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Dr. William Meggitt honored with 2016 Michigan Agri-Business Association ‘Leaders and Legends’ Award
MSU researcher pioneered groundbreaking crop protection strategies

LANSING – The **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** this week honored **Dr. William (Bill) Meggitt**, retired professor of weed science at Michigan State University (MSU), with its 2016 Leaders and Legends award. The honor is given to those who have sparked growth and opportunity in Michigan agriculture, and spurred industry innovation. During his MSU career, Dr. Meggitt was well-known for his research that led to innovative herbicide uses on Michigan crops, many of which are credited with enabling major yield and production enhancements.

“Dr. Meggitt’s research was instrumental in modernizing crop protection in Michigan, and ensuring that new pesticides were put to good use across the state to strengthen our agriculture sector and spark new opportunity,” said **Jim Byrum**, president of **MABA**. “Dr. Meggitt was committed to his research, and to translating that work to real-world results for growers across our state. Without his work, Michigan agriculture would be fundamentally different today – and we’re certainly better off as a result of Bill Meggitt’s decades of research.”

Meggitt joined MSU in 1960 as an Associate Professor for Weed Control in Field Crops, following several years working for USDA’s Agricultural Research Service and Rutgers University. His MSU position included teaching, research, and extension.

In his many years of research at MSU, Dr. Meggitt specialized in developing weed control in field crops, incorporating new pesticides as they were developed. He conducted pioneering research on many of the new pesticide products developed during his tenure, and helped create many modern weed control strategies. He was a leader in the development of two and three-way tank mixes, as well as combinations of pre-plant, pre and post-emergence applications for weed control in field crops.

During his career at Rutgers and Michigan State, he trained more than forty graduate students in the research area. He also founded “Weed Day,” a joint effort between Michigan State and Purdue University that continues today.

“Dr. Meggitt is well known as an excellent mentor and teacher to hundreds who learned from him over the years, from his students, to farmers, to fellow researchers who turned to him for advice,” **Byrum** said. “Bill is a shining example of the Land Grant mission – leading the way on agricultural research, and delivering that research to improve farms and increase producers’ bottom line.”

Meggitt attended Ohio State University and graduated with his bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Education in 1950. In 1951 he gained his Masters in Agronomy from Ohio State and earned a Ph.D. in Weed Science and Plant Physiology from Rutgers. In addition to his service to agriculture, Meggitt is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving three years’ active duty and retiring as a Commander in the U.S Navy Reserve in 1980.

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