

From the Oat Newsletter, volume 40, 1989:

RETIREMENT  
LELAND W. BRIGGLE

Leland (Lee) W. Briggles, research geneticist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, retired November 3, 1989 after 40 years of Federal service. Born and raised in North Dakota, he received his B.S. degree in 1942 at Jamestown College (ND). Following 3 1/2 years of military service in World War II, he taught high school for one year, then obtained a B.S. (Agronomy) degree in 1949, and an M.S. degree in 1951 from North Dakota State University (NDSU), while serving on the staff of the Agronomy Department. After receiving his Ph.D. Degree from Iowa State University in 1954, he joined the Crops Research Division, USDA, at NDSU, Fargo, ND.

Dr. Briggles conducted studies on durum and hard red spring wheat at Fargo until 1955 when he became Eastern Wheat Improvement leader at Beltsville. In 1969 he was named Leader of Oat Investigations for ARS, a position he held until the Agency's reorganization in 1972. After 3 years at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, conducting oat research for ARS, Dr. Briggles was reassigned to Beltsville as National Research Program Leader for Cereal Crops (Small Grains) on the National Program Staff. In 1982, he moved to the National Small Grains Collection staff at Beltsville on special assignment until his retirement. During that time, he has overseen the small grains germplasm evaluation program and the relocation of the collection to Aberdeen, ID.

Dr. Briggles has authored or co-authored more than 65 scientific publications, including four book chapters. Besides coordinating and overseeing wheat and oat research and evaluation at the national and regional levels, he was instrumental in releasing the distribution of classes and varieties of wheat surveys of the U.S. which became a standard for knowledge of the varietal shifts throughout the nation. His research contributions have been principally through breeding and genetic studies involved with disease resistance and end-use quality factors in wheat and oats. Perhaps, his main interest has been working with wild related species as donors of useful attributes in improvement of small grain cultivars. He has served on the Plant Variety Protection Board, the Amer. Assoc. of Seed Certifying Agencies Small Grain Variety Review Board, the National Wheat Improvement Committee and numerous other boards and review teams.

Dr. Briggles is a Fellow of ASA, CSSA, and AAAS. He is a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Zeta, and Gamma Sigma Delta.