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ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

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## Mary Smith Receives 2017 Pioneer Award from the Arkansas Seed Dealers Association

**LITTLE ROCK, ARK.** – Mary Smith of the Arkansas State Plant Board (ASPB) is the recipient of the 2017 Pioneer Award from the Arkansas Seed Dealers Association, a distinguished recognition for an individual with many years of outstanding service to the seed industry and a significant impact on seed business in Arkansas. Association members presented her with the award on August 4 at the annual Seed Dealers Convention in Rogers.

“Mary is an asset to the Arkansas State Plant Board and to Arkansas. In her 36 years here, she has been a true pioneer for excellence in laboratory standards, research, and regulations that enable and strengthen the seed industry in Arkansas and across the U.S. We are proud of this award and deeply appreciate Mary’s continued expertise and dedication,” says ASPB Director, Terry Walker.

Mary graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a Master of Science in Plant Pathology in 1974. Mary came to the ASPB in 1981, hired as a seed analyst, later on the germination supervisor, and then as head of the seed lab from 1988-1990. Since 1990, as Seed Division Director, she has served as Seed Control Official for Arkansas and directs the Seed Regulatory Program. Overseeing and coordinating activities of the Arkansas Seed Certification program and Official State Seed Laboratory are also included in her duties.

Mary has served the industry in other ways as well. She was President of the Association of American Seed Control Officials from 2003–2005; also, was President of the Southern Seed Control Officials Association (SSCOA) from July 1993-July 1995; and currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer for SSCOA. Mary also served as a member of the Plant Variety Protection Board, appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from May 1995-1999. She was a contributing author to the *Arkansas Soybean Handbook*.

The mission of the Arkansas State Plant Board is to protect and serve the citizens of Arkansas and the agricultural and business communities by providing information and unbiased enforcement of laws and regulations thus ensuring quality products and services. The Arkansas State Plant Board is an agency of the Arkansas Agriculture Department.

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