

25th Fluid Forum Provides Broad Range of Research

Two-day forum impressive in showing the many advantages of using fluid fertilizer to improve crop yields.

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The attendees to the 25th Fluid Forum sponsored by the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation, headquartered in Manhattan, Kansas, composed of dealers, ag researchers for universities, the USDA-ARS, and ag people gathered from the United States and overseas, were treated to the latest field research showing how fluid fertilizers improve crop yields. The information-filled sessions were led by leading researchers, both in the U.S. and overseas, funded in their projects by the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation, headquartered in Manhattan, Kansas. Capacity audiences viewed and listened to two days of the latest developments in improving crop yields via the use of fluid fertilizers.

Opening the first session Monday afternoon was an hour-long delivery by Dr. Jerry Hatfield, USDA-ARS, who spoke on Fitting Nutrient Management into the G x E x M Concept to Enhance

Productivity. The opening day session wrapped up with a review of Methodologies for Determining Salt-out Temperatures, delivered by Dr. Michael Hojjatie of Tessenderlo-Kerley.

That evening, the FFF board of directors sponsored a reception in the Fire Garden Atrium, treating a crowd of guests, attending speakers, and

“Capacity crowds viewed impressive results on how fluids improve yields.”

members of the FFF’s board of directors and Research Committee, plus personnel associated with managing the FFF and their guests, to a broadly multi-tabled

array of gourmet delights.

Day two opened with a Buffet Breakfast, followed later by an opening session delivery by Dr. Jim Schepers, USDA-ARS on the Subject of Crop Yield and N Management Models: The Promise and Pitfalls. This was followed by a broad array of subjects by five speakers, among them a second-year study entailing potassium fertilization for southern cotton, another on assessments of the potential for drip irrigation, a third on evaluations of sidedress applications, and a fourth on balanced nutrition and closing yield gaps. The session closed with use of fluid sources of potassium.

Following this was the Annual Meeting and Awards of the FFF, which includes a multi-course luncheon, followed by an annual report concerning FFF business, including Board of Directors reports. Recognition was given by Board Chair Terry Tindall to those members who



Multiple sessions were conducted during the two days of meetings, covering field research on the effectiveness of fluid fertilizers in maximizing crop yields.



The Fluid Fertilizer Foundation's board of directors met prior to the two days of project presentations.



have regularly provided FFF support, plus new companies that have recently joined in their support of the Foundation. He also briefly discussed some of the subjects brought up at the earlier Board of Directors meeting.

Dale Leikam also gave the President's Report, offering thanks to supporting members, recognizing FFF board companies who have served as sponsors, researchers, and program speakers. He also brought members up to date on the FFF's finances and any new research projects.

This was followed by the Researcher of the Year award, which went to Dr. Fred Below of the University of Illinois for his outstanding fluid fertilizer research contributions to agriculture.

The prestigious Werner Nelson Award was presented to Dr. Ricardo Melgar, a soil scientist at Pergamino Exp.St. INTA, Argentina, for his wise use of fertilizer to maximize crop yields and profits.

The Fluid Fellow Awards, given in recognition of leadership in the fluid fertilizer industry, were presented to: Mark Alley of Koch Agronomic Services, Ray McDonald, Can Grow Crop Solutions, Inc., Ron Wachter of Helena Chemical Co., and Dr. Tom Doerge of Deer and Company.

At the close of the luncheon, the gavel was passed from Board Chair Dr. Terry Tindall of J. R. Simplot Company to



Presentation of Fluid Fellow Award by FFF Board Director, Terry Tindall, given to Ray McDonald of Can Grow Crop Solutions, Inc.

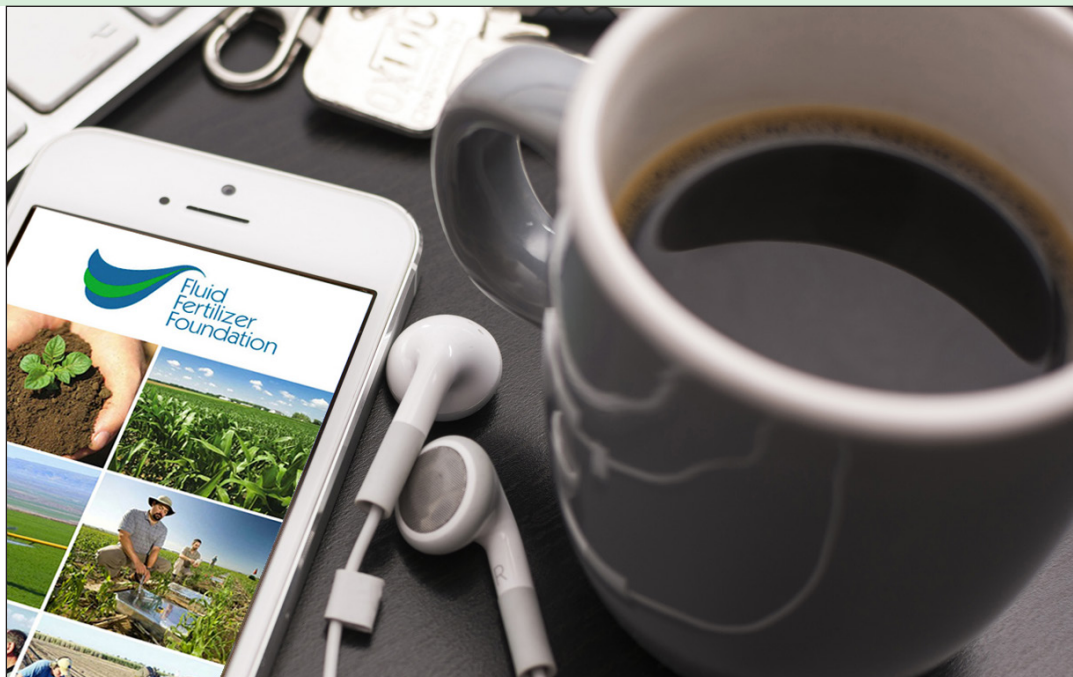
Robert Mullen of Potash Corporation.

The Tuesday afternoon sessions began with an hour-long discussion on El Nino and other weather-related issues by Dr. Elwynn Taylor of Iowa State University and ended with an FFF Website and Mobile App Demo by Dale Leikam, president of the FFF. This was followed again by a Fire Garden/Atrium reception.

In 2017, the 26th Annual Fluid Forum will again be held at Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. Dates are February 20 to 21. Be sure to put this on your calendar.

Going on Twenty-Two Years of Archives!

The Fluid Journal, flagship publication of the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation (FFF), makes over two decades of archives available on its web site. The magazine investigates and informs its readers on innovative uses of fluid fertilizers under varied cultural, pest control, and water management practices, focusing on evaluating:



- ***the agronomics of fluid fertilizer in the production of maximum economic crop yields***
- ***application techniques for fluid fertilizers***
- ***the efficiencies and conveniences of fluid fertilizer systems***
- ***methods of controlling environmental problems with fluids.***

Since its formation, the FFF has funded over \$3 million in fluid fertilizer research and accumulated thousands of pages of research data. The main goal of the Fluid Journal is to transfer this technical information into easy-to-read form to its farmers and dealers.

The Fluid Journal also provides links to its articles on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/fluidjournal>

For information on how to become a member of the FFF, contact the foundation's office at 785/776-0273 or the foundation's website: <http://www.fluidfertilizer.com>