement Federation and the National Pork Producers Council with the development of the Pork Industry Handbook. Gerrits' leadership advanced research efforts in physiology, genetics and reproduction, including estrous synchronization, frozen semen and embryos in swine, the first effective method of sex pre-selection of livestock and humans, the first transgenic swine and the first genetic linkage maps for cattle, sheep, swine and poultry.

In 40 years, he authored or co-authored over 100 scientific and technical publications on animal agriculture. Gerrits was presented the 2001 Fellow Award by the American Society of Animal Science, given to members who have provided distinguished service to the animal industry for 25 years or more. In 2015 he was named as National Hog Farmer's Top 50 men and women who truly made a difference in the U.S. pork industry. Dr. Gerrits' service to animal agriculture touched virtually every facet of animal production and enhanced the reputation of ARS because of his integrity and dedication.

Following his retirement, Roger served as President and member of the Board of Directors of the Washington, DC Chapter of American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS), and he continued to serve as a private consultant to the livestock industry, National Academy of Sciences and various universities and agricultural and science organizations.

## **Roger Harold Lawson**



Roger Lawson died on April 30, 2021., in the embrace of his wife of 63 years, Mary. Born on January 21, 1937, Roger began cultivating tuberous begonias when he was 8 years old and started a business, Roger's Greenhouse, in his backyard in Portland, OR. By the age of 11, he was featured in the

Portland Oregonian for becoming the youngest licensed "nurseryman" in the state.

After attending Oregon State University, where he received a degree in floriculture, Roger earned a doctorate in plant pathology and won a postdoctoral Fulbright fellowship to the Netherlands. During his 36-year career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he directed the florist and nursery crops laboratory in Beltsville, MD and served as a national program leader, and traveled the world to meet with other scientists and search for new species for the floral trade.

Named Outstanding Scientist of the Year by the Agricultural Research Service, Roger developed new technology for detection, diagnosis, and prevention of virus diseases of orchids, carnations, tulips, lilies and chrysanthemums. He developed new floral crops for U.S. markets, collaborating with growers, the Society of American Florists, and researchers all over the world. Among his many scientific achievements, he was the first to show that monoclonal antibodies could be used in quantitatively detecting a purified plant virus.

Roger published more than 250 papers on floral and nursery plants and virus diseases. He was associate editor of *Phytopathology* and *Plant Disease Reporter*, senior editor of *Phytopathology*, and a columnist for *Greenhouse Manager*.

Roger was a recognized leader in microbial germplasm collection and preservation, serving as chairman of the board of trustees of the American Type Culture Collection, a global biological materials resource and standards organization; he was also chairman of the National Work Conference on Microbial Collections of Major Importance to Agriculture, which served as a model for the National Institutes of Health in developing policy on germplasm conservation. He was a fellow of the American Phytopathological Society and the Washington Academy of Sciences, an honorary life member of the American Orchid Society, and a leader of global symposiums for the International Society for Horticulture Science.

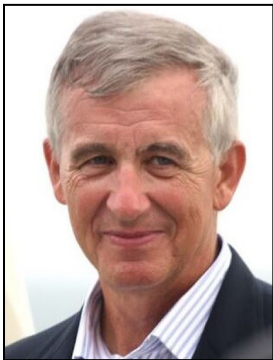
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**Lawson. . . . continued**

In addition to floral research, Roger worked with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria in developing a cooperative research project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, to study virus diseases of sweet potato and yams. He also worked with the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines to investigate virus diseases of rice. As accomplished as he was in his scientific endeavors, Roger displayed a rare dedication and encouraging, soft-spoken leadership style that earned him much admiration from his collaborators.

In addition to Mary, Roger is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and India Lawson; daughter and son-in-law Janet and Jeff Crouch; daughter and son-in-law Nancy Lawson and Will Heinz; his brother and sister-in-law Russ and Bette Lawson; his four grandchildren; three nieces and a nephew.

