

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

*Dr. David Kenyon*

Dr. David Kenyon is this year's recipient of the Yakima Valley Community College *Distinguished Alumnus Award*. Born and raised in the Yakima Valley, Dr. Kenyon received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics in 1966 from Washington State University after transferring from YVCC. "I am extremely thankful for the education I received at YVCC," Dr. Kenyon said. He went on to earn his Master of Science degree in 1968 and Ph.D. in 1971 in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis.

Most recently Dr. Kenyon worked as a Professor of Agricultural Economics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Before retiring in July of 2001 Dr. Kenyon's position was a combination of teaching, research, and extension.

Dr. Kenyon began instructing in the winter of 1971. During his 30 years of teaching he taught numerous courses on agriculture marketing, economics of futures trading, agriculture price analysis, agriculture futures and options, imperfect competition theory, and market analysis. Dr. Kenyon has also written and presented countless theses, dissertations, journal abstracts, research bulletins, technical publications, and refereed papers. In addition to these publications, Kenyon was also instrumental in obtaining more than a half million dollars in grant funding over his career for Virginia Tech.

His most recent projects included assessing the ability of farmers to estimate prices, long-term evaluation of market hedging, strategy performance, and determining the economic impacts of environmental regulations on livestock agriculture. He also conducted an extension program which focused on teaching farmers, bankers, and agribusiness personnel how to forward price, how to manage price risk, and policy issues surrounding intensive livestock production. This allowed him to work closely with several commodity groups in helping formulate government policy to improve the competitive position of Virginia agriculture.

Dr. Kenyon has received many top research awards including the Published Research Award for Quality of Research Discovery given by the American Agricultural Economics Association; the Distinguished Group Extension Program Award presented by American Agricultural Economics Association; and in 1982 he was the recipient of the Wine Award, University Award for Teaching Excellence from Virginia Tech. In 2001, Dr. Kenyon received one of his most important awards when he was selected for the Virginia Corn Growers Association Award for Presenting Decades of Outstanding Marketing Education Programs for Virginia's Grain Farmers. "This award was very important to me because farmers enjoyed and learned much from my educational programs. I take it as a great honor that these men and women were interested in my programs for over 25 years," stated Dr. Kenyon.

Dr. Kenyon lives in Blacksburg Virginia with his wife, Dianne. They have three grown children. Dave and Dianne are active members of their church and he has spent the last 25 years as an elder in Blacksburg Christian Fellowship Church.

