

September 21-22, 2022

ITEM 202-2004-R0922**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Agronomy upon Kenneth Kephart; Montana State University**

THAT

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

EXPLANATION

Dr. Kephart has served as Professor of Agronomy, department head of Research Centers and superintendent at the Southern Agricultural Research Center (SARC). During this 25-year span he conducted applied research and led the renaissance of the Huntley center back to a status as a reputable source of independent, unbiased and locally-adapted data.

Improving crop production systems for irrigated and dryland agriculture in south-central Montana was Dr. Kephart's focus of research, research encompassing crop cultivar testing and development, agronomic cropping systems, grain, forage and alternative crop production. He was a longtime supporter and cooperator in providing in-service training to area and Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service staff, and provided guidance in establishing off-station research and demonstration trials. With this outreach Dr. Kephart established and maintained liaison activities with appropriate commodity organizations both in Montana and at the national level.

Dr. Kephart has presented 100 Extension or outreach seminars, programming and educational events such as field days with over 6,500 contacts. He and his co-authors have generated over 77 peer review journal articles.

Alongside his research and outreach, Dr. Kephart has served as SARC's superintendent, being instrumental in bringing it back online and rebuilding its reputation. He also served as the head of the Department of Research Centers from 2009 to 2012, hiring several faculty and managing budgets.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Kenneth Kephart the rank of Professor Emeritus of Agronomy at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None