

Wayne Robert Knapp

May 13, 1947 — August 5, 1982

Wayne Robert Knapp, Department of Agronomy at Cornell University, died August 5, 1982, as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident that day. He was thirty-five years old.

A native of Alamosa, Colorado, Wayne received his B.S. degree from Colorado State University in 1969 with a major in crop science. He was honored as the outstanding senior in agronomy and was the recipient of the Rocky Mountain Plant Food Award and the Alpha Zeta Honor Senior Award. He served as vice president of the Agronomy Club and president of Farmhouse Fraternity and was active in several other campus organizations. Following graduation he spent several months in Greece as a participant in the International Farm Youth Exchange Program. Knapp received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University in 1972 and 1974, respectively. Thesis research involved dry matter and metabolic losses associated with harvest procedures for alfalfa hay and the use of propionic acid and anhydrous ammonia as hay preservatives.

Entering his position (70 percent extension and 30 percent research) at Cornell directly from graduate school in 1974, he discovered a pressing need for research and extension programs on production practices for several of the principle grain crops of the state, including corn, oats, and wheat, and on minor crops such as barley, buckwheat, sorghum, and sunflowers. Within a very short time the statements in *Cornell Recommends for Field Crops* were derived to a large extent from his own research efforts and his cooperative work with other staff members. His familiarity with the scientific literature, his acquaintance with research and recommendations elsewhere in the region, and his ability to sense what topics would become important combined to strengthen his position as a primary source of information for extension workers across the state, graduate students, and colleagues. As part of his extension program he authored a series of *Field Crops Factsheets* concerning grain crop production practices, and a bulletin on *Growing Buckwheat in the Northeast* and was a major author and editor for the *Cornell Field Crops Handbook*.

In recent years he was involved in a joint research effort with Professor Thomas W. Scott on conventional and no-tillage corn production systems utilizing cover crops to decrease soil erosion and dependence on fertilizer nitrogen while maintaining high corn yields. Most recently he had assumed the leadership role in feasibility studies on the production of hard red spring wheat in the Northeast and authored a publication on *Spring Wheat Production*.

In addition to his extension and research responsibilities, Dr. Knapp served as major professor for five M.S. degree students.

During his career as an agronomist Wayne had been elected to membership in Alpha Zeta, Beta Beta Beta, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Xi. At the time of his death he was an active member of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America. He had been promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1980.

Although Wayne had readily accepted the challenges of a new life and career in New York State, his appreciation of Colorado and the West was not diminished. Growing up in the San Luis Valley in the Rocky Mountains helped form the unassuming, easy-going personality that we knew and that gave Wayne a unique appreciation for the out-of-doors. A favorite activity while growing up and on periodic visits to his home state was horseback camping in the mountains. He also had a keen interest in trapping, hunting, and fishing the mountain streams. As a country-western music fan of long standing with considerable knowledge about the artists and history of the country music industry, Wayne served as a resource person for many who only recently gained an appreciation for this art form.

While maintaining close ties with his family and friends in Colorado, he had redirected his energies into a new life with his wife, Jill, and son, Daniel Nathan. Much leisure time was spent remodeling and furnishing a Greek revival house built in the 1820s and gardening on their minifarm in the town of Dryden. Their gardens produced the usual array of vegetables and fruit along with an interesting assortment of chili peppers and edible beans, which Wayne incorporated into some of the Mexican dishes he enjoyed preparing.

Wayne R. Knapp will, of course, be remembered for the contributions he made to New York agriculture during his brief career as an extension agronomist. He will also be remembered fondly as a devoted husband, father, and friend.

Russell R. Hahn, Robert F. Lucey, Madison J. Wright