

November 16-17, 2017

ITEM 177-2002-R1117

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Veterinary Entomologist upon Gregory D. Johnson, Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Gregory D. Johnson from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, Montana University System, and people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Johnson received a B.S. in Biology (1970) from Eastern Mennonite University (Virginia) and, after two years in the U.S. Army, received graduate degrees in Entomology (M.S. 1975, Ph.D. 1978) from the University of Wyoming. Upon completion of his graduate program, Dr. Johnson held a two-year post-doctoral appointment with the University of California – Riverside, a 2-year specialist job with the Boulder County Health Department (Colorado), and a 4-year research position with the University of Nebraska - West Central Research and Extension Center. His graduate and post-graduate academic interests were field crop and medical/veterinary entomology.

Dr. Johnson joined the Department of Entomology at MSU as an Extension Specialist/Assistant Professor in 1986. He was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 1992 and Full Professor in 2000. From 1992 – 2005 he was Head of the Department of Entomology. Under his direction the department saw an increase in the number of faculty, professional staff, and graduate students which expanded the department's programmatic expertise and productivity relative to competitive grant awards, publications, and outreach activities. In 2005, the Department was disbanded; faculty, staff, and students re-located to other departments in the College. Dr. Johnson joined the Department of Animal and Range Sciences to continue his research, teaching, and extension programs in medical/veterinary entomology.

As a field entomologist, Dr. Johnson is very knowledgeable about insects and other arthropods associated with agricultural commodities (plant and animal) in Montana and the Northern Great Plains. He has worked on a variety of insects during his 31-year career at MSU, ranging from aphids that decimate small grain fields to mosquitoes that vector West Nile virus to humans and equines. His primary goal was to educate students, ag producers, and others about insects that cause harm to field crops and livestock. Dr. Johnson wanted to provide people with the skills to identify an economic pest problem, and then select and apply sound pest management strategies to minimize production losses associated with these pests. Dr. Johnson spent long hours in the field conducting applied and basic research aimed towards developing strategies to abate injurious pests. He spent hours talking to producers about his research and field observations, either one-on-one or at one of the many outreach meetings or workshops. He built a reputation with producers, the ag industry, and his academic colleagues as a dedicated MSU Professor who worked hard to find solutions to entomological problems.

Tangible products from Dr. Johnson's career include 104 external grants from private industry, state, and federal agencies totaling more than \$5 million, 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles (43 refereed, 53 reviewed, 4 book chapters), 400 outreach programs in Montana and surrounding states, 150 presentations (submitted and invited) at state, regional, and national professional meetings, 31 graduate student committees (major professor for 11 M.S./Ph.D. students), and teaching Veterinary Entomology. His professional service involved assignments to organize state and regional workshops, committee work for professional conferences, reviewing journal manuscripts, and participating on grant review panels. His University service includes numerous department, college and university committees.