

Memorial Resolution
Presented to the University of Kentucky Senate
August 30, 2006

Larry W. Turner
1954 – 2006
Associate Dean for Extension and Director of Kentucky Cooperative Extension -
College of Agriculture

Dr. Larry W. Turner of Lexington, Kentucky died August 27, 2006 from injuries sustained in the crash of Comair Flight 5191. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Lois; daughters Molly and Amy, son Clay; his mother, Martha Turner of Rising Sun; a sister, Marilyn (Sam) Fox; and a brother, Wayne Karen of Indianapolis.

On behalf of the alumni, students, staff, faculty, and friends of the College of Agriculture, I humbly offer the following memorial to Larry Turner.

Although Larry was raised on a farm in Rising Sun, Indiana, he was a proud Kentuckian. Larry joined UK in 1978 as an Extension agricultural engineer and faculty member in energy management. In 1999 he was promoted to chair of the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. In January, 2002 he became Associate Dean. Larry earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural engineering from Purdue University. He earned a Ph.D. in agricultural engineering from UK in 1984.

In addition to his Extension and applied research activities, Larry taught courses in the dynamics of biological systems and in design of ventilation and environmental control.

He led multistate, multidisciplinary efforts in development of a swine growth computer model now used in four states. Larry's Extension program focused on cattle-forage systems such as geotextile pads, fencing, water supply and paddock layout, as well as cooling systems for dairy and swine. As a visiting scientist at Silsoe Research Institute in Great Britain, he conducted research on air quality effects on swine.

Under Larry's leadership, the biosystems and agricultural engineering department increased external research and Extension grants from an annual level of \$250,000 in 1999 to more than \$4 million at the time he became associate dean.

As associate dean, he spearheaded a statewide streamlining and enhancement effort called "Re-envisioning Extension," and led the successful effort to develop

the County Enhancement Initiative which established a county agent career advancement track.

Larry will long be remembered for the passion he brought to the field of Cooperative Extension, where he established himself as one of the nation's foremost leaders in innovative programming. Larry helped place the nation's first Fine Arts Extension Agent in Pike County in 2005. He also sought partnerships to battle the state's drug epidemic. And others, like the Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute, that were designed to improve this state's economy.

Larry believed in the mission of Extension and its role in "taking the university to the people." He was instrumental in creating programs in Kentucky's rural communities, including Health Education through Extension Leadership (HEEL), a health education and empowerment program that would touch nearly 750,000 Kentucky lives in 2005 alone.

His dedication to serving the people of Kentucky earned him a spot on the University Committee on Academic Planning & Priorities, where he served as Chair of the Engagement Subcommittee.

Larry's friend and colleague Harold Benson, Director of Land Grant Programs at Kentucky State University, described Turner as a giant among men. "I will hold tight to the memories I have of him," Benson said. "He was able to bridge university to university and program to program in a gentle but effective way. The university is better for Larry walking their way. He shall be missed. On behalf of Kentucky State University and myself, I say thank you, Larry, and for all the people he has helped serve, I say thank you."

I ask that this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the University Senate and that a copy be sent to Dean Turner's family.