



Judith Frégeau-Reid retires from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Dr. Judith Frégeau-Reid, from the Ottawa Research and Development Centre of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, retired mid-October 2019. Judith first came to the Ottawa Research Station (as it was then called) in 1981 after completing her PhD at Carleton University. She was hired to work as a cereal physiologist by Dr. Vern Burrows, section head for crops at the station and the oat breeder. Her work was focused on understanding dormancy in dormoats and helping with pre-harvest sprouting problems in soft white winter wheat. In 1989, she took over the Plant Research Centre's Grain Quality laboratory with projects in wheat, oats, and barley. The lab also provided screening support to the breeding programs for important end-use traits. In the 90's, Judith expanded her work in grain chemistry to include natto soybeans and corn for dry milling/alkaline cooking. Later, her laboratory added projects on soybean quality for tofu production.

Judith worked closely with Vern Burrows in his early work promoting naked oat as a food grain that could replace or complement rice. The naked oat variety 'AC Fregeau' was named after her.

After Vern's retirement in 1997, Judith continued to work with his successor, Dr. Art McElroy. Art retired in 2004, and Judith took over the duties as oat breeder, as well as maintaining her program in cereal chemistry. In 2006, Dr. Weikai Yan took over as oat breeder, and Judith was able to return to focusing on her other work. She continued Art's work on using NIR as a screening tool for grain composition in oats. Her laboratory developed a calibration for estimating β -glucan content in genetic lines. As part of the oat breeding team with Weikai, Judith's laboratory was instrumental in the successful development of several new oat varieties adapted to eastern Canada.

Judith collaborated with many people from both the public and private sectors over the years, not only as a partner in research projects, but also as a member of various committees. Her laboratory managed many projects with industry, as well as projects with universities, provincial governments, and other groups within AAFC.