

From the Oat Newsletter, volume 32, 1981:

Dr. Fred L. Patterson
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Dr. Fred L. Patterson, Lynn Distinguished Professor of Agronomy at Purdue University has been a world renowned leader in the genetic improvement of oats, wheat and barley. Dr. Patterson has contributed primary leadership in the development of 18 oat, 22 soft red winter wheat, and 5 winter barley varieties. Oat varietal milestones include Clintland, Clintford, Stout, and Noble.

Dr. Patterson has succinctly hypothesized and directed avenues of research in many areas of basic genetics and breeding techniques which he then applied in the development of improved genotypes. His areas of research activity have included genetic control of disease and insect resistance, milling and baking quality, and seed protein improvement.

Dr. Patterson is known and respected in agronomic circles throughout the nation. He is the professional model of many who have worked with him. This fame and admiration stem not only from his unique professional competence and contributions, but also from his down-to-earth warmth, friendliness and cooperative spirit. He is always welcomed as cooperator, counselor, or consultant, because his approach is constructive. He brings to bear on problems the best scientific analysis, reduces tensions, minimizes hostilities, nurtures friendly cooperation, and inspires dedicated effort.

Dr. Patterson has been an outstanding plant breeding teacher. One of his most important contributions and lasting influences will be the awareness and insights of research in general and of the importance of considering the whole plant-environment complex which he instills in his students and colleagues.

Dr. Patterson has received many professional honors and awards including: American Society of Agronomy Agronomic Research Award; DeKalb Crop Science Distinguished Career Award; Honorary Doctor of Science degree, University of Nebraska; President, Crop Science Society of America, and American Society of Agronomy. He has been active on university and national committees.

Dr. Patterson was born April 6, 1916 at Reynolds, Nebraska. He received the B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska, the M.S. degree from Kansas State University, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin. After receiving the Ph.D. degree in 1950, he joined the faculty at Purdue University.