

PRESS RELEASE

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JOHNSON RECEIVES FREDERIC G. RENNER AWARD FROM THE SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT (SRM)

Dr. Douglas A. Johnson, USDA-ARS Plant Physiologist (retired), Logan, Utah, was presented the *Fredric G. Renner Award* at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 71st Annual Meeting, Technical Training and Tradeshow held in Sparks, Nevada, January 28 – February 2, 2018. The *Renner Award* is the most prestigious award bestowed by the Society. It was made possible by a generous contribution from Frederic G. Renner, a Charter and Life member and SRM's second President (1949). The award is presented with the belief that such recognition will foster better use of rangeland resources and a broader understanding of the contributions that these resources make to the welfare of all people.

Over a professional career spanning 41 years, Dr. Johnson established a remarkable record as a researcher, range plant genetics explorer/collector, and as a world-wide ambassador of range science and management. Doug's research focused broadly on the development and improvement of rangeland plants for forage and land conservation. This included detailed research in plant water relations, carbon dioxide fluxes and nitrogen fixation, resulting in some 150 scientific journal publications, 1 book and 5 book chapters as well as numerous international symposium presentations.

Exploration for, and collection of, promising new sources of plant germplasm led him to remote rangelands in Spain, Pakistan, Nepal, Russia, China, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Chile and Argentina, as well as several western US states. These wide-ranging ventures typically yielded more than promising new plant materials. Scientists and students that Doug met on these expeditions often found themselves, a year or so later, working in Doug's lab in Utah on projects of mutual interest; often on funding that Doug had procured for them. This was particularly important for graduate students and young scientists often struggling for a start in resource-poor conditions in their home countries. It would be difficult to overstate Dr. Johnson's contribution to the development of science and scientists in several of these countries that have not had a history of rangeland research, much less applied range management. By virtue of his and his wife Kathy's gracious hospitality, many of these budding scientists also had their first introduction to life in America, many becoming life-long personal friends as well as fellow scientists.

Dr. Johnson's scientific contributions and professional leadership roles have been recognized by a variety of prestigious awards including the SRM's *W. R. Chapline Research Award* and *Fellow Award*, the Crop Science Society's *Frank N. Meyer Medal for Plant Genetic Resources*, the USDA-ARS *Special Service Award for Forage Germplasm Collection and Preservation*, and honorary professorships and awards in universities in China and Mongolia. These numerous honors and achievements have not overshadowed one of the traits for which Doug may be best known among his colleagues and friends across the world; that being the consummate positive, enthusiastic friend and professional who is a tireless example of scientific and personal good will.

Because of his wealth of contributions to SRM and our profession, it is with great honor that we presented Dr. Douglas A. Johnson with the Society for Range Management's most esteemed *Fredric G. Renner Award* for 2018.



L to R: Dr. John Malechek (nominator), with 2018 SRM Fredric G. Renner recipient, Dr. Douglas Johnson and SRM President (2017) Dr. Larry Howery



MISSION: Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.

VISION: A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangelands users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.