

Canadian Forage Seed Conference: Leaders in our Industry Recognized

By Talon Gauthier, General Manager, Peace Region Forage Seed Association

At the Canadian Forage Seed Conference on February 25th and 26th, 2020 several leaders were recognized for their tremendous contributions to the Canadian forage seed industry. The first award was presented to Dr. Nigel Fairey who worked for Agriculture and Agri-Food's Canada at as a Forage Seed Scientist from 1981 to 2007 at the AAFC Beaverlodge Research Farm. Dr. Fairey's award was presented by forage seed grower, Arthur Hadland, from Baldonnel, BC. Thank you very much Arthur for being part of recognizing Nigel and his research work in forage seed production.

The second award was presented to Weldon Hobbs, co-owner of MR Pollination Services (with his wife BJ) in Lethbridge, Alberta. He has been involved with alfalfa seed and leafcutter bee production since 1962 and has always been active in the Southern Alberta Irrigated Alfalfa Seed Associations as well as Canadian associations. Heather Kerschbaummer provided a thorough and heartfelt presentation to Weldon, thank you Heather for assisting in this award. The third and final award presentation of the conference was given to Heather McBey, Office Administrator for the Manitoba Forage Seed Association. Heather has been influential in many areas of the Canadian industry but specifically pulls the whole industry together through managing the compilation of the *Forage Seed News* which goes out to every forage seed grower in Canada. Calvin Yoder presented Heather with her leadership award, thank you Calvin for detailing all the hard work Heather has dedicated to the industry throughout her career.