**Dr. John Meisinger**



Dr. John “Jack” Meisinger, retired Research Soil Scientist, died on Monday, November 8, 2021. Jack suffered a stroke at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Jack was born in Naperville, IL, where he spent his summers working on his grandparent’s farm. Jack was fascinated by how plant rows were laid out along the slope contours to reduce erosion. This led him to enter college to study soil science. He received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State in 1967, where he majored in Agronomy with minors in Chemistry-Physics and Mathematics.

During college, he spent a summer with what was then known as the Soil Conservation Service to learn more about these conservation structures. He started his graduate work at Cornell University in 1968. Still, his studies were interrupted by military service in the United States Coast Guard, serving as

an officer stationed in St. Louis, MO, and Wilmington, NC. He returned to Cornell in 1971 to finish his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, graduating in 1975. His graduate research on nitrogen in potatoes was conducted at the eastern end of Long Island in New York. He found it fascinating that an area so strongly related to New York City would have large farming activities. He enjoyed his work there, which began a life-long interest in nitrogen and soils.

Jack started his career with the ARS in 1975, where he was assigned to the Biological Waste Management Laboratory. He subsequently worked with the Environmental Chemistry Laboratory, the Animal Manure and By-Product Laboratory, the Environmental Management and By-Product Laboratory, the Crop Systems and Global Change Laboratory, and, after retirement, the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory, where he would continue his work.

Jack was internationally known for his work with nitrogen dynamics in soils and cropping systems. His meticulous analysis, synthesis, and integration of nitrogen cycle research resulted in the first to define methods and approaches for estimating field-scale nitrogen budgets. This resulted in the development of a decision support system to construct field-scale nitrogen budgets. He developed a soil nitrate test for the humid Northeastern U.S., something assumed to be impossible because of the high rainfall.

His pre-sidedress soil nitrate test (PSNT) has been widely adopted across the U.S, and the fall soil nitrate test (FSNT) has been adopted in many Mid-Atlantic States for nitrogen management in wheat. His contributions to the NLEAP model were significant to its success. NLEAP is a widely used and successful ARS model for nitrogen management in cropping systems.

He was also one of the first scientists to recognize that nitrogen management would be a critical requirement of the emerging No-Till management systems. Most of his lab research after 2001 was carried out in an old animal barn that had two labs and three offices but no windows. The building was

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**Meisinger** . . . *continued*

affectionately known as Fort Hooven.

Jack authored or co-authored over 140 publications. He received the USDA Team Distinguished Service Award for his contribution to the NLEAP nitrogen model. Jack was also a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America. He also served on numerous advisory boards, including the Board of Directors for the Soil Science Society of America and the Chesapeake Bay Program Agricultural Modeling and Loading Rate Subcommittees. As an adjunct Associate Professor at the Univ. of Maryland, Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Virginia Tech, Jack served on the graduate committees of several graduate students and was major professor for four M.Sc. students.

Jack was a great scientist who combined tremendous technical knowledge and practical application knowledge. He was also a keen study of personalities and institutional politics, both of which he was always willing to share to help others gain appreciation and knowledge about how ARS and its scientists functioned. Jack also served as a mentor for numerous postdocs who went on to be leaders in soil science and related fields. He was a great supporter of their career development.

He is survived by his wife Julie of 55 years, three daughters Amy Ann Meisinger (Robert Barrett), Faith Elizabeth Meisinger-Petit (Fritz Petit), and Hope Catherine Meisinger, and four grandchildren.

## 2022 FAR-B BOARD

Friends of Agricultural Research–Beltsville, Inc.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

**USDA** employees may join FAR-B as an Associate for \$15 per year, and a Personal Membership is \$30 per year. Higher levels are available, and application information is on our website, [www.far-b.org](http://www.far-b.org).

We would appreciate your reaching out to others about FAR-B membership and the value of our activities (see “CFC” page 3.)