

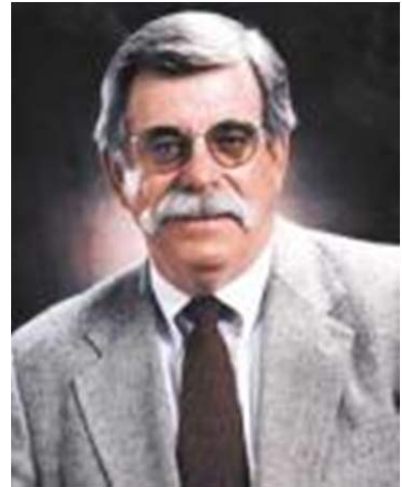
2013

JIM KUHN LEADERSHIP AWARD

*California Alfalfa & Forage Association,
Representing the Forage Growers of California*

Harry Cline, Editor Emeritus, Western Farm Press

The Board of Directors of the California Alfalfa & Forage Association (CAFA) is pleased to select Harry Cline as the 2013 recipient of the Jim Kuhn Leadership Award. The Jim Kuhn Leadership Award is presented annually to a person or organization for their lasting contributions to the California alfalfa industry. The award was established in 2005 when Kuhn, an industry icon and forage innovator, was killed in a vehicle accident near his ranch in El Centro, CA. Nominees are judged on their knowledge of alfalfa, record of leadership and the extent and depth of their contributions to the California alfalfa industry.



Harry Cline is the grandson of an East Texas black land, dryland farmer who carried on his family's agricultural tradition by writing about agriculture in a journalism career that has spanned more than 50 years. Following Harry's studies at the University of Texas, Austin, he was a reporter/editor on several Texas weekly and daily newspapers. In 1968 he moved west to Tucson, Arizona to become a reporter on the Tucson Daily Citizen where he developed a keen interest in reporting on Western agriculture. He became a full-time agricultural journalist in 1975 when he moved to Fresno to write for several agricultural magazines, including Western Hay and Grain, which was circulated to grain and forage producers in the West and Pacific Northwest. Harry was named in 1978 as the first editor of the CA/AZ Farm Press, today known as the Western Farm Press.

In his capacity as editor of the Western Farm Press, Harry has had the privilege of reporting on an amazing period of change in California and Arizona agriculture driven by the most productive and innovative farmers in the U.S.

Alfalfa and forage crops have been a cornerstone of his long time ag journalism career. He has written thousands of articles about alfalfa. Harry also brokered a partnership between the California Alfalfa and Forage Association and Western Farm Press. This partnership afforded CAFA monthly column space in Western Farm Press print and online editions. This bolstered CAFA's presence and at the same time established Western Farm Press as a major source of information about western alfalfa production.

Harry is also the creator and director of Farm Press University, the online educational division of Farm Press/Penton Media that now provides more than 20 online continuing education courses for Certified Crop Advisors, California Department of Pesticide Regulation licensees, including PCAs, Qualified Applicators and Private Applicators. Farm Press University courses are also

accredited in 20 other states. There are more than 11,000 registrants on the Farm Press University website (pentonag.com) who have completed more than 45,000 courses. Farm Press University is the largest online agricultural CEU program in the nation.

In his WFP editorials, Harry has been a strong proponent and a voice of common sense for the bioengineered technology for crop improvement. He reports sound scientific information on the changes that are occurring in modern agriculture and the real challenges it faces in feeding the future's growing population.

Harry's career perhaps can best be summed up by the comments of others:

“Harry's courage in standing up to groups who try to suppress important, proven technology is critical to the scientific advancement of agriculture,” said Jesse Richardson, Western Society of Weed Science past president and CAFA board member, at the Weed Science annual meeting. “His journalistic integrity and determination to ensure that credible science wins out over politics and activism is very much appreciated, because scientists often do a poor job of defending themselves against their critics.”

The Plant Sciences Department at California State University, Fresno also recently honored Harry for “significant service to all producers in California and Arizona.” Bruce Roberts, J.G. Boswell Chair of Agronomy at CSUF and for many years UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor in presenting the award said, “Western Farm Press is known for its accuracy and informative reporting, and Harry is a major reason for the publication's notable reputation.”

“He has accomplished this through delivery of balanced information to Western producers, and reporting new discoveries, techniques and practices to the general audience of agriculture producers,” Roberts said. “Harry has been an important agent of change for western agriculture.”

“One of the things Harry has done is to advocate forcefully for deregulation of GMOs,” said Philip Bowles, board member and former president, CAFA. “He has also been a long-time advocate for the “open space” habitat values that agriculture provides for free to the general public, a concept that drove Jim Kuhn to come up with our alfalfa booklet. In addition, he has been a friend of the dairy industry in general, without taking sides in the various internal disputes such as oversupply management or price supports. In fact, whenever any chowderhead group or official came up with some bogus charge against agriculture, Harry answered them in reasonable, and not ad-hominem, fashion. He simply refuted their “facts” with verifiable statements, and was usually right. He was never afraid to piss someone off; but he was always a gentleman about it, unlike some of the blowhards who pretend to be our friends.”

Harry is a long time resident of Fresno, Calif. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Georgann and together they have 3 children, six grandchildren and one great grandson.

It is with great pleasure that CAFA awards its annual Jim Kuhn Leadership award to Harry Cline, Western Farm Press Editor Emeritus, who has exhibited extraordinary lasting contributions and leadership to the alfalfa industry.

-Spencer Halsey, Executive Director, California Alfalfa & Forage Association