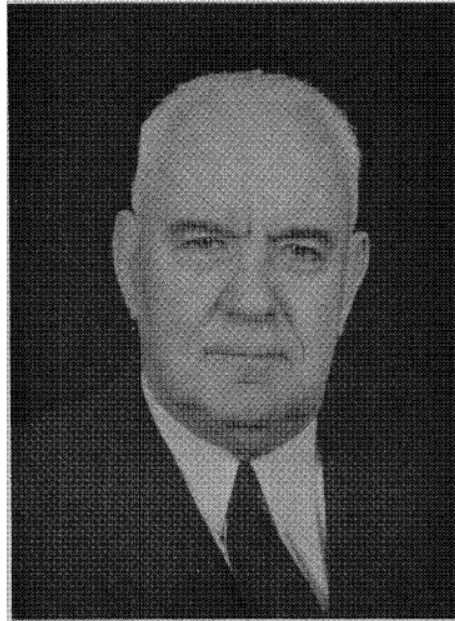


From the Oat Newsletter, volume 21, 1970:

F. A. Coffman  
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Mr. Franklin Arthur Coffman, retired U.S. Department of Agriculture Agronomist, is well known for his research achievements in winter oat improvement and in initiating uniform oat testing nurseries. His first professional position was that of Station Superintendent in the Office of Agronomy, Philippine Bureau of Agriculture. On the stations superintended by Mr. Coffman, corn, rice, sugar cane, grain sorghums, and various forage and fiber crops were grown. He went to the Philippines in 1914 and upon his return to the U.S. in 1916, he taught classes in Botany and Plant Physiology at Kansas State University while doing graduate work. He began service with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1917 as Field Assistant in charge of cereal experiments at Akron, Colorado. In 1918 he became Scientific Assistant and in 1922 Assistant Agronomist. In 1924 Mr. Coffman was promoted to Associate Agronomist and transferred to Arlington, Virginia, where he conducted winter oat experiments and initiated our present Uniform Oat Performance Nursery and Oat Winterhardiness Nursery programs. In 1937 he became Agronomist and in 1943 Senior Agronomist. He assisted in the overall oat breeding program administered by the Oat Investigations Leader, but gave particular emphasis to programs in the South. During this period he was transferred from Arlington, Virginia, to the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland. Mr. Coffman was assigned responsibility for winter oats in 1951 and in 1957 became Principal Agronomist. He retired in 1962 but has remained active as a U.S. Department of Agriculture Collaborator. He is presently involved in writing a Department Technical Bulletin on the classification, history, and description of oat varieties.

Mr. Coffman originated the Uniform Oat Winterhardiness Nurseries in 1926. These Nurseries have played an important role in accomplishing and measuring remarkable progress in increasing the winterhardiness of oats. He produced in his own hybridization and selection program the most winterhardy oats available at that time. He had sole responsibility for the Uniform Oat Performance Nurseries from 1924 through 1946. With rare exceptions, all oat varieties released in the U.S. during the last 35 years were tested in one or more Uniform Nurseries before release. Since 1917 Mr. Coffman had the major responsibility for developing 34 oat varieties. Representative varieties among this group occupied a major portion of the U.S. oat acreage for many years. He was editor and a major contributor to the American Society of Agronomy monograph "Oats and Oat Improvement." He has published more than 100 scientific papers.

Mr. Coffman is a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, American Genetic Association, Washington Botanical Society, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award in 1962.

Mr. Coffman was born December 30, 1892, at Jewell, Kansas. He obtained a B.S. degree in 1914 and an M.S. degree in 1922 from Kansas State University, and did further graduate work in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School from 1924 to 1926.