

Reginelli Receives Agronomy Award

A Mississippi State University Extension agent with more than 20 years of experience working with Mississippi row-crop producers is the 2006 Agronomist of the Year.

Dennis Reginelli, MSU Extension Service county coordinator in Noxubee County and area Extension agent for agronomic crops, received the award during the annual MSU Crop College in February. It is the highest honor bestowed on its members by the Mississippi Chapter of the American Society of Agronomy.

Reginelli began his career at MSU as a research associate at the Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station in Pontotoc County. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees and a doctorate in agronomy at MSU. He also completed an associate's degree in farm management technology at Mississippi Delta Community College.

During his career, Reginelli has worked with producers of almost every row crop grown commercially in Mississippi. In his current position, he works primarily with producers in the eastern area of the state.

"Dennis has made significant contributions to improving agronomic row-crop production and efficiency in east Mississippi," said Normie Buehring, superintendent and agronomist at the North Mississippi Branch Experiment Station in Verona. "His contributions have improved the quality of life for row-crop producers in the area."



Dennis Reginelli, right, received the Agronomist of the Year award from Steve Nichols, 2006 president of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Society of Agronomy, during the annual MSU Crop College.

Willard Named Outstanding Young Scientist

Scott T. Willard has received the 2006 Outstanding Young Animal Scientist Award-Research from the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science.

Willard is a member of the MSU Department of Animal and Dairy Science. In addition to teaching and Extension duties, he serves as codirector of the Facility for Organismal and Cellular Imaging, an MSU facility for scientific discovery and biophotonics research. His current area of research involves technologies to enable cellular and molecular processes of sheep, swine and cattle to be visualized in real time.

In addition, Willard is an adjunct associate professor with the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and a research associate with the Memphis Zoological Gardens in Memphis, Tenn.

Established in 1908, the American Society of Animal Science is a professional organization for animal scientists designed to help members provide effective leadership through research, extension, teaching and service for the dynamic and rapidly changing livestock and meat industries.



Scott Willard, left, with Animal and Dairy Science Department Head Terry Kiser.

Coble Honored as Outstanding Teacher

MSU associate professor of agricultural economics Keith Coble received the Outstanding Teacher of a Course Award at the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting in February.

The award was given for his course "Public Problems in Agriculture."

Coble joined the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1997 after serving as leader of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service's Crop Risk Management Team.

He teaches classes on agricultural policy, agribusiness risk management and production economics.

In addition to his teaching duties and research covering risk and policy issues, he serves on the editorial council of the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The MSU associate professor also regularly advises the USDA Risk Management Agency and the board of directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

A Missouri native, Coble earned his doctorate at Texas A&M University.



Keith Coble, right, with Agricultural Economics Department Head Steve Turner.



Ed Robinson, left, received his award from Land Bank South President Jessie Purvis.

Robinson Selected Outstanding MAFES Worker for 2005

A research scientist dubbed the “father of catfish nutrition and feed formulations” by his colleagues received the 2005 Outstanding Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Worker award at the MAFES/Extension annual conference.

Research Professor Ed Robinson began his MSU career with the aquaculture program at the Delta Research and Extension Center in 1987. Since then, he has developed a research program at the Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center in Stoneville that has resulted in direct annual savings of millions of dollars for one of Mississippi’s major agricultural industries.

“He has developed, from scratch, one of the most competitive and comprehensive aquaculture nutrition programs in the world,” said fellow research scientist David Wise. “Most importantly, his research has led to the development of least-cost feed formulations, effectively reducing feed cost.”

A native of Florence, Ala., Robinson earned his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy at Samford University and a master’s in pharmacology and doctorate in nutrition, both at Auburn University.



Larry Alexander, left, received his award from Land Bank of North Mississippi President Gary Gaines.

Alexander Named 2005 Outstanding Extension Worker

Assistant Extension professor Larry Alexander has been named the 2005 Outstanding Extension Worker.

Alexander’s Extension career began 24 years ago as a 4-H youth agent in Marshall County. He moved to a state-level position in 1993. His current duties include coordinating 4-H events at the Mississippi State Fair and the Mid-South Fair, managing the 4-H scholarship program, working with the 4-H Priority Program Group and coordinating State 4-H Congress contests and workshops.

A vital part of 4-H is the member’s record book, and his coworkers describe Alexander as the “go to guy” for training adult leaders and youth in goal setting and good recording of project activities.

Alexander earned his bachelor’s degree in agricultural education at Alcorn State University and a master’s in agricultural and extension education at MSU.



Dolores Fratesi, president of the United States Freshwater Prawn and Shrimp Growers Association, presents a framed copy of a poster promoting freshwater prawns to Clarence Watson, associate director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. The MSU Office of Agricultural Communications produced the poster. The presentation was made during an on-campus conference on MSU freshwater prawn research.