The Sower, Summer 1994
Ellington receives national awards

Dr. Earl F. Ellington, Professor of Animal Science and Faculty Liaison for the CASNRAA Board, has recently been honored by two national organizations. Phi Beta Delta, an honor society for international scholars, named the Alpha Phi Chapter of the University of Nebraska as the Outstanding Chapter, Midwest Region. Ellington has served as President of the chapter since 1992 and has been instrumental in its success. Individuals who have demonstrated scholarly achievement in the international area are nominated for membership in Phi Beta Delta. There are three categories of members: international students who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement at their U.S. institution; domestic students who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement in the pursuit of academic studies abroad; and distinguished faculty, staff and visiting scholars involved in international endeavors such as teaching, administering exchange programs, conducting research, or providing services and programs to international students and scholars.

Ellington accepted the award April 15, 1994, on behalf of the Alpha Phi Chapter, at the Eighth Annual National Conference held in Atlanta, Ga. Ellington at the 1994 NACTA Teacher Fellow. This prestigious award, recognizing outstanding teaching, was presented to Ellington at the 1994 NACTA Conference at Texas A&M on June 14, 1994.

Born and raised on a farm in eastern Kentucky, Ellington completed the B.S. and M.S. programs at the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. program at the University of California. He taught at Oregon State University for 6 years, and has held positions in teaching, advising and administration at UNL since 1968. Ellington has also been actively involved in a variety of student and professional organizations.

Alumni Award nominations now being accepted!

The University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources Alumni Association (CASNRAA) annually sponsors awards to recognize achievements by its members and by other individuals who have contributed to the University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) or to Nebraska's agriculture. The honorees will be presented engraved plaques at the Association's annual reunion held each fall. The 1994 Awards will be presented at the Full Reunion, Saturday, October 29.

Nominations for the 1994 Awards are now being accepted. Use the adjacent form and additional pages as necessary. Nominations are due in the Alumni Association office by September 1. If an honoree is unable to attend the reunion, the award will not be presented. However, the individual will be considered for the award in future years. The awards will be based on the following criteria:

Award of Merit
The Award of Merit is presented in recognition of an individual's achievement in the field of agriculture, including production, education and agribusiness areas. This award recognizes citizenship and leadership in these areas. The awards committee may select up to three (3) winners each year. To be considered for the award, the nominee must have attended the University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) or the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis. Completion of a program or degree is recommended but is not mandatory to selection for the Award of Merit.

Ag Alumnus of the Year
The awards committee may select up to two (2) Ag Alumni honorees each year. These men and women may be recognized for their exemplary service to the CASNR, the CASNRAA, or to Nebraska's agriculture in general. The honorees in this category must have completed a degree at the CASNR.

Honorary Life Membership
Honorary life membership may be conferred upon one individual each year for outstanding service to the CASNR or the CASNRAA. The recipient is not an alumnus of the University of Nebraska.

PAST RECIPIENTS

AWARD OF MERIT
1986 Willard Waldo
1987 Robert Baun, Weston Furrier
1988 Gerald Beatlie, Gary Garey, Ralph Knoebel
1989 David Hutchinson, Harold Stevens
1990 Leonard Fleischer, Robert Weber
1991 Henry M. Beachel
1992 Robert D. Oster
1993 Byron D. Sadle

AG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
1986 Robert Gingery
1987 Keith King
1988 Elvin Frolik, Ralston Graham
1989 David McGill, Gary Kubicek
1990 Ray Cruise
1992 Marvin Kruse
1993 Leslie Sheffield

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP
1987 Ted Hartung
1988 Ivan Rush
1990 M. Rosalind Morris
1991 John Klosterman
1992 Merlyn Carlson
1993 Jack Maddux

Please use the following form and include any additional pages or supporting materials necessary. You may nominate more than one person in each of the three award categories, and nominations carry over for future consideration. Nominations are due September 1, 1994.

College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources Alumni Association Awards Program Nomination Form

I would like to recommend ______ as a nominee for:
1. Award of Merit
2. Alumnus of the Year
3. Honorary Life Membership

Nominee’s Full Name
Address
Phone ___________ Nominee’s class year__________

Please include the following information about the nominee:
A. Past and present work experience
B. Professional activities, contributions to agriculture
C. Community or other service activities
D. Contributions to University, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources and Alumni Association
E. Further describe the area(s) of achievement nominee has fulfilled and why he/she should be recognized by the CASNRAA.

Nominate ______
Address
City/state/zip
Phone

Nominations due by September 1, 1994.

Mail the completed nomination form to: CASNRAA Awards Program, Wick Alumni Center, 1520 R Street, P.O. Box 880216, Lincoln, NE 68502-0216.

If you have any questions about the nomination process or the awards criteria, please contact Alice Kadowy, 402-472-2841.
Welcome, new alumni!

Dean Edwards receives the 1994 Massey-Ferguson Educational Gold Medal

Donald M. Edwards, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), has received the 1994 Massey-Ferguson Educational Gold Medal.

The award was presented by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE), the society for engineering in agricultural food and biological systems, during its international summer meeting, June 19-22, in Kansas City.

Established in 1965, the award honors "those whose dedication to the spirit of learning and teaching in the field of agricultural engineering has advanced our agricultural knowledge and practice, and whose efforts serve as an inspiration to others."

Edwards was cited for “his unswerving contribution to education.” He was credited with being instrumental in enhancing the teaching and outreach functions of the CASNR. By developing strong links with community colleges throughout Nebraska, he has ensured that their courses are transferable -- a service that has greatly improved student recruitment and retention.

While a professor at UNL, Edwards received the university’s outstanding teaching award as well as top student evaluations in his department. He is recognized as a facilitator who has established a framework within which faculty can excel and have positive interactions with students.

Prior to assuming his current position at UNL in 1989, he led revitalization of the educational and research program in Michigan State University’s Department of Agricultural Engineering. He also initiated changes in the curriculum and the process to rename the department.

A fellow in ASAE, Edwards was the society’s recipient of the A.W. Farrall Outstanding Young Engineer Award in 1973. For many years, he represented ASAE on the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, working to improve the quality of engineering education.

He also has held leadership positions in the National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education. A native of Tracy, Minnesota, Edwards holds a B. S. and M.S. degrees from South Dakota State University and a doctorate in agricultural engineering from Purdue University.

He joined the UNL Department of Agricultural Engineering, now the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, in 1966 and was named assistant dean of the College of Engineering and Technology in 1970. He later served as director of the Engineering Research Center, associate dean of the college and director of the Energy Research Center at UNL before joining Michigan State University in 1980.

ASAE is a worldwide professional and technical organization of members who are dedicated to the advancement of engineering applicable to agricultural, food and biological systems, including the environment and natural resources, and to advancing the agriculture industries. The society, headquartered in St. Joseph, Mich., includes more than 9,000 members in 50 states, 10 provinces and 110 countries.

Certificate in Agriculture
Ryan Amos Jurjens, Jerry Alan Pietryk, Rex William Schroder
** With Distinction
** With Highest Distinction

THE SOWER

Please print your new address below:

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
City/state/zip _____________________

Return to: UNL Alumni Assn., Wick Alumni Center, 1520 R Street, P.O. Box 882016, Lincoln, NE 68588-0216

When returning this form, please be sure to enclose your business card as well. This will help us maintain a more accurate record of your whereabouts.

The Sower is published three times per year for alumni of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Alumni are encouraged to participate by sending news items about themselves to the address on page 6.
1994 Alumni Membership Awards

Alumni Membership Awards were presented to graduating seniors at the Graduation Celebration Breakfast on May 7th. These awards are presented annually to students for outstanding service to student organizations and the college. Club advisors select the winners, who each receive a framed certificate and a one-year complimentary membership in the Alumni Association. Awards will also be presented prior to the commencement in December.

Selected to receive the 1994 awards were:

- **May Graduates**
  - Jennifer Becker, Gamma Sigma Delta
  - Jay Hanson, Gamma Sigma Delta
  - John Miller, UNL Wildlife Club
  - Timothy Claver, Nebraska Chapter of Alpha Zeta
  - Andrew Lee Broeker, UNL Collegiate 4-H Club
  - Mark Desler, Mechanized Systems Management Club
  - Ryan Tompkins, Range Management

- **August Graduate**
  - Destiny Liebl, University of Nebraska Agronomy Club

- **December Graduates**
  - Rodney Lisenmeyer, Agricultural Economics Agribusiness Club
  - Matthew Wilshusen, Alpha Tau Alpha
  - Corey L. Crandall, Horticulture Club
  - Michael Roberts, University of Nebraska Rodeo Association
  - Michelle Heftje, Food Science Club
  - Timothy Jay Schmitt, Soil and Water Resources Club

- **Dwaine Greenamyre and Bud Reece,** Block and Bridle

Receiving Alumni Membership Awards at the May 7th breakfast were (standing, l-r): Chadwzn Bruce Smith, Ryan Tompkins, Timothy Claver, Andrew Lee Broeker; (seated) Jay Hanson, Robert Allen Ryland and Dawn Anderson.

FROM YOUR
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Hello! I'm Gene Watermeier and I will be serving as your board president for the coming year. My wife Lois and I live and farm in the Unadilla/Syracuse area. I will be filling the president’s position following the excellent leadership of Tamara Althouse.

I want to welcome two new board members, Von Svoboda and Chuck Havlicek, and express appreciation to retiring members Mark Freese and Dallas Kime. Dallas will continue to serve as UNL Board representative. Also thanks to Dwaine Greenamyre and Bud Reece who have finished their first term and are beginning their second.

The Board recently held its annual summer retreat and planning meeting on the campus of UNK with a tour and college update. We were warmly received and impressed with the campus. We are excited about the association activities planned for the coming year, and hope you can participate.

Our activities are focused on the association’s objective of fostering cooperation and communication among alumni of the college, and developing communication between alumni and the IANR.

The Board welcomes your suggestions and comments and I look forward to serving as your board chair for the coming year.

Gene Watermeier
RR 1, Box 125
Unadilla, NE 68454
402-269-2632

SUMMER 1994

FROM THE DEAN’S DESK

Summer is a time of transition, a time for special efforts, a time to plant, a time to harvest, a time to reflect, a time to plan, a time to live. Here in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources we are experiencing all of these “times.” Summer is especially a time of transition; a senior class comes to closure with graduation, a new freshman class is anticipated. A harvest has occurred, a new field has been prepared, seeds are being planted, soon the crop will grow and another harvest is anticipated. Each of our “crops” are different — ours involve the education of people.

Summer being “a time of transition” is also demonstrated by New Student Enrollment. In June and July, 265 new high school graduates, transfer students and their parents visited campus to become better acquainted with our university setting and to enroll in fall semester classes.

One of the “special efforts” that our college co-sponsors with 4-H during the summer is “ExpoVisions.” About 300 high school students across Nebraska participate in this event which is designed to expose youth to the educational programs of the University. These young people are offered experiences to help them learn about themselves and possible career choices, and to gain skills that will benefit their families and communities.

After years of planning, "a time to plant" became a reality for NROLL — the new student registration system at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Technology has made it possible for students to pick up the telephone and register for classes — it seems to be working very smoothly for almost everyone.

Thinking about "a time to reflect and to plan" brings to mind our involvement with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant which was awarded last April. We are among 12 land grant universities nationwide to receive funding to help envision where our educational institutions will be in the future. Our clientele and other educational partners will help develop this proposal during the next year. In about September 1995, our ideas will be considered for multi-year funding from the Kellogg Foundation. We seek guidance and suggestions from our alumni.

In the next issue of THE SOWER, I will share with you the 1994 “harvest” and the new “crop” that is beginning to grow. The job market was, and continues to be, excellent; the new “crop” of students is outstanding. Enjoy your summer!

Donald Edwards
Dean
...quick! I I I I doing 50 mph! Day was turned into night that greatly now to see more of my fellow gads newcomers are doing, we oldsters did our the clothes on their backs and a few and rich farmlands and left! They took only hundreds of farmers everything they had. 

The grass is greener, tastier 30 Ralph A. Benton, ag education, also earned a M.S. in 1940 from UNL and later a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in agricultural economics. At 88 years of age, Ralph is still interested in what’s happening at UNL and in the state of Nebraska. He also submitted the following Associated Press article about the career of a fellow alum, which he clipped from the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal. Dr. Benton lives in Clarksville, Ind.

...as the SCS. This organization helped farmers set up Soil Conservation Districts throughout the plains states. Usually being county-wide districts, there were hundreds of them. Following district organization, the SCS provided administrators, better known as District Conservationists, plus farm planners, Agricultural engineers, and crop specialists, etc... So the plains farmers soon became self-sufficient against winds, fires and floods. This was when I signed up as a conservationist with SCS and stayed on for 12 years. The plains states were quite stable again by that time, so I wound up farming again myself. The SCS had got us to strip cropping, contour farming, the latest in crop rotations, stock ponds, grazing controls and wind breaks—all this along with the latest in new and improved crops.

So at 90 years, as I review the news, read The Alumnus and The Sower, I am happy to see newcomers carrying on, and doing a great job, with still newer and better crops and methods! My wife and I got in on that crop that never fails, too. We raised 3 sons and a daughter, which now adds up to 4 grandsons and 4 granddaughters, plus 4 great-grandsons and 6 great-granddaughters! And finally, just to keep active, I challenge all corns in horseshoe pitching and bowling!...
A t the best of an invitation from Professor D. P. McGill to fellow alumni of the agronomy department of the University of Nebraska, and an invitation in the publication, The Sower, I herewith submit comments, remembered, before and since 1925, when I graduated non-cum-laude from the University. As a starter, my name is Burton Frederick Kiltz, born in the Nebraska sandhills in 1901 to a young couple, Fred and Addie, whose forefathers came to New England in 1630. They had acquired 160 acres of land by settling on it in 1886. They raised black cattle and built fences, a windmill, a two-room shanty and a small barn to shelter a few cattle and two horses. There was a one-room school where I distinguished myself by failing eighth grade. There was an unregistered high school seven miles away. I rode there on a horse. (I tried) to impress on my Latin teacher that Latin was a dead language and I did not need that. She reminded me that at home I learned how to milk cows, butcher a hog, catch small game, chase cattle out of other people’s corn and kill potato bugs. Do you want to do that all your life? I told her that I hated it and then she said that I had better learn Latin then, and I did, and wrote her a love note on a Christmas card which she read to the class. Her name was Lottie Benson.

About that time I had acquired a horse of my own. One hive seems to increase to two, then to four. I decided that to go to college there had to be money and honey and a patch of navy beans would help; not much but I hoped enough. And so in 1921, with an additional fifty dollars I had wheeled from my reluctant Dad, I got on the train for Lincoln. I took an exam to enter the University and told the exam professor about Lottie Benson.

I dislike mentioning money so often in this life of mine, but it was and had to be important. I got work picking apples in the ag orchard. I got a job at the cattle barn working for a man named Leonard. I showed up at five a.m. for two hours, (and) in the afternoon, at the pcximately sum of $25 an hour. I should tell you about chemistry. Chemistry class came at eight o’clock; right after a session at the barn, and as luck would have it my assigned seat was next to a city girl. Association with cattle leaves one with an agronomy. (My) advisor had also suggested that I learn how to spell Frank Keim and Howard Gooding, professors in the agronomy department. I had not the least idea what an agronomist did for a living.

Even now, I’m not all that sure. But also I am not good at spelling, and so am not even sure that I have spelled their names right. Sorry about that!

I keep whining about making ends meet financially, well, in my third year the clouds moved away and the sun came out. There had been a course in plant diseases where the problem of control of black stem rust and its destruction of winter wheat was discussed, and the control of the shrub, the common barberry, the co-host of the disease. I applied for a job and was accepted, a job that yielded about seventy dollars a month for travel expenses. That money would support me for the next three summers and frequent weekends. Hey, look mom, I’m rich! I bought a good-as-new Model T Ford roadster and was in clover. A master’s degree accounted for the added two years: a master’s in agronomy and a minor in botany.

There was a scholarship offered in corn breeding at the University of Illinois for the year, perhaps leading to a doctor’s degree, which I accepted. I married a girl named Opal I knew from the sandhills and took her with me. By the end of the year I had managed to get her pregnant, and so had to give up the idea of a doctor’s degree. Frank Keim got me a job teaching agronomy and botany in the Nebraska School of Agriculture at Curtis, Nebraska. As far as I knew no schedule of teaching agronomy to high school students had ever been developed. My decision was then that this high school teaching did not take me away from elementary agronomy teaching.

(Continued on page 6)
Since teaching agronomy was not skillfully managed, discipline became an issue. In botany I did great. Frank Keim came to the rescue once more and soon I was at Oklahoma State University teaching forage crops and pastures. I was to live in Stillwater for about six years, teaching and in research. Working with the animal husbandry department we made a deal with the 101 Ranch to develop some pasture rotation experiments. Before that had been going on for more than two years, the Great Drouth rolled in. (Take notice of one of the spelling.) If “drouth” was good enough for Holt County, Nebraska, it was good enough for Oklahoma, and that was that. Who was that fancy-dan anyway to say that it must be spelled “drought”?) And it wasn’t just the drouth; it was the clouds of dark dust moving eastward across the nation, even scarifying the District of Columbia, but most of the country in between. The President and Congress moved quickly. Dr. Bennett, our University President, was requested by telephone for my assignment to head up a group to search for plants to use for restoring a permanent ground cover to prevent further damage to an area extending from Kansas south to and including Texas. Groups were to cover other sections. A section of the agronomy farm was selected for research. I collected a staff which included two botanists, two amateur agronomists, a secretary, a lady from the seed laboratory and a roostabut character of no scientific persuasion. I worked at first as a member of the Interior Department in Washington. In a couple of years we were moved to Salina, Kan., in the Soil Conservation Service. Before we quite knew what had happened we were growing trees for the Forest Service in Manhattan, Kan. to be used in the colossal project of stopping the wind from blowing by planting windbreaks. Results were not long in coming. When trees (were) planted west, say, beyond the One Hundredth Meridian where the winds could get at them, soon they withered and died. When planted in ravines and deep valleys, they thrived. Our little group was busy trying to civilize such grasses as buffalo, blue grama and a few others so that they could be developed commercially. After about three years our headquarters was moved to Amarillo, Texas. I was drawn to the identification of drouth resistant plants and began sending specimens to the National Herbarium in Washington; also to the Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts. I recall one morning a rather weather-beaten type of man appeared in my office, sat down and started the conversation with, “Where are you getting all that stuff?” He turned out to be a well-known, widely-traveled expert plant toxicologist from the Arnold Arboretum. We spent about a week getting plant specimens from the canyons of the Texas Panhandle. Suddenly the whