



A Pictorial History of Crop and Soil Science

1907-2007



1907



2007



2007



OSU began as Corvallis Academy in 1856. It became Corvallis College in 1858 and OAC in 1868. It was on 5th St. between Madison and Monroe.



In 1889, OSU moved to the present site of the campus. Benton Hall was the first building and still stands.



In 1907, new President Wm. Jasper Kerr established four new depts., Agronomy, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Husbandry, and Poultry Husbandry.



The first home of Agronomy was in Agriculture Hall, now Education Hall.



In 1907, Henry Scudder (left) was hired as Dept. Head of Agronomy. In 1908, he hired George Hyslop (right). Those two taught 14 courses, plus handling all the research and extension. Agronomy included Farm Crops, Soils, Farm Mechanics, and Farm Management.



In 1908, Agronomy moved into the new Agronomy Building, now the north wing of Strand Ag Hall.



Wilbur Powers, drainage and irrigation specialist, was hired in 1909. He became dept. head of Soils when the department was divided.



A cooperative Seed Testing Lab with USDA was established at OSU in 1909. It served all PNW states and California. In 1954, it became administered entirely by OSU.



In 1915, a young Harry Schoth was appointed to direct the new USDA Forage Project at OSU.

In 1916, Agronomy was divided into separate departments of a) *Farm Crops*, George Hyslop-Head, b) *Farm Mechanics*, Wm. Gilmore-Head, c) *Soils and Farm Management*, Henry Scudder-Head, and d) *Drainage and Irrigation*, Wilbur Powers-Head. In 1918, Soils and Farm Management were separated into *Soils* with Powers as Head, and *Farm Management* with Scudder as Head. Drainage and Irrigation became part of Soils.



In 1927, Don Hill joined the Farm Crops Dept. Hill later became department head.



In 1929, land was purchased that became the Hyslop Agronomy Farm.



George Hyslop died suddenly in 1943 at age 58.



Don Hill became dept. head following Hyslop's death and served until 1959. He died in 1990 at the age of 95.



In 1951, most of the Farm Crops department moved to what was the Horticultural Products building. Soils remained in the Agronomy wing of Ag. Hall.



In 1952, Horace Cheney was hired as head of the Soils Dept. after retirement of Powers.



In 1959, Don Hill retired and J. Ritchie Cowan became dept. head of Farm Crops.

In 1960, the name of Soils was changed to Department of Soil Science. In 1971, the name of Farm Crops was changed to Agronomic Crop Science, and in 1977, it was changed to Crop Science.



In 1976, Cowan stepped down as Crops dept. head and Ed Hardin was appointed acting head during 1976-77. He served as head again in 1984-85.



Dale Moss was hired as Crop Science dept. head in 1977 and served until 1983.



In 1978, Benno Warkentin became dept. head of Soil Science following the retirement of Cheney. He became just the third department head of Soils since 1918.



The Crop Science Department moved to the new Crop Science building in 1981. Soil Science remained in Strand Ag Hall.



Sheldon Ladd was hired as dept. head of Crop Science in 1985.



In 1989, the seed testing unit moved from the old Quonset huts into the new Seed Lab building.

In 1990, the Departments of Crop Science and Soil Science merged to form the Crop and Soil Science Department. Ladd served as department head.



In 1992, the Soil Science division moved from Ag Hall to the new Ag & Life Sciences building.



Russ Karow became dept. head of Crop and Soil Science in 2000 following the sudden and untimely death of Sheldon Ladd.



The extension train toured the state in the early 1900s with exhibits and information on agriculture.



The quad was used for growing crops in the 1912-1920 era, probably for teaching purposes.