

### In Memoriam: Dr. Darrell M. Wesenberg



Dr. Darrell M. Wesenberg died on July 30, 2018, at his cabin in Lake Kabetogama in northern Minnesota. Darrell was the former Research Leader and Location Coordinator of the Small Grains and Potato Germplasm Research Unit in Aberdeen, Idaho. He retired from ARS in 2001 after 33 years of service, and spent many long summer days with his family, friends, and boats at the Lake Kabetogama cabin. He was an avid fisherman and a master fryer of walleye.

A native of Wisconsin, he received his higher education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, including his Ph.D. in Agronomy in 1968. That year he began work as a plant breeder with ARS in Aberdeen. Darrell developed many barley and oat cultivars that greatly benefited growers and industry nationwide. Notable was the release of the barley cultivar 'Klages', which spurred the growth of the malting industry in the western states. Darrell's years-long effort to introduce malting quality traits into winter barley culminated in the release of 'Charles' and opened new opportunities for efficient barley production. Germplasm from his program has been used widely by breeders in the US and Canada. He authored many peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, and technical reports and was often invited to present research findings at national and international meetings related to small grains research. In 1986 he became Research Leader at the Aberdeen Unit and oversaw the design and construction of the National Small Grains Germplasm Research Facility. He supervised the transfer of the National Small

Grains Collection to the Facility shortly thereafter. His pioneering work with the collection expanded the evaluation of barley and oat germplasm to include screening for emerging disease problems and assessment of important grain quality characteristics.

Darrell received the Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement Award in 1998, the Idaho Barley Industry Service Award in 2000, and was inducted into the Eastern Idaho Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2007. He will be remembered for his many contributions as a breeder and a mentor, as a dear friend to many, and a gentleman to all.

Dr. Darrell Wesenberg is survived by his three daughters and two grandchildren.



*Darrell (right) with Vern Burrows (left) and Fran Webster (centre) at the 5th IOC and 7th IBGS meetings in Saskatoon, Canada, in 1996.*