

Obituary for WSSA, WSWs, and Agronomy Society Newsletters

Arnold P. Appleby



Arnold Appleby was born on Oct. 24, 1935, raised on a farm near Formoso, KS, and died on December 6, 2018 at age 83 in Corvallis, OR.. He received the B.S. in Agricultural Education in 1957 and M.S. in Agronomy in 1958 from Kansas State University. After teaching math and biology at Bazine High School in Kansas, he joined the faculty in Farm Crops at Oregon State University in 1959. He received the PhD in Weed Science at OSU in 1962 and spent two seasons at the Pendleton Branch Experiment Station conducting weed research. He then returned to Corvallis where he was associate project leader under W.R. Furtick. In 1969, the project was divided and Furtick headed up the international work while Appleby became project leader of the domestic research. He began teaching the beginning weed control course and herbicide science course in 1965 and continued until his retirement in 1992, plus three more years post-retirement. This involved nearly 2,000 students over the 30 years.

Appleby was active in both the Weed Science Society of America and the Western Society of Weed Science. He served two terms as WSSA Secretary, and was elected Vice-President in 1974. He was forced to resign because of serious experimental eye surgery, from which he eventually recovered. He was named the Outstanding Teacher in 1971, Fellow in 1976, and Outstanding Researcher in 1983.

In WSWs, he was elected to the offices from Secretary through Past President. He was named Fellow in 1976 and Outstanding Weed Scientist in 1991. He also was named Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. He served as Associate Editor for both Weed Science and Agronomy Journal.

On campus, he was named Teacher of the Year in Crop Science three times, received the R.M. Wade Award as Outstanding Teacher in the College of Agriculture, won three Distinguished Professor awards, and won several Distinguished Service awards from commodity groups and other organizations.

One part of his professional activities that he looked back with most pleasure was advising graduate students. He directed 44 M.S. programs and 30 PhD programs. He maintained an e-mail address list with about 140 ex-OSU weed personnel, with whom he maintained correspondence until his death.

He authored several books, including the history of WSWs, WSSA, the OSU Crop Science Department, the OSU weed program, and the Agricultural Research Foundation.

Following retirement, he maintained an office in Crop Science and served as Building Manager. He was on the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Research Foundation and chaired the Competitive Grant Committee of that organization for sixteen years. He was named Volunteer of the Year by the OSU Retirees Assoc. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Service award from Kansas State University. In 2009 he was named Diamond Pioneer at OSU, and in 2010, he was inducted into the OSU College of Agriculture Hall of Fame, the first on-campus faculty to be inducted in the 30-year history of the Hall.

Weed science was Appleby's life and he always held the hope that any impact of his on that profession was beneficial.

He is survived by his wife, Gerry, of Corvallis; two sons, Brian and Brent; two sisters and a brother; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.