

Donald (Don) James Tait – School 1955

Honorary Life Member 2009

Don lives and farms at Elrose, Saskatchewan. After graduating from the School of Agriculture, he returned to the farm and began a successful career as a producer, promoter and supporter of the emerging pulse crop industry.

Don realized that diversity in crop production was essential if Saskatchewan agriculture was to be a viable industry. He also recognized the need to have strong grower organizations that would provide agronomic, economic and policy information to producers who were interested in growing pulse crops. With this in mind, Don spent a great deal of time and his own money to organize the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Association and the Pulse Crop Development Board. The success of these organizations led to the formation of the Western Canada Pulse Growers Association. These organizations played an important role in the development of the pulse crop industry in the Prairie Provinces.

Don also became involved with other organizations such as the Canada - Saskatchewan Agri-Food Innovation Fund and the Saskatchewan Food Council. This allowed Don to promote the use of pulse crops in the food market thus increasing the value-added opportunity for the crop.

As a grower, Don constantly promoted the need to develop better varieties more suitable to the prairie environment. He became involved as an advisor to the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatchewan and a member of the Standards Committee of the Canadian Grain Commission.

Don's efforts have been recognized by others. He received an Honorary Life Membership from the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists, was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, received a Distinguished Agriculture Graduate award from the University of Saskatchewan and was recognized as the Pulse Promoter of the Year by Cyanamid.

Don has been active in his community having served on the library board, hospital board and the home care board.