

26th Fluid Forum Recap

Broad range covered on how fluid fertilizers work to maximize crop yields.

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Attendees to the 26th Annual Fluid Forum held at Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona from February 19 to February 21, gathered for two days of sharing the latest in field research using fluid fertilizers to improve crop yields. A crowd of 124 watched as researchers from both the U.S. and overseas reported on their research, funded by the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation, giving the latest

developments in yield results.

Opening the first session on Monday afternoon was Dr. Paul Fixen of IPNI who spoke on 35 Years of Positive Impact and Progress—What's Next for Our Industry. His discussion included advances in field technology, water flow, genetics, yield increases, soil systems and precision services. It looked into the future on

increasing profitability and reducing nutrient loss. The opening day sessions included several updates ranging from post-tassel N applications for corn by Dr. Dorivar Ruiz Diaz from Kansas State University, to the evaluation of fluid K fertilizers for Highbush Blueberry production presented by Dr. David Bryla with the USDA-ARS in Corvallis, Oregon.



Over two days of meetings, a business luncheon, and 15 presentations were conducted, covering field research on the effectiveness of fluid fertilizers in maximizing crop yields.



An FFF board-sponsored reception in Talking Stick's spacious Fire Garden/Atrium followed the afternoon session, treating a crowd of registrants to a multi-tabled array of gourmet delights.

Day two opened with a buffet breakfast, followed by an opening session delivery by Brett Nightingale of CF Industries, giving an industry update and citing issues within the industry that need resolving. Following this was a broad array of subjects by four speakers, among them Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti of Kansas State University, who discussed a second-year study on high-yielding soybeans, covering genetic gains and nitrogen interaction. The morning session closed with a discussion on a comparison of ATS placement methods to enhance yield of continuous corn by Dr. Dan Kaiser of the University of Minnesota.

Following this was the Annual Meeting and Awards of the FFF with a multi-course luncheon followed by an annual report concerning FFF business. Recognition was given by Board Chair Robert Mullen of Potash Corporation to those members who 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 members who have served as sponsors, researchers, and program speakers. He also brought

members up to date on the FFF's finances and new research projects.

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

The prestigious Werner Nelson Award was presented to Dr. Robert Mullen for his work while at Ohio State University.

The Fluid Fellows Awards, given in recognition of leadership in the Fluid Fertilizer industry, were presented to Galen Mooso of J. R. Simplot Company, Ed Corrigan of Brandt Consolidated, Inc., and Leon Sites of Tessenderlo Kerley Company.

At the close of the luncheon, the gavel was passed from Robert Mullen to Bob Ruebel of Nachurs Alpine Solutions Inc.

The Tuesday afternoon sessions began with an hour-long discussion by Michael Seaver of Phoenix, Arizona on "Leading Through Change: Looking to the Future" and ended with "Efficient Management of Water and Nutrient Resources" by Dr. Fred Below and Ross Bender of the University of Illinois.

This was followed again by a Fire Garden/Atrium reception.



Dr. Paul Fixen of IPNI opened the first session speaking on advances in fluid fertilizer technology genetics and yield increases.



Receiving the prestigious Werner Nelson Award from Dale Leikam, President of the FFF, is FFF Board Chairman Robert Mullen of Potash Corporation.

In 2018, the 27th Annual Fluid Forum will again be held at Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. Dates are February 19 to 20. **Be sure to put this on your calendar.**