

2018 American Oat Workers Conference
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Jennifer Mitchell Fetch

Dr. Jennifer Mitchell Fetch was raised in southwestern Saskatchewan. She earned her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Biology and Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan, and a PhD from North Dakota State University.

Jennifer became the oat breeder with the Prairie Oat Breeding Consortium at Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Cereal Research Centre in July of 1998. This consortium is a Government-Industry partnership funded program with the objective to develop superior milling quality cultivars for the western Prairies. Jennifer was involved in the development of 12 oat cultivars in western Canada. She also began breeding organic oat cultivars in 2002, and is associated with an innovative program that involves direct participation by producers.

Jennifer has been involved with the breeding of other crops as well, including work with Fusarium Head Blight in wheat. She has always been a willing and effective research collaborator who is generous with her time and resources. She provided germplasm, expertise, and enthusiasm to numerous projects in oat genomics, even when the direct benefits to her research career were nebulous! Jennifer has served the American Oat Workers for many years in a variety of functions, and has mentored new scientists in the practical aspects of plant breeding.

Jennifer is married to Tom, an American import, who is the Cereal Stem Rust Pathologist at AAFC.