

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS GARIT HENRY TENPAS**

Garit Henry Tenpas, professor emeritus of agronomy and Agricultural Research Stations died in Duluth, Minnesota on February 1, 2008. He was born March 29, 1923 on a dairy farm near Vesper, Wisconsin.

Garit served his country with the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945. He received his bachelor of science degree from the Department of Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1948. In June 1953, he earned his master of science degree in agronomy at the University of Wisconsin under the able guidance of the late Professor Henry L. Ahlgren. Garit served as superintendent of the UW Ashland Agricultural Research Station from 1950 to 1975 and as superintendent of the UW Marshfield Agricultural Research Station from 1975 until his retirement in 1985.

Garit was prominent in the development of production agriculture and urban horticulture in northern Wisconsin. He collaborated with many UW-Madison research and extension faculty in the management and conduct of research pertinent to the interests and needs of the production agricultural community. Garit's early research at Ashland was concentrated on the evaluation and management of forage and small grain varieties. Other research led to the determination of appropriate experimental field plot size for best data precision and efficiency of harvest on soil types associated with northern Wisconsin agriculture. Later research was directed toward improvement of alfalfa and red clover yield, quality, and persistence through proper fertilization, liming, and pest management practices. He also was active in the introduction of Birdsfoot trefoil and other persistent legumes in area pastures, in long-term studies evaluating pasture grazing systems, and in the management of the high producing dairy herd on the station.

In 1955, Garit provided guidance for the planning and initiation of a multi-agency effort to explore more fully and expedite the agricultural potential of Lake Superior-area red clay soils. Collaborators included UW-Madison faculty, USDA Soil Conservation Service personnel, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff, UW-Extension county faculty, and local producers. This collaboration resulted in a major emphasis in land forming/shaping and tile drainage to improve the productivity of poorly drained fields while conserving both soil and water resources. These projects had a significant impact on the agricultural productivity of northern Wisconsin.

Garit also collaborated with UW-Madison crop production faculty in the introduction of corn for silage and grain to the area, pushing the "Corn Belt" north to Lake Superior. Early maturing hybrids, developed at the UW Spooner Agricultural Research Station, were basic to the program, which enabled local producers to supplement and substitute for small grains in supplying feed energy for livestock enterprises.

During his tenure at the UW Marshfield Agricultural Research Station, Garit adapted much of the work that he initiated at Ashland to north central Wisconsin agriculture. He was an active advocate of the forage crop "feed value" evaluation program developed by UW-Madison faculty. He applied these principles to the management of the high-producing dairy herd at Marshfield. Garit also was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the new dairy cattle research facility at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station.

Garit was a researcher with excellent interpretive and communication skills. He disseminated pertinent, up-to-date agronomic crop and livestock performance information to the Wisconsin farm community in an easily understood fashion.

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Garit was a humble, conscientious person with a great sense of humor. He was an inspiration to those with whom he worked. He is survived by his wife, Harriet, of Washburn, four children, ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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