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**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR EMERITUS
RECEIVES 1997 COTTON GENETICS RESEARCH AWARD**

SAN DIEGO, CA (Special) -- Glen Staten, professor emeritus of cotton breeding at New Mexico State University, is the recipient of the 1997 Cotton Genetics Research Award.

The announcement was made here today at the National Cotton Council-sponsored 1998 Beltwide Cotton Conferences.

The Cotton Genetics Research Award has been presented for the past 34 years by U.S. commercial cotton breeders to a scientist for outstanding basic research in cotton genetics. Criteria for the award are established by the Joint Cotton Breeding Policy Committee comprised of representatives from state experiment stations, USDA, private breeders and the Council.

Staten, 91, a cotton breeder for more than 38 years at NMSU, played a key role in the development of 1517 Acala cotton and maintaining and improving its superior quality. After becoming head of the New Mexico Acala 1517 program there in the early 1950's, he developed many breeding lines and strains which he shared with others. Those lines were used to develop several Acala lines in California that are still in use today.

Morgan Nelson, a Roswell cotton producer, said while New Mexico cotton producers have benefited tremendously from Staten's work, his research has helped producers across the nation and throughout the world.

H. B. Cooper, Jr., a veteran California cotton breeder in Corcoran, said that even as Staten pursued the development of early maturing, Verticillium wilt tolerant, high yielding cottons, he understood the importance of developing high quality fiber with excellent length, length uniformity, strength, fiber fineness, elongation and maturity.

“It is evident that Mr. Staten’s work as a cotton breeder has had a very significant impact on world production of cottons with excellent fiber properties, bacterial blight and Verticillium wilt resistance,” Cooper said. “The conservative estimate is in excess of 100 million bales of high quality cotton.”

Dr. Carl Barnes, a NMSU agronomy professor, said Staten truly was a cotton breeding pioneer.

“Glen Staten was a strong proponent of quality fiber production even during a period of years when there was significant pressure from growers within the state to “give us pounds” at the expense of quality, Barnes said.

Barnes said Staten’s efforts are best probably best exemplified by the importance of New Mexico’s Acalas as parent lines in U.S. cotton. Based on a recent parentage study, New Mexico lines were second in number of times they occurred.

“The development of Verticillium wilt resistant Acala cotton germplasm was a major breakthrough that affected the entire Cotton Belt,” said Dr. Dick Davis, a NMSU professor emeritus of agronomy and horticulture. “The outstanding achievement of his career, though, was the creation of a agronomically sound breeding pool of high quality, disease resistant Acala cottons. This breeding pool is arguably the most important source of germplasm to be traced in present day varieties.”

Staten earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University. He received the Honorary Lifetime Achievement and Member Award from the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association in 1995.

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