

IN DEDICATION TO DR. JAMES P. WILSON

Dr. James T. Wilson passed away quietly at 8:00AM, 31 July, 2012. Jim had suffered a major stroke and had been in intensive care at a local hospital in Wichita.

Jim was truly a pioneer in the Plains wheat industry. We have all greatly valued Jim's insights, dedication, and friendship. He will be deeply missed. With the passing of Dr. Wilson, we have lost a true pioneer in the wheat industry. Jim leaves a legacy that few can match in breeding and wheat improvement.

Jim Wilson received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Oklahoma State University, followed by a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He began his career as wheat project leader at the Fort Hays Branch Experiment Station, Fort Hays, Kansas in 1957. In Kansas, he initiated among the first studies on cross breeding and cytoplasmic sterility in wheat. Jim Wilson joined DeKalb AgResearch in 1961 with the opportunity to restart private wheat breeding in the U.S. with emphasis on breeding and marketing of hybrid wheat. Jim published several papers on hybrid breeding and restoration systems while with DeKalb. His project released the first commercially available hybrid wheat to growers in 1978. He was also responsible for development and release of the first semidwarf wheat cultivars for production in Kansas.

When DeKalb closed their hybrid wheat project in 1981, Jim founded Trio Research Inc. as a family-owned corporation in Wichita, Kansas. This corporation was initially formed to be a service company for a new biotech company, Agrigenetics Research Associates (ARA). Jim built his own facilities and started breeding on the family farm. The four-year relationship with ARA was followed by a two-year service contract with Lubrizol Genetics. In 1989, as service contracts ended, Trio began its own product development as a private seed company, developing both varieties and hybrids.

Jim's first Trio wheat cultivar, T67, was released in 1993, followed by T81 in 1995. His business was unique in that the wheat cultivars were grown and protected under private contracts. His cultivars, notably T81 and his most recent release T158, have been grown on significant acreage in the Central Plains and contributed as parents to many more. Federal seed authorities recently approved Trio Research for the marketing of the first synthetic wheat cultivars in the United States, developed using a mixture of male and female plants. Trio was acquired by Limagrain Cereal Seeds (LCS) in 2010. Jim then served as a consultant for LCS, continuing his research and breeding on hybrid wheat, until his death. Jim was a strong advocate for wheat breeding, germ plasm exchange, and wheat growers. He was actively involved in regional wheat improvement programs. We have all greatly valued Jim's insights, integrity, dedication, and friendship over the years. He will be deeply missed.

Jim was dedicated to his family and is survived by his wife, Joy, daughter Diane, and sons Dean, Daniel, and David.

