



Professor Ralph C Hay

Professor Ralph C Hay, Life Member of ISAE, received his BS in Agricultural Engineering from Kansas State University in 1932 and an MS from Michigan State University in 1951. He joined University of Illinois staff as Teaching Assistant and retired 40 years later as Professor of Agricultural Engineering Extension. After retirement he combined consulting work in soil and water engineering and managing Hay Family Farm in Kansas. He was a Fellow of ASAE and his services to ASAE included as a Director and Chairman of the Soil and Water Division, the Extension Committee, the International Relation Committee, and Central Illinois Section.

Well known for his international activities he began the first of three tours to India in 1954. He was visiting Professor, Group Leader and Head of Agricultural Engineering in University of Illinois Engineering Team at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur on International Cooperation Agreement (ICA) contact during 1954-56. While working as a Professor at the University of Illinois he also served as Coordinator of international Cooperation Programs in-charge of three ICA India contracts in Agriculture and Engineering during 1958-62. During 1962-64 he was a visiting Professor and Advisor to Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering (now College of Technology) at U P Agricultural University (now G B Pant University of Agricultural & Technology), Pantnagar. It was during this period that the Board of faculty of the College of Agricultural Engineering, supported by Prof. Hay envisioned and brought into College Chartered the graduate and post-graduate level academic programmes of the associated engineering disciplines (eg. Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, etc.) He returned to Pantnagar again for six months during 1969-70 as a Consultant in Agricultural Engineering Extension. During 1985 he was serving as Acting Vice President of ASAE and visited five University/Institute in India including Pantnagar and Kharagpur for a month. He was invited to attend the 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting of ISAE held at Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal. In his presentation he narrated his experiences of visits to India and was overwhelmed with the developments in Agricultural Engineering in India in a short span of time.

At both places, Kharagpur and Pantnagar, he played a key role in the development of Agricultural Engineering and contributed enormously in laying a strong foundation for this profession in India. He was full of kindness and was ever ready to help anybody even at odd hours without worrying for inconvenience to self and family.

For these contributions Professor Ralph C Hay is bestowed posthumously the Professor Mason Vaugh Agricultural Engineering Pioneer Award. He is the first recipient of this award which is the highest award given by the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers. Professor Vaugh is recognized as the father of Agricultural Engineering in India.