

Russell Wright

June 19, 1939 - December 19, 2025

Russell E. Wright, 86 was born on June 19, 1939 and passed away at home on Skiatook Lake, Oklahoma, on December 19, 2025. Russell was born in Muscatine, IA, the son of Paul and Bernice Wright. After graduating from Muscatine High School, he attended the University of Dubuque on a track scholarship. Eventually, he transferred to Iowa State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's degree in entomology. Subsequently, he completed the PhD in entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While a student at Iowa State, he met Betty Throickmorton, and they were married in 1963. Their first two children were born in Wisconsin. Their next stop was in Ontario, Canada, where he joined the Department of Environmental Biology at the University of Guelph. Their third child was born there while they were in Canada. In 1976, Russell and his family moved to Stillwater when he became a faculty member in the Department of Entomology. Positions he held were instructor, researcher, and department head, which he became in 1992, a position he held until his retirement in 2004. Russell authored more than 60 journal articles and more than 30 OSU and Extension publications. In addition, he has presented his research in a variety of venues more than 60 times. Besides being active in the community and in his church, he became an active volunteer in several community groups. In 2015, he served as the president of the OSU Emeriti Association. Russell was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and his sister. He is survived by wife Betty, as well as their children, Shelly Norris (Randy), Daniel Wright (Brooke), and Jason Wright (Kallie) and by three grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by several siblings, including Vernon Wright, Melvin Wright, Eileen Luba, Lorri Dicks, and Bernadine Brown, in addition to a number of nieces and nephews.