

## **Kenneth John Kirkland – College 1971**

### ***Honorary Life Member 2009***

Ken Kirkland was born on November 22, 1939, and raised on a farm near Star City, SK. He obtained his BSA at the University of Saskatchewan in 1971 and his Master's degree in continuing education in 1972.

Upon graduation, Ken joined the University of Saskatchewan as an Associate Professor of Crop Science with a Joint Appointment in Extension. In 1978 he moved to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Farm at Scott and served as Weed Scientist and Superintendent. In 1996 he became research manager of both the Scott and Melfort research farms until his retirement in 2000.

Ken's impressive research record was directly aimed at addressing production issues for Prairie farmers. His weed control research accomplishments included: the effect of water quality and lower carrier volumes on herbicide efficacy; late fall surface application of herbicides without soil incorporation; pre-harvest control of perennial weeds with glyphosate; and optimising herbicide application by evaluating factors that impact the efficacy of specific wild oat herbicides. In addition to weed science, Ken was also responsible for some innovative agronomic studies. He led a study on dormant fall and early seeding of herbicide tolerant canola. Early seeding of canola was widely adopted by producers since it improved crop yields by avoiding high summer temperatures during the sensitive flowering period. Ken was one of the first public scientists to evaluate Roundup Ready canola in North America. He believed in research collaboration and provided leadership to ensure studies were conducted over multiple sites. These multi-site studies improved producer confidence in the technology that Ken developed as it was proven that the results were applicable over diverse geographical areas.

Ken received many awards in his career including the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists Distinguished Agrologist Award, the Canadian Weed Science Society Excellence in Weed Science, and was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2002.

Upon retirement, Ken and his wife Mona moved to an acreage at Vegreville, AB. Ken continues to be involved in the agriculture industry through consulting work and working as a "hired hand" at harvest and seeding for a local farmer