

Dean Allan Martens **1954-2005**

Dean A. Martens was a Soil Scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service at the Southwest Watershed Research Center in Tucson, AZ. Dean was born in Ft. Dodge, Iowa on June 22, 1954 to Verona and Gerd Martens. He attended school in Pocahantas, Iowa. He continued his education at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa where he earned a BS, MS and PhD in Agronomy. Before being transferred to Tucson in 2000, he was employed at the ARS National Soil Tilth Laboratory, Ames IA as a Soil Scientist investigating erosion-soil stability potential interaction with carbon and nitrogen cycling dynamics in agricultural soils. Prior to that, he was involved extensively with soil and agricultural water contaminant problems in California.



Dean's current research efforts were directed to investigations of land-use changes in semi-arid rangelands on the cycling of carbon and nitrogen and the impact of carbon and nitrogen cycling on potential climate change. These land-use changes involved both impacts of man and impacts vegetation changes on biogeochemical changes in riparian zones, grassland and mountainous woodlands. He was also an Associate Adjunct Professor in the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Arizona.

Dean was known for his intense scientific curiosity. It might be best to hear his own words, written in 2004. "I love my work and I feel a purpose for doing the work. That makes my life very fulfilling and lacking for nothing." Dean received so many invitations to present his work that it was interfering with his ongoing research. So, in 2003, Dean made a video of himself talking for 3 ½ hours about no-tillage management. Over 1000 copies of this CD-Rom were distributed to the public.

Dean's scientific legacy will live on. Already, Dean's publications have been cited in over 300 other studies around the world. Ten years from now, given the rate at which his publications are currently being cited (and a complicated equation based on a bell curve and extinction rates), Dean's published studies will be cited by just over 1000 other studies.

On November 15, 2005, Dean passed away after a short battle with a very aggressive cancer. He is survived by his wife Ursula and his daughter Sophie. They remember Dean for his big heart and his generous, loving spirit. In lieu of flowers, Ursula has requested that you make a donation to your favorite charity either in your name or in the name of Dr. Dean A. Martens. Cards can be sent to Ursula Schuch and Sophie Martens at the USDA ARS Southwest Watershed Research Center, 2000 E. Allen Rd., Tucson, AZ 85719 and they will be forwarded to his home.