

Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development President's Report

Tom Pollock, board president

The Wallace Foundation has completed another interesting and challenging year. As the world around us continues to change at a seemingly accelerating rate, our organization must find new and innovative ways to serve our members and their communities. Through the diligent efforts of our staff, officers, board members, and interested volunteers, we have made significant progress in fulfilling the purpose and goals of our organization.

Our cooperative efforts with Iowa State University continue to generate many positive results for southwest Iowa. We have an excellent research farm staff to work with; indeed, with their expertise and help, we have made significant progress on several projects. With the matching funds grants from the Iowa West Foundation, we have been able to add a greenhouse and a high tunnel production unit to our facilities. The confinement cattle feeding hoop facility has been added through cooperative efforts as well. Our staff's efforts in conducting field days and open houses have served the needs of many new people interested in gardening, confinement cattle feeding, greenhouse and high tunnel horticulture production, and grape production.

The interest of new people has given us opportunities to grow and improve our organization.

A new cooperative effort with the Harrisdale Foundation was begun this year. This affiliation has provided our organization new frontiers in nutrition and local food production research. These areas are closely related to the work we have been doing in high tunnel and other horticulture production as well as the sales and distribution of locally produced Iowa products. We look forward to continuing our work with Harrisdale.

As president of our organization, I would like to take this opportunity to challenge each of our members to discover additional ways to serve the people of southwest Iowa. Visit with your friends and neighbors who may not be members. Find out their needs and interests that our research might address. No organization exists simply to have a name. In order to continue to grow and thrive, we must work to fulfill our mission and accomplish our purpose. I look forward to our doing just that in 2006!