

September 16-17, 2015

ITEM 168-2001-R0915

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Agronomy upon Joyce L. A. Eckhoff

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Joyce L. A. Eckhoff from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System and the people of the state of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Eckhoff received her B.Sc. degree from the University of Delaware, her M.S. degree from the University of Arizona, and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Arizona. She accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Agronomy at Montana State University in 1986 and she has served at the Eastern Agricultural Research Center since that time. She is currently Superintendent of Eastern Agricultural Research Center at Sidney, MT. During her 28-year career, she has been PI or Co-PI on more than \$4.24 million in research grants and has published 61 refereed and 56 technical research publications. In addition she has published one book chapter.

Dr. Eckhoff has provided invaluable service to crop producers in Montana during her career. Her research on nitrogen management on sugar beet production under both flood and sprinkler irrigation has saved growers 10s of millions of dollars by avoiding both under and over use of nitrogen fertilizer and has increased sugar beet processing quality such that sugar factories have become both more sustainable and profitable. This work is tied to critical work that she has done on evaluating nitrate ground water contamination under various cropping systems in eastern Montana with the result that growers have changed nitrogen use and cropping systems to address this problem. Her more recent research has addressed cadmium contamination in durum wheats. Durum wheats commonly used for pasta production often accumulate cadmium such that it is a human health hazard. Dr. Eckhoff has addressed this problem by showing that application of zinc will reduce cadmium accumulation in grain and by breeding lines that accumulate much reduced levels of cadmium such that they are not a human health risk. Recently the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station released the durum variety, Silver that was the result of Dr. Eckhoff's breeding program. This research has been recognized by durum wheat and pasta producers worldwide and has helped to assure Montana produced durum wheat is accepted by pasta producers throughout the world.

In addition to these major accomplishments, Dr. Eckhoff throughout her career has lead research programs evaluating wheat, barley, durum and sugar beet varieties, alternative crops, tillage practices and fertility practices relative to both irrigated and dryland production in eastern MT. The results of this research can be seen on every farm in eastern MT and in many other areas of MT and western North Dakota.

Dr. Eckhoff has been an exemplary faculty citizen with service on most every Department of Research Committee, including long time service on the Promotion and Tenure committee at both the Department and College level. She has also served on several graduate committees. Dr. Eckhoff has served the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agriculture, Montana State University and the sugar beet, wheat and barley producers of the State of Montana with innovation and distinction throughout her career.

For these and many other contributions, the Board of Regents is pleased to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Plant Genetics at Montana State University and wishes her well for many years to come.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments