

RESOLUTION NO: 2

WHEREAS, Lawrence F. Graber made a significant contribution to the agricultural world and specifically to Wisconsin Agriculture, and

WHEREAS, he was born in Iowa County and distinguished himself, his friends and neighbors by his service as a Professor of Agronomy, and

WHEREAS, a request has been made for use of a county owned site at Oak Park Wayside for purposes of erecting an historical marker in memory of Lawrence F. Graber, and

WHEREAS, the language proposed for use on the marker is as follows:

SEE ATTACHED

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Iowa County Board supports the request for placement of an historical marker in memory of Lawrence F. Graber at the Oak Park Wayside, if approved by appropriate regulatory authorities, including the State of Wisconsin, Dept. of Transportation, the local Historical Society, the local Highway, Parks and Zoning authorities, and recommends approval of the project as a worthy tribute to a respected Iowa County native and an significant contributor to Wisconsin Agricultural progress.

Respectfully,


Richard M. Scullion, County Board Chair

Mister Alfalfa

"Unlike gold, it (alfalfa) did not make history by motivating men to conquer and to exploit, or to search and seize. It was, and is, a crop for the peaceful pursuits of man. Its part in human affairs was not meant for the adventurer or the buccaneer; yet it followed in their wake to become one of the greatest forages of the new hemisphere, and also one of its principal sources of renewable wealth."

Laurance F. Graber
(1887-1977)

Laurance F. Graber, was born on a farm approximately 3 miles southwest of here on March 5, 1887, of immigrant parents. He graduated from Mineral Point High School, and went on to earn degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and from the University of Chicago. His life was given to agriculture and education, and he became a professor of Agronomy at the UW-Madison. His early recognition of the potentialities of alfalfa in American agriculture, his efforts in making Wisconsin the leading state in alfalfa acreage and his many contributions to the expanding, production, distribution and use by American farms of certified seed of superior alfalfa varieties have earned him the title of MR. ALFALFA

He once gave this advice to beginning students in agronomy:

"Plants and animals useful to man can be grown with rule-of-thumb or empirical methods and memorized facts, but without understanding, the zest of the enterprise is lost."