

From the Oat Newsletter, volume 32, 1981:

Dr. Dale A. Ray
Dedication in memory



Dr. Dale A. Ray, Professor of Agronomy at Ohio State University, was an active participant in the National Oat Conference for many years. During this time he attained the status of respected, senior colleague and good friend of others in the group. His untimely death at age 58 in November 1981 saddened all who knew him. Thus, it is fitting that this issue of the Oat Newsletter, Volume 32, be dedicated to his memory.

Dr. Ray received his B.S. degree from Purdue University in 1947 and his M.S. from the same university in 1949. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree in Agronomy in 1952 from North Carolina State University. From 1952 to 1956 he served as Assistant Professor of Agronomy and Genetics at West Virginia University, and then moved to Ohio State University, where he served until his death.

At Ohio State, Dr. Ray carried a heavy teaching load with responsibilities in crop breeding and statistics at the graduate and undergraduate levels. His excellence as a teacher, and rapport with students was attested to by their giving him an outstanding faculty award.

The limited time he had available for research was divided between oat and barley breeding. His particular interests were the development of high protein oat cultivars, and the transfer of the high protein trait from Avena sterilis to cultivated oats. He was a regular and active participant in both the Northcentral and National Oat Conferences, and his useful and informative contributions to the discussions of these groups was always appreciated.

He was also active in the more general aspects of plant breeding as evidenced by his work with the Ohio Seed Improvement Association. He served for many years on the board of directors of Ohio Foundation Seed, Inc., and on variety release committees. For the last several years of his life he had the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of oats and other crops on a broader basis as Assistant Chairman of the Department of Agronomy at Ohio State.

Dr. Ray was a devoted family man, who lived a full and well-rounded life. He was active in campus and community affairs, and his many friends both within and outside the Oat Conference, greatly regret his passing.