

Obituary: Helmut Claas



Dear Sir/Madam,

We regret to inform you that Helmut Claas, our Chairman of the Board of Trustees, passed away on 5 January 2021 aged 94.

With the establishment of the CLAAS Foundation in 1999, he laid the basis for the charitable support of young people in agricultural engineering and related disciplines. It was a matter close to his heart to accompany and support young international and national talents on their educational path.

He created a lasting legacy, namely the CLAAS Foundation. We will continue the work of the CLAAS Foundation in his spirit. We are pleased and grateful that as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Helmut Claas shaped the CLAAS Foundation with a great deal of dedication and personal commitment for over 20 years. He will be sadly missed.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and CLAAS Foundation Executive Board,

Sylvia Looks Frank Klüsener



Donations to the CLAAS Foundation

If you would like to support the CLAAS Foundation with a donation, please send it to

CLAAS Foundation
IBAN: DE51 2012 0000 0065 5550 13
BIC: BEGODEHH

Reference: "Helmut Claas"

Please provide your address if you would like a receipt for your donation.



2019 awards ceremony: Helmut Claas presented the CLAAS Foundation Scholarships at the last in-person awards ceremony.

In memory of Helmut Claas

He was passionate about the Foundation

Always on the move, always striving for perfection, yet always remaining firmly grounded – this was Helmut Claas' guiding principle. It was reflected in every project and innovation that Helmut Claas initiated throughout his life.

The establishment of the CLAAS Foundation in 1999 was a matter of great importance to him away from the day-to-day business of his company. Its purpose is to contribute to education and knowledge in agricultural engineering and sciences. Various initiatives aim to make the opportunities and perspectives of modern agricultural engineering accessible – especially to young trainees, as well as to the general public.

Helmut Claas instilled enthusiasm for (agricultural) engineering in the student generation at an early stage.

The Student Research Centres in Bad Saulgau and Osnabrück are excellent examples of this.

Helmut Claas was always extremely interested in the scientific work of the students sponsored by the CLAAS Foundation. At the annual awards ceremonies, he would initiate discussions with them and, until the very end, he never missed the opportunity to present the scholarships and prizes in person.

Helmut Claas' commitment will continue to have an impact after his death. The CLAAS Foundation will continue its work in his spirit.



Pupils conducting an experiment at the Bad Saulgau Student Research Centre.



Establishment of the CLAAS Foundation in 1999: presenting the Articles of Incorporation to the Detmold District President, Christa Vennegerts.



Over the last 20 years, Helmut Claas personally awarded scholarships and prizes to around 250 students.



The CLAAS Foundation and the Student Research Centre in Bad Saulgau began an educational partnership in 2007.

In front of a Formula 1 racing car at Technoparc in 2003 – a project development at Technische Universität Braunschweig.



He was at home surrounded by his scholarship holders, here at the awards ceremony in 2006.



Time to “talk shop” with students: they were demonstrating a field robot prototype.

The Board of Trustees in 2015 on the terrace at August-Claas-Haus.



Helmut Claas always sat in the front row at awards ceremonies.

Prizes worth a total of over €36,000

Virtual awards ceremony this year

In October, the CLAAS Foundation honoured agricultural sciences and engineering students for outstanding final theses in the field of agricultural technology and sciences. For the first time, this was a virtual ceremony, which worked well thanks to digitalisation. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Foundation Board Members, Sylvia Looks and Frank Klüsener, were the only ones to attend the event at the Technoparc cinema.

Sylvia Looks explained: "We are not letting COVID get the better of us this year and are staying true to the basic premise of the CLAAS Foundation to promote emerging talents in the areas of agriculture and agricultural technology."

The nominees presented their theses in short videos. This was followed by the announcement of the winners with a live link-up to the nominees. There is little doubt that this was the most nerve-tingling part of the event, as the nominees did not yet know which prize they had won.

A total of thirteen students from Germany, England, the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Russia and Uzbekistan were honoured this year.

The delighted winners of the four scholarships are...



Top: Abigail Allen (4th Prize) and Jan Rebmann (3rd Prize).
Bottom: Johannes Frey (2nd Prize) and Linda Richter (1st Prize).

Watch the video of the awards ceremony [here](#).

+++ News in brief +++

+++ **Field Robot Event** from 8 to 10 June 2021: due to the coronavirus pandemic, this event will mostly be online. Instead of real-life robots in fields, participants will compete against each other using computer simulations. The event will take place alongside the DLG Field Days.

+++ **HOT (Hands on Technology) and Mbot competition** – again due to the coronavirus pandemic, these major pupil competitions have been postponed. Instead, they will take place in a smaller, decentralised format in schools. These competitions involve pupils putting their engineering skills to the test.

+++ **Prof. Cornelia Weltzien** from TU Berlin and the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy is set to join the German jury of the CLAAS Foundation from this year. She succeeds Prof. Thomas Herlitzius.



+++ The **Osnabrück Student Research Centre** has had a new Board since June 2020. Prof. Harald Strating (Chair, Hochschule Osnabrück, Faculty of Engineering), Martin Henke (Deputy Chair, Head of BBS Brinkstraße), Sven Ruschhaupt (Managing Director of Handwerkskammer Osnabrück), Johannes Brockmeyer (former Head of BBS Brinkstraße), Prof. Jürgen Wübbelmann (Hochschule Osnabrück, Operating Systems and Embedded Systems).

University of Hohenheim and UniLaSalle

New international university partnership

In future, UniLaSalle (Beauvais, France) and the University of Hohenheim (Germany) will cooperate with each other to promote international research and scientific exchange. In its role as initiator, the CLAAS Foundation will support the project with ideas and funding for three years. Initially, a practical master's project will be launched, involving student teams from Germany and France.