

# Remembering David C. Morris: A giant of Michigan agriculture

BY RUTH HOHL BORGER

The Michigan agriculture community lost a giant with the passing of David C. Morris of Eagle this spring.

Morris was truly a son of Michigan State University. As a young man, he came to Michigan State College in 1945 to study Agricultural Technology. He left the classroom with more than the knowledge

shared by his professors. He left with an appreciation and value for applied learning, a commitment to community service, a love for Michigan State University and a passionate understanding of the land-grant university mission that is manifested in his life work.

Dave Morris made contributions to agriculture and communities in Michigan



**David Morris was a faithful Ag Expo attendee, and bought the last FFA toy tractor at the 2008 ag breakfast.**

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as a farmer, a public servant and a philanthropist. Over his 60-plus-year professional career, Morris applied what he learned in MSU's classrooms to build a model agricultural enterprise that was a virtual laboratory for thousands of MSU students, provided pragmatic leadership to national efforts advocating for modern agricultural practices and policy, and wisely stewarded his community as it navigated the delicate balance between rural traditions and urban development.

He and his late wife and business partner, Betty, grew their farm and property from a 245-acre family farm into a thriving enterprise of more than 1,600 acres. Careful stewardship of their land and good business decisions led to their success in their cattle and other livestock operations.

In addition to his own substantial success, Morris worked diligently to ensure the success of his community and Michigan's agriculture industry. He had been a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau since 1950 and served in leadership roles with the organization. He served as an Eagle Township supervisor for 23 years and was an active commissioner for

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