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TEXAS A&M PROFESSOR WINS COTTON GENETICS AWARD

NASHVILLE (Special) -- Dr. David Stelly, professor of genetics at Texas A&M University, is the recipient of the 1995 Cotton Genetics Award.

The announcement was made during the National Cotton Council-sponsored Beltwide Cotton Production Conference at the Opryland Hotel here.

The Cotton Genetics Award has been presented for the past 32 years by U.S. commercial cotton breeders to a scientist for outstanding basic research in cotton genetics. Criteria for the award are established by the Joint Cotton Breeding Policy Committee comprised of representatives from state experiment stations, USDA, private breeders and the Council.

Dr. Stelly is generally considered one of the top cotton cytogeneticists in the world. He has been extremely productive in his diverse cotton research program, and is maintaining cytogenetic stocks for basic research and breeding purposes. Most notably, he has been creative in developing new cytogenetic stocks and utilizing unique approaches to his work.

Dr. Stelly's research interests are not limited to cytogenetics. He has made significant research contributions in many areas, including: 1) reproductive biology of cotton; 2) tissue culture and recovery and analysis of cotton somaclones; 3) use of protein electrophoretic variants; 4) mass extraction of cotton doubled hybrids; and 5) hybrid lethality system genetics of cotton.

Dr. Stelly received his bachelor's and doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin, and earned a master's degree from Iowa State University. Since 1983, he has served on the faculty of Texas A&M in College Station and the Texas Experiment Station in Lubbock.

"I regard Dr. Stelly as a resourceful scientist who repeatedly delves into new areas of genetics in order to advance the understanding of genetic systems that may prove useful for plant

improvement,” commented Dr. Jim Price, Professor, Department of Soil and Crop Science, North Carolina State University.

This is the second straight year that a professor from Texas A&M has won the Cotton Genetics Award. Last year, Dr. Luther S. Bird, professor emeritus of cotton pathology, genetics and breeding at Texas A&M, was the recipient.

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