

## Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award

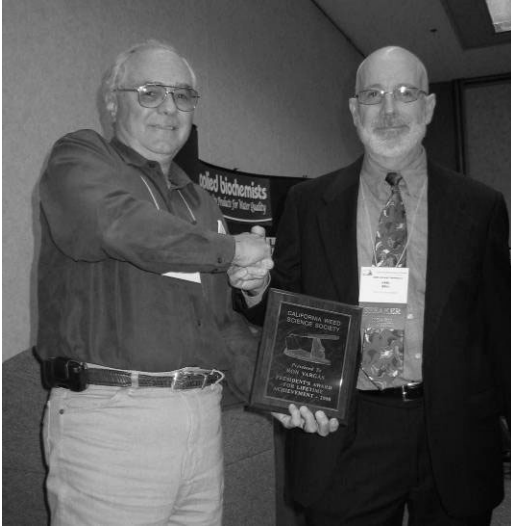
### Ken Dunster



As our sister organization, the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) said, “Ken was one of the giants of weed science in the western United States.” In addition to being a past President of CWSS, Ken was also past President of WSWS, the Montana Weed Control Association, and the Western Plant Growth Regulator Conference. He was an honorary member of CWSS and received the Award ?? He was also a Fellow of WSWS and received their Outstanding Weed Scientist Award in 1992. His career in agriculture started in 1960 doing research and development for AmChem. He worked with James Dewlen on Brominal for grains, but also on herbicide and plant growth regulator development for alfalfa, grains, sugarbeets, and lots of vegetables. His work took him throughout the west, from Colorado to Hawaii. His value is evidenced by the fact that he survived and prospered during the mergers of AmChem into Union-Carbide, and then into Phone-Poulenc. But many of us remember Ken as a friend, adviser, and mentor. He started and guided the careers of several weed scientists working in California today. Colleagues like Ken Dunster are hard to replace.

Ken was posthumously given the CWSS Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award (accepted above right by Wanda Graves) by a grateful society at this year’s 60<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

## Ron Vargas



The California Weed Science Society awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award to Ron Vargas, retired UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor and County Director. Ron has been one of the most active members in CWSS over the past 3 decades. He is a Past President, presiding over the 50<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of CWSS in 1998 and was selected by the society for an Award of Excellence in 1993 and as an Honorary Member in 2001. During his history with CWSS, Ron has given numerous (too numerous to count) presentations on weed control in cotton, alfalfa, small grains, and tree crops. He served on several committees, including the program

committee and the board of Directors. Ron received Bachelors and Masters Degrees in crop science and agriculture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. In Cooperative Extension, Ron started as a 4-H advisor in 1973, which, fortunately for us, included a part time assignment doing weed control research. Later he became agronomy and tree crop advisor, then acting Cotton Specialist for four years, then County Director for Madera County; but always keeping a strong focus on weed science.

Ron retired in 2006 after 33 years with Cooperative Extension. In addition to our recognition, Ron has been honored by other groups; including being an inaugural inductee to the Farm Press magazine Researchers Hall of Fame in 2006, the National Cotton Council's Extension Education Award in 1996, and Agriculturalist of the Year by the Cal Poly Crop Science Department in 2001. In retirement, Ron is attending to his 20 acre farm in Madera County, playing golf, riding his horses, and doing search and rescue in the Sierra mountains.