



Cornell University

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## **The MacDonald and Musgrave Awards**

### **Origin of the Awards**

The awards represent the desire of two crop science faculty members, Dr. Robert Musgrave and Dr. Harry MacDonald, to recognize outstanding accomplishments within the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. Two of these awards were created after their retirement and a third award, to recognize deserving graduate students in the Department, was created in 2003. All awards are funded by income from funds donated by these Faculty members and friends.

Dr. Musgrave had responsibilities in research and teaching in the area of crop production and ecology. He was a member of the Agronomy Department from 1940 until his retirement in 1978. He was the faculty member most responsible for the management of the Aurora Research Farm which was renamed in his honor to the Musgrave Research farm after his retirement. He also studied the efficiency of the corn plant to use light energy and carbon dioxide to increase corn yields.

Dr. MacDonald had responsibilities in research, teaching and international programs. He was a member of the Agronomy Department faculty from 1940 until his retirement in 1975. Dr. MacDonald's research focused on pasture systems and other crops. He introduced birdsfoot trefoil into NY and developed the principal varieties used for many years. In addition, he maintained research activities on soybeans and several other oil seed crops for NY.

### **Nature of the Awards**

Each award consists of a \$2000 cash prize to be given annually, provided qualified individuals are nominated and income from the endowment is adequate. The use of the award is at the discretion of the recipient. Application of the award toward continued professional development is encouraged, such as in attendance at scientific or professional meetings, purchase of work-related equipment, or payment of educational costs.

### **Eligibility**

Any member of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences community can be nominated for an award, except members of the selection committee. Undergraduate and graduate students in the Field of Crop and Soil Sciences, Departmental staff, and Departmental faculty, including adjunct and courtesy appointments and members of the Graduate Field of Crop and Soil Sciences, are eligible. Individuals can be considered for an award in the year following their departure from the Department. A recipient of either of these awards will be eligible for re-nomination after a one year interval. Preference will be given to the recognition of contributions not yet noted by other awards. Because recognition of staff is limited through other channels, at least one award each year will go to a staff member, provided qualified individuals are nominated.

### **Basis of Evaluation**

The awards will recognize exceptional performance in terms of professional contributions and/or service to the field of agronomy or to the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. The emphasis is on excellence, on performance of exceptional merit that benefits the profession of agronomy or the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Cornell University. Both continuing long-term contributions and specific achievements of exceptional merit can serve as the basis for an award.

### **Nomination Procedure**

A nomination must be made by a member of the Departmental community and seconded with a supporting letter from another individual. Members of the selection committee may not make or second nominations. It is important that the nominating materials clearly identify the primary contributions on which the nomination is based. More specific instructions are enclosed.

### **Awards Committee**

The awards committee is appointed by the Chairman of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. A complete list of operating rules for the committee and committee membership is available upon request from the committee chairperson.