

# Value of Fluid Fertilizers

*Two-day forum shows many advantages of using fluids to increase crop yields.*

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Attendees to the 27th 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

researchers funded in their projects by the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation.

Opening the first session on Monday afternoon was Dr. Eric Snodgrass of the University of Illinois, who spoke on weather and climate. His discussion included their risks and effects on agriculture. The opening day session also included a discussion on formulations to mitigate sulfur deficiencies and maximize cotton

yields by Dr. William Frame of Virginia Tech University, and the use of fluids on highbush Blueberry by Dr. David Bryla of the USDA-ARS Corvallis, OR.

An FFF board sponsored reception followed the afternoon session, treating a crowd of registrants to an array of gourmet delights.

Day two opened with a buffet breakfast,



followed by an opening session delivery by Dr. Robert Miller of Colorado State University on side-dress application of potassium and nitrogen on corn grain yield. Among a range of topics was Dr. Casteel of Purdue University who spoke on optimizing soybean nutrition and yield with an advanced foliar delivery system.

Following this was the Annual Meeting and Awards multi-course Luncheon followed by an annual report concerning FFF business.

Board Chairman Bob Ruebel of Nachurs Alpine Solutions, Inc. gave recognition to those members who have provided FFF support, plus new companies that have recently joined in their support of the Foundation. He also discussed some of the subjects brought up at the earlier Board of Directors meeting.

Dale Leikam gave the President's report, offering thanks to supporting members, plus 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 research projects.

This was followed by Researcher of the Year award, which went to Dr. Antonio Mallarino of Iowa State University.

The prestigious Werner Nelson Award was presented to Dr. Robert Miller for his work as Affiliate Professor at the Soil Fertility, Crops, and Soils Department, Colorado State University.

The Fluid Fellow Awards, given in recognition of leadership in the Fluid Fertilizer Industry were presented to Russel French of Dupont-Pioneer and Scott Farrow of Ashta Chemicals, Inc.

At the close of the luncheon the gavel was passed from Bob Ruebel to Rodney Gilliland of the Andersons, Inc.

The Tuesday afternoon sessions began with a summation by Dr. Terry Roberts of IPNI as to where IPNI has been and where they are going, plus the lessons learned, and ended with a discussion on the Effect of Method of UAN Application on N Losses by Dr. Miguel Cabrera of the University of Georgia.

This was followed by treating the registrants to another array of gourmet delights.

**In 2019, the 28th Annual Fluid Forum will be held at the Embassy Suites, 4415 E. Paradise Village Pkwy S. Phoenix, AZ.**



ABOVE: Retiring President Dale Leikam being presented an honorary plaque by board chairman Bob Ruebel for his serving as president of the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation for 10 years.

LEFT: Retiring secretary Mary Hughes being presented an honorary plaque by board chairman Bob Ruebel for serving as secretary of the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation for 20 years.