

## **John Llewellyn “Jack” Dobb**

In 1993, Jack Dobb was awarded the “Distinguished Agrologist Award” by the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists. This award was well deserved for this hard working, extension agent for the Province of British Columbia. The work ethic and professionalism that Jack exhibited was well respected, not only from co-workers and peers, but also from the agricultural community in which he worked and lived.

Jack Dobb was born in Eatonia Saskatchewan in 1933. With his father working as an aircraft mechanic for the armed forces, the family was constantly on the move. Eventually, Jack graduated high school in Quesnel B.C., where upon he attended the University of British Columbia, graduating in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree. After gaining valuable agricultural experience as a summer student working in Prince George BC while going to university, Jack took on a full time agriculture position at the Agriculture Canada research station in Beaverlodge (1958 ) following his graduation. While in Beaverlodge, Jack met and eventually married Pat Dalgeish (August, 1958), and had four children from their marriage (Alice, Allen, Kenneth and Cameron).

Jack continued to work at the Agriculture Canada Research station until 1964, where upon he farmed in the Hazelmere area southwest of Beaverlodge. In 1969, Jack took on a District Agriculturist (DA) position with the BC Ministry of Agriculture (BCMA). He continued to farm until 1979, while maintaining his work with the BC ministry. While with BCMA, Jack moved from being a DA, to become a regional field crops specialist, and would eventually act as a provincial seed and grain industry field crops specialist. Jack retired in 1997 with his second wife, Jan Magnusson, in Victoria BC.

During Jack’s tenure with BCMA, he worked on numerous projects, including:

- Study of snow mold in winter wheat in the Peace region,
- Pioneered direct seeding work in the Peace,
- Helped establish alfalfa dehydration plant in Dawson Creek,
- Worked on provincial strategies for BC Agriculture,
- Stimulated work done for replacing “Boreal” creeping red fescue,
- Worked on stem eye-spot disease of creeping red fescue,
- Continued his excellent relationship with staff and programs from the Agriculture Canada research station in Beaverlodge,
- Was a Director for the Canadian Seed Growers Association, and served on the Boards of the Canola Council of Canada and Secan,
- Helped organize the BC Grain Producers Association and the Peace Region Forage Seed Association,
- Supervised or participated in various initiatives: fertilizer trials, lime trials, variety trials, weed control trials, grain drying techniques, forage seed trials, growth regulators, zero till trials, brush control, soil erosion and soil microbiology research.

Jack’s vision and dedication to the movement forward of the Agriculture industry in the Peace region of BC and Alberta has been embedded in the area. He left his legacy in the area which is still shown as local growers continue to use methods and management techniques formulated by Jack.

Jack Dobb passed away in November, 2005. A statement from Jack’s funeral service summarizes this man’s immense contributions to agriculture:

“We will always honor Jack by remembering his deep commitment and contribution to agriculture. We will always value the timeless hours he spent in the fields or attending meetings on our behalf. Jack was innovative and helped pioneer methods that improved our agricultural production. We will greatly miss Jack, our colleague and friend. He will always remain a part of our agricultural community.... its’ history and future.”