

Western Region

Lee Sommers

Former Director of the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station and Associate Dean for Research
Colorado State University



Lee Sommers, Professor Emeritus, served as Director of the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Agricultural Sciences, Colorado State University (CSU). In these roles, Lee provided project funding to seven academic colleges at CSU. He championed several transformative administrative initiatives, including: implementing interdisciplinary programs for research and extension; addressing issues related to restructuring of accounting systems and program administration; and developing electronic publishing and internet presence for AES programs. He is known for developing cooperative programs across disciplines and with agricultural clientele throughout the state of Colorado and the Western Region.

Previously, he served as Interim Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Head of the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Colorado State University, and Professor of Agronomy at Purdue University.

Dr. Sommers is renowned for his insightful leadership and sage advice. He has helped to advance the work of numerous national committees including CSREES REEIS database development project, ESCOP National Research Support Project Review Committee, ESCOP Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee, and Joint COP-CSREES Partnership Task Force. Dr.

Sommers was also co-chair of the 18th World Congress of Soil Science and served as President of the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy.

Honors include election as Fellow to both Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) and the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), receipt of the Environmental Quality Research Award and Agronomic Service Award (ASA), Soil Science Professional Service Award and Soil Science Distinguished Service Award (SSSA) and Distinguished Extension Award (CSU Alumni Association).

Dr. Sommers served as Chair of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and was a member of the Western Region Multistate Review Committee and ESCOP member. He also served as Administrative Advisor to six multistate projects. As ESCOP Chair, Dr. Sommers collaborated extensively with ECOP Chair Doug Steele to initiate joint meetings with officials at ARS, APLU, NIFA, Cornerstone and other agencies. These relationships built as a result of these efforts continue to strengthen partnerships to this day.

Dr. Sommers holds a B.S. in Agriculture, Wisconsin State Univ.- Platteville, M.S. and Ph.D. in Soil Science, University of Wisconsin – Madison.