“Philanthropy and the Department of Agronomy”

The Department of Agronomy at Purdue University has enjoyed strong philanthropic support over the years from alumni, friends, companies, and organizations. One shining example is the tremendous support of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF) for the Turfgrass Science Program. The MRTF was established over 50 years ago to support and guide the Turfgrass Science program. Twelve years ago MRTF set a high priority on raising support and since then the industry has given over $1,000,000 to the Turfgrass Science program. Equally important, the MRTF Board of Directors and organization members have provided leadership and guidance to the Turf program in areas such as curriculum development, guest lectures, student workshops and more.

Philanthropic support also played a major role in establishing the Purdue University Department of Agronomy as a center of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education. Donors have established scholarships for an outstanding students, support for research, enhanced facilities, funds for students to attend professional meetings and national judging competitions, and many other enhancements that make Purdue Agronomy special.

You can help today, as well! There are many opportunities to establish a powerful legacy through philanthropy. Contributions directed to areas of high priority can advance the department, positioning it for national leadership in exciting and emerging areas. In addition to the enormous satisfaction that comes from advancing higher education, wise planning can provide donors with personal income tax benefits, avoidance of capital gains taxes, and even retirement benefits. Some of the giving options available to donors include: gifts of cash or securities, gifts of farms or other real estate, gifts with income retained for life, gifts in kind, will bequests, and more.

The Department of Agronomy asks your involvement in philanthropy, as well as in gifts of talent and time. Please help continue the tradition of generous support that has helped establish Purdue as the standard by which so many others are gauged. It will be my pleasure to answer your questions or assist you in any way. It is difficult to overstate the positive impact of such support for a state assisted university. It has been profound.

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