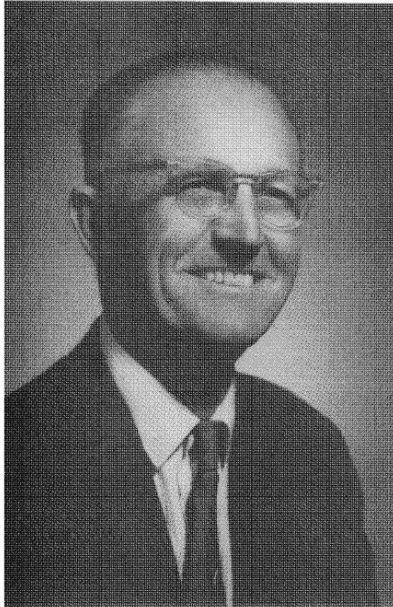


From the Oat Newsletter, volume 24, 1973:

H. L. Shands
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Dr. Hazel Lee Shands, Professor of Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin, has often been referred to, both professionally and affectionately, as the "Dean" of American oat breeders. Examination of the list of 16 oat, 2 barley, 4 winter wheat, and 2 winter rye varieties developed by Dr. Shands at Wisconsin reveals why this title is appropriate and also demonstrates his superior capability as a small grain breeder. These varieties were the product of intense ambition and untiring vigor, coupled with a creative knowledge of material and great skill in performance evaluation. Starting with the oat variety Vicland in 1941, his varieties have been outstanding for their disease resistance, wide adaptation, and excellent grain quality. Branch, Sauk, Beedee, Goodfield, Garland, Holden, Lodi, Froker, and Dal, to single out a few varieties, all exhibited important contributions over existing varieties in one or more specific traits. His response to recent emphasis on development of high protein oats has been the release of Dal and Goodland, both over 2 percentage points higher in groat protein than most available varieties.

Dr. Shands was instrumental in organizing the National Oat Conference during the period 1946-1950, serving as Chairman of the first conference in 1950. He has served as Chairman of both the North Central Oat Conference and the North Central Barley Conference. His wit, humor, and scientific knowledge have been a stimulation and inspiration to his colleagues whenever cereal breeders have gathered together.

He has advised and directed the graduate research programs of 23 Ph.D. candidates. Eight others received terminal M.S. degrees. He developed and has taught annually,

since 1935, a course in grain crops. Dr. Shands has demonstrated the unique ability to establish a rapport with his scientific colleagues, with industry, with agricultural advisory groups, and with farmers. His help and tireless efforts in relating scientific accomplishments to the needs of the farmer and agri-business have generated widespread confidence by the farmer, seed-grower organizations, and industry in his own breeding and research programs and in the Department of Agronomy, University of Wisconsin.

He advised and personally participated in oat breeding programs in Brazil and Mexico, and provided germplasm for these programs as well as those in Chile and Columbia. He has willingly shared his germplasm with oat workers the world over.

Dr. Shands was born October 19, 1908, at Landrum, South Carolina. He received his B.S. degree from Clemson University in 1929, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1932. Starting as an "Assistant in Agronomy," he rose to the rank of Professor in 1946. He was elected a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy in 1955, and holds membership in Kappa Alpha Sigma, Phi Sigma, Gamma Alpha, Sigma Xi, and Gamma Sigma Delta honorary societies. He is the author of numerous research papers and Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station bulletins. Dr. Shands is scheduled to retire from the University of Wisconsin staff in July, 1974.