
B.R. Wells
R I C E
Research Studies
2 0 0 4

R.J. Norman, J.-F. Meullenet,
and K.A.K. Moldenhauer, editors

Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

*(a unit of the University of Arkansas
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DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF

Bobby R. Wells

Dr. Bobby R. Wells was born July 30, 1934, at Wickliffe, Ky. He received his B.S. degree in agriculture from Murray State University in 1959, his M.S. in agronomy from the University of Arkansas in 1961, and his Ph.D. in soils from the University of Missouri in 1964. Dr. Wells joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas in 1966 after two years as an assistant professor at Murray State University. He spent his first 16 years at the U of A Rice Research and Extension Center near Stuttgart. In 1982, he moved to the U of A Department of Agronomy in Fayetteville.

Dr. Wells was a world-renowned expert on rice production with special emphasis on rice nutrition and soil fertility. He was very active in the Rice Technical Working Group (RTWG) for which he served on several committees, chaired and/or moderated Rice Culture sections at the meetings and was a past secretary and chairman of the RTWG. He loved being a professor and was an outstanding teacher and a mentor to numerous graduate students. Dr. Wells developed an upper-level course in rice production and taught it for many years. Dr. Wells was appointed head of the U of A Department of Agronomy in 1993 and became university professor that year in recognition of his outstanding contributions to research, service, and teaching.

Among the awards he received were: the Outstanding Faculty Award from the U of A Department of Agronomy (1981), the Distinguished Rice Research and/or Education Award from the Rice Technical Working Group (1988), and the Outstanding Researcher Award from the Arkansas Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists (1992). He was named a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy (1993) and was awarded, posthumously, the Distinguished Service Award from the RTWG (1998).

Dr. Wells edited this series when it was titled *Arkansas Rice Research Studies* from the publication's inception in 1991 until his death in 1996. Because of Dr. Wells' contribution to rice research and this publication, it was renamed the *B.R. Wells Rice Research Studies* in his memory starting with the 1996 series.



FEATURED RICE COLLEAGUE

John F. Robinson

Dr. John F. Robinson was born March 24, 1943 in Columbia, La., and raised in the small town of Grayson, La. His father was a vocational agriculture teacher, advisor to the Future Farmers of America, and instrumental in fostering John's interest in agriculture. John was very active in FFA and 4-H. His FFA project was a herd of Poll Hereford cattle and his 4H project was showing hogs and sheep at parish and state fairs.

In 1961, John enrolled at Northeast Louisiana University at Monroe, La., and in 1963 transferred to Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. He graduated from LSU in 1965 with a B.S. degree in Pre-Med. In 1965, John began working in the USDA-ARS Rice Insects Research Project as a student worker and taking graduate courses in entomology. In 1966, he accepted a temporary position with USDA-ARS in Baton Rouge as a lab technician in the rice insects project. In 1967, John accepted a permanent laboratory technician position with USDA-ARS at the European Corn Borer Laboratory located at Ankeny, Iowa. This position offered the opportunity to work full-time and continue his education in entomology. He received his Ph.D. degree in entomology from Iowa State University, Ames Iowa, in 1974. In 1975, Dr. Robinson transferred to the USDA-ARS Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, S.C., and conducted research on vegetable insects until the end of 1977.

In December of 1977, John was able to return to the familiar surroundings of Louisiana when he accepted the position of research scientist with USDA-ARS at the Rice Station in Crowley, La., conducting research on rice insects. He had a wonderful research career at the LSU Rice Station and was a major contributor in the control of the rice water weevil and stink bug in the southern United States. He was always very practical in his scientific approach to solving problems and was most interested in solving real-world problems. His research helped to set the economic thresholds for controlling the rice water weevil and stink bug in commercial fields not only in Louisiana, but also in the other southern states.

Although John enjoyed and was quite successful as a rice researcher, he also had interests in administration and thought he could help the rice industry in that capacity. Consequently, in the summer of 1989 he applied for, was offered, and accepted the position of Director of the University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center located near Stuttgart, Ark. Dr. Robinson brought a fresh perspective to the Rice Research and Extension Center. His positive and people-oriented approach helped him to encourage rice research and extension personnel to work closely together to solve rice producer's problems. He was a committed, unselfish leader who always took great pride in the accomplishments of the scientists and staff at the Rice Research and Extension

Center and supported them well. His number one priority as the resident director was how the Rice Research and Extension Center could help improve the rice industry. He retired as Director of the University of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center in the fall of 2001.

Dr. John Robinson had many accomplishments while directing the Rice Research and Extension Center. He encouraged the expansion of the rice nursery in Puerto Rico to include Mississippi and the USDA-ARS group at the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center; this nursery has been very beneficial to the southern United State rice industry. John was instrumental in helping to make the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center more than a dream: a reality. Through this center the tools of biotechnology can now be integrated into the rice breeding program. John was active in several organizations on the local and national scale. He was a member of the Rotary and Ruritan clubs in Stuttgart, he served as Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Research Centers Administrators Society, and he was very active in the Rice Technical Working Group where he served on numerous committees and held the offices of Secretary/Program Chair and Chairman. During his career Dr. Robinson received Riceland Food's prestigious Friend of the Farmer Award and Distinguished Service Awards from the Rice Technical Working Group and the Research Centers Administrators Society.

Upon retirement John and his wife, Sarah, moved back to the small town of Grayson, La. Both are actively involved in the Grayson United Methodist Church. Sarah serves as treasurer and John is serving as lay leader and president of the Grayson United Methodist Men. They also do a monthly church newsletter. He is a member of the Caldwell Parish Industrial Board and is presently serving as its president, and is a board member of the Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance. Always with an eye to the future, John is presently serving as president of the Welcome Home Cemetery Association. He recently volunteered to lead "insect safaris" for 3rd to 6th graders to help raise money to support the Martin Home Place which is listed on the National Historic Register.

John and Sarah's two children live in the same community. They spend a lot of time with their family and especially with Dillon, their eight year-old grandson. Dillon is presently trying to teach his grandparents how to get past the first level in "Lord of the Rings" on the Play Station and a few basic Taekwondo moves. They have a couple of houses built in the mid-to-late 1920s that they are renovating. John likes to fish and still makes the annual sailing of the "Perch Fleet" to fish with his Iowa State friends in Minnesota. John said when he retired that he was looking forward to a lot of fishing and reading. Oh well, maybe next year.

This publication is available on the AAES website at:
www.uark.edu/dept/agripub/Publications/researchseries/

FOREWORD

Research reports contained in this publication may represent preliminary or only a single year of results; therefore, these results should not be used as a basis for long-term recommendations.

Several research reports in this publication will appear in other Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station publications. This duplication is the result of the overlap in research coverage between disciplines and our effort to inform Arkansas rice producers of all the research being conducted with funds from the rice check-off. This publication also contains research funded by industry, federal, and state agencies.

Use of products and trade names in any of the research reports does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the products named and does not signify that these products are approved to the exclusion of comparable products.

All authors are either current or former faculty, staff, or students of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, or scientists with the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service. For further information about any author, contact Communication Services, (501) 575-5647.

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The Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board

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