



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Lowell D. Hill
State Agricultural Experiment Station
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For improving the quality of grain exports and opening new market opportunities through his influence on national policies and regulations.

Dr. Lowell D. Hill's program of research and education has had a direct influence on legislation, regulations, marketing practices, and industry attitudes affecting grain quality and U.S. export markets. His unique combination of research, education, and communication has led farmers, grain handlers, and legislators to a common understanding of the issues, culminating in action to improve the quality of U.S. grain, open new markets overseas, and reduced foreign buyers' dissatisfaction.

Dr. Hill's pre-eminence in his field is evidenced by the following: his selection for national multi-disciplinary task forces on grain quality; his leadership on the international study on grain quality conducted by the Office of Technology Assessment; his extensive scholarly publication record; numerous professional awards; and the dramatic impact of his research. He is recognized as the foremost authority on the economics of grain quality in the nation and in the world.

Dr. Hill's research, combined with his educational programs, has influenced national legislation on grain quality. As a result of Dr. Hill's frequent discussions with legislators, the Food Security Act of 1985 mandated a study of grain quality. The University of Illinois campus was selected for the first field hearings on the 1986 Grain Quality Improvement Act (GQIA) by the House Agriculture Committee, because of the research and leadership of Dr. Hill. His research provided the scientific foundation for much of that bill. The preamble of the 1986 GQIA included the economic purposes of grades that he developed. Numerous other national bills were based on Dr. Hill's research publications.

Dr. Hill's exceptional leadership ability and technical knowledge enabled him to lead a multi-disciplinary team to a common goal of improved measurement of economically important characteristics of grain. He has a unique ability to generate the excitement of discovery in co-workers through his intimate knowledge of the problem and his understanding of principles in the cooperating disciplines.

The most comprehensive study of grain quality ever conducted was initiated by the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) in 1986, as a result of Dr. Hill's research and his influence on Congress and OTA. He served as one of three academics that organized the study, conducted most of the international comparisons and wrote key chapters on grades and competitor's quality for the report to Congress.

Dr. Hill's multi-disciplinary studies of changes in quality between U.S. origins and Japanese ports identified causes and solutions. His reports were translated into Japanese and widely read and quoted by the Japanese as well as U.S. grain industry.

Through his research and educational programs he has changed regulations, policies and marketing strategies; enabling the U.S. producers of corn and soybean to penetrate more of the high valued markets. The result has been an expansion of the export market in those areas where returns are highest.

Dr. Hill has applied his scientific research to help producers, Congressmen, and the grain industry work together to solve marketing problems of national importance. He has repeatedly demonstrated unusual skill in bringing diverse groups with polarized views to a consensus on controversial issues. His leadership, based on undisputed excellence in his field, has altered policies and regulations to improve the quality and the measurement of quality of U.S. grain. He is unique in his ability to integrate several disciplines in conducting the research and then, in turn communicating the results of this integrated research program in lay language to those in a position to alter policy.