

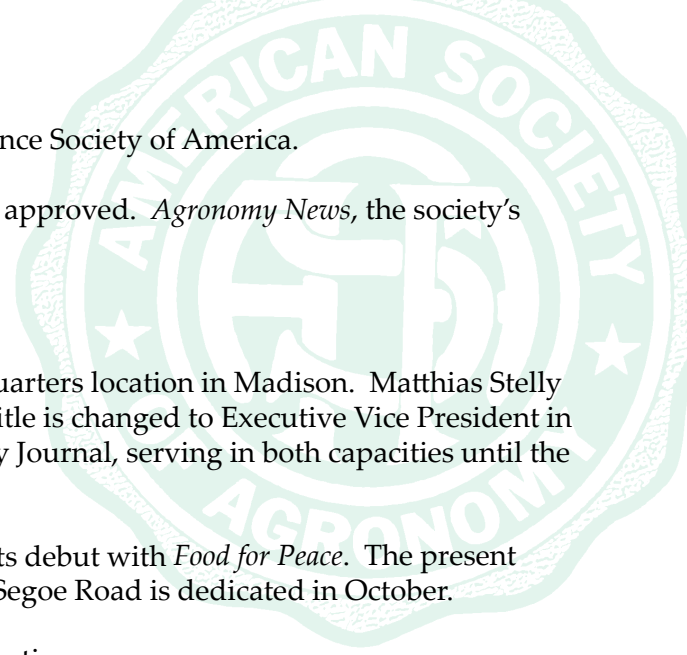
# Highlights in History of the American Society of Agronomy

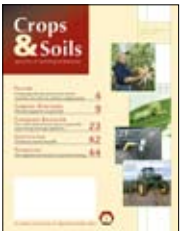


- 1907 ASA is founded on December 31 with 43 individuals present.
- 1908 ASA has 101 charter members by July 1, 1908. ASA holds its first regional meeting at Cornell University. The first president is M.A. Carleton. Dues are \$2.
- 1909 Executive Committee approves publication of *Proceedings of the American Society of Agronomy*. The first editor is C.R. Ball.
- 1912 *Proceedings of the American Society of Agronomy* will be discontinued in favor of a journal and *Journal of the American Society of Agronomy* is born.
- 1921 A committee is appointed to consider the formation of a national organization for agronomy students.
- 1922 ASA's constitution is revised to provide for the establishment of geographical sections within the society: 1) North Atlantic, 2) Southern, 3) Corn Belt and 4) Western.
- 1924 The ASA annual meeting program is divided for the first time into soils and crops divisions.
- 1925 The first Fellows of ASA are named.
- 1932 ASA officially recognizes a Crops Section and a Soils Section. The student Activities Section is formed. ASA celebrates its 25th anniversary with a program featuring the history of organization of ASA and history of soil sciences and plant sciences.
- 1936 The Soils Section of ASA and the American Soil Survey Association merge to form the Soil Science Society of America.
- 1943 Student activities ceased because of World War II.
- 1944 Annual meetings cancelled because of World War II travel restrictions. F.W. Parker continues as president for 1945.
- 1945 Annual meetings resumed.
- 1948 ASA begins publishing *What's New in Crops and Soils*. ASA becomes incorporated in the State of Wisconsin.
- 1949 ASA opens its first Headquarters office building in rented space at 1910 Monroe Street, later moving to 2702 Monroe Street, remaining at the location until October 1962. ASA has its first full-time office staff headed by L.G. Monthey, Executive Secretary who serves through 1960.
- 1950 Students begin holding annual meetings at ASA meeting site.
- 1952 The Sustaining Member program is initiated. The regional sections become regional branches with the revision of the ASA constitution.
- 1954 The Corn Belt Branch is renamed the North Central Branch.



- 1955 ASA's Crops Section becomes the Crop Science Society of America.
- 1956 The establishment of an awards program is approved. *Agronomy News*, the society's newsletter, begins publication.
- 1957 ASA celebrates its Golden Jubilee.
- 1961 Ground is broken for ASA's present Headquarters location in Madison. Matthias Stelly begins serving as Executive Secretary (the title is changed to Executive Vice President in 1970) and also serves as editor of *Agronomy Journal*, serving in both capacities until the end of 1981.
- 1962 The ASA Special Publication Series makes its debut with *Food for Peace*. The present Headquarters Office building at 677 South Segoe Road is dedicated in October.
- 1963 The Placement Service begins full-time operations.
- 1967 The first addition to the Headquarters Office Building is completed. The Agronomic Science Foundation is incorporated.
- 1970 Member Norman E. Borlaug receives 1970 Nobel Prize for Peace.
- 1971 ASA becomes a founding member of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST).
- 1972 *Journal of Agronomic Education* and *Journal of Environmental Quality* are introduced.
- 1976 The second addition to the Headquarters Office building is completed, adding 6,200 feet of space. The American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils (ARCPACS) is officially initiated on September 24. ASA along with CSSA and SSSA are instrumental in activating this new program.
- 1978 ASA celebrates with its 10,000th member!
- 1979 The Headquarters Office begins computer operations. Rosalind Morris becomes the first female Fellow of ASA.
- 1982 ASA celebrates its 75th year!
- 1983 *Agronomy News* becomes a monthly publication.
- 1986 Congressional Fellow program begins. Robert F Barnes begins serving as Executive Vice President. ASA membership peaks at 12,781.
- 1987 ASA Member M.S. Swaminathan selected as World Food Prize Recipient.
- 1988 *Journal of Production Agriculture* begins publication. Society website launched.
- 1992 *Journal of Agronomic Education* changes name to *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education*.





- 1993 Certified Crop Adviser program begins.
- 1996 ASA Members Henry Beachell and Gurdev Khush share the 1996 World Food Prize.
- 1997 CCA Program expands to include Canadian provinces.
- 1998 The *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education* first published electronically.
- 1999 Societies Science Policy Office established in Washington DC.
- 2000 *Agronomy News* changes name to *CSA News* (Crop Science, Soil Science, Agronomy News).  
Online-only Annual Meeting abstracts accepted. ASA Member Surinder K. Vasal named 2000 World Food Prize recipient.
- 2001 *Agronomy Journal* first published electronically by HighWire Press. Science Policy Internship program added.
- 2002 Manuscript Tracker online system of review begins for journals. ASA Member Pedro Sanchez named recipient of the 2002 World Food Prize.
- 2003 Ellen Bergfeld begins serving as Executive Vice President (title changes to Chief Executive Officer in 2007).
- 2004 Students form new organization, Students of Soil, Crop, and Environmental Sciences. *Agronomy Journal* releases a searchable set of seven CDs of the back issues (1908-2001), including archives of *JPA* and *JNRLSE*. ASA signs Memorandum of Understanding for joint cooperation with the European Society of Agronomy.
- 2005 New ASA Board structure reduces members from 46 to 16. Developing Country membership rate established. Oral and Poster papers recorded and available online for viewing/listening.
- 2006 *CSA News* re-designed from a newsletter to a newsmagazine. ASA's Strategic Plan Developed. ASA member A. Colin McClung receives 2006 World Food Prize
- 2007 *Crops and Soils* magazine reinstated with Volume 40. All back issues of *AJ* are being made available online through Highwire Press. ASA member Norman Borlaug receives Congressional Gold Medal.

