

In Memoriam
John W. Inman
July 25, 1940 – June 28, 2010

John Inman, a professional engineer, consultant, and farm advisor emeritus with the University of California in Monterey County passed away unexpectedly after a stroke. He was 69. John grew up in northeastern Oregon where his family owned and operated a cattle ranch in Haines and a small grocery store in Baker City. In high school John was active in FFA. He graduated from Oregon State University with degrees in both Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering. At a university social he met Jody, his wife of 46 years.

In 1965, John began working with UC Cooperative Extension as a farm advisor in agricultural engineering for Monterey County, a career that would last 29 years. He conducted research studies and helped design and modify new farm machinery to meet the needs of vegetable, strawberry, grape, and field crop growers. His projects included equipment and techniques for seeding, transplanting, harvesting, weed, insect and disease control. He frequently attended the CWSS Conference and participated as a speaker. He was a regular contributor to American Vegetable Grower for more than 30 years, as the writer of the column "Into Gear." In his columns, he covered everything from emission standard changes for tractor engines to the latest weeders and everything in between. He also wrote the monthly "Tool Tip" section.

In 1970, John started the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce Ag Business Day tours which showed many people the sophistication of agricultural production. He led Ag Business Day tours for 29 years. He was appointed to the Hartnell College Board of Trustees in 1984 and re-elected until he chose to retire in 1999. Board President for three years, he devoted many hours in the interest of the College, its faculty and students. He continued supporting local education as a member and officer of the Hartnell College Foundation Board until his death. Blending his interest in agriculture and education, he was a Founding Board member of Monterey County Agricultural Education and was actively involved in Ag Against Hunger, serving on their Board for nearly a decade.

In 1993, John retired from the University and became a full time private consultant. Working with manufacturers, dealers, importers, distributors and growers, he searched the world for equipment appropriate for California agriculture. He loved equipment shows and never missed a chance to see new products. John consulted, wrote, travelled and networked until the day of his stroke, always aware that he was one of the few who were truly passionate about their work.

John is survived by his wife, Joyce "Jody" Inman of Salinas and daughter, Janet Sutton and numerous extended family members.