



What's in a name?

Often, it is the oat breeders themselves who select the names for their new varieties. At the Ottawa Research and Development Centre of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada this year, Weikai Yan named three of his new varieties for retired colleagues who have made significant contributions to oat research.

Colleagues, friends, and family gathered to hear about the latest in oat research at ORDC and see the new lines.



(In the fields at Ottawa RDC)



‘AAC Molnar’ was named for Dr. Stephen (Steve) Molnar, who was [presented with the “Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement” award](#) in 2006.



(Weikai Yan with Steve Molnar)



‘AAC Fedak’ was named for Dr. George Fedak. George is a cytogeneticist, famous for his work in many crops. Like Steve, he was part of the original Quaker Oats consortium of researchers mapping the oat genome. He has received many awards, including [a gold medal from the Ukrainian National Academy of Science](#).



(Weikai Yan with George Fedak)



‘AAC Vernon’ was named for Dr. Vernon (Vern) Burrows, [who passed away in 2020](#). His daughters came to see the new line on Oat Day. Vern was [presented with the “Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement” award](#) in 1994. An Officer of the Order of Canada and member of the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame, Vern also received many honours from the people of China (see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).



(Vern’s daughters Janet and Diane Burrows, with dog Venus)

-Charlene Wight, 2023.

(I [was honoured](#) last year. Thank you, Weikai!)