

2015 Achievement Award Recipient
Soil Science Society of North Carolina

John L. Havlin's career in agriculture and soil science began as a farmer managing a 400-acre animal/ grain in Chatham IL after receiving a B.S. in chemistry at Illinois State University. In the early 1980s, he attained his M.S. and Ph.D. in soil chemistry from Colorado State University. His early appointments as assistant and associate professor occurred in agronomy at the University of Nebraska and Kansas State University. In 1996, Dr. Havlin became Head of the Soil Science Department at North Carolina State University and served in this capacity until 2004.

As department head, Dr. Havlin brought a new vision and certainly great passion for agriculture and soil science. He was instrumental in developing a nationally recognized program in precision agriculture and nutrient management. Dr. Havlin established a GPS laboratory in the Soil Science department and spearheaded field days on GPS and remote sensing as well as hired faculty to further promote and teach these concepts. While department head, Dr. Havlin served as chair of the Phosphorus Loss Assessment Team and was instrumental in P research and guidance that has served the state well. He has served on numerous state, regional, national committees and advisory boards related to nutrient management, natural resources, sustainable agriculture, and environmental quality.

As professor, since 2004 to present day, Dr. Havlin is responsible for teaching undergraduate soil fertility and also a course that has set university attendance records, called Land and Life, where students are exposed to current issues related to agriculture and the environment. Since 2005, he has been the Coordinator of Distance Education for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University. In this effort, he is providing leadership in developing internet-based soil science curriculum. In the classroom, conferences, or grower meetings, he is known as an excellent, engaging teacher with great passion for his subject matter as well as his students. Dr. Havlin is also an inspiring mentor to fellow teachers.

Over more recent years, Dr. Havlin has been instrumental in helping the vinifera wine industry become a part of North Carolina agriculture through providing research in soil fertility and subsequent education to wine grape growers at meetings.

Nationally, Dr. Havlin served as the President of the Soil Science Society of America in 2005 and provided leadership in developing Dig IT!, The Secrets of Soil, which is an educational exhibit on soils that travels the United States. He was responsible for raising \$3M in this effort.



Dr. Havlin is a fellow in the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, and the National Association of College Teachers in Agriculture. He has received numerous research, teaching and extension awards over his career. Dr. Havlin has authored / co-authored over 267 refereed and other technical papers, eight book chapters and is the author of the internationally recognized textbook, Soil Fertility and Fertilizers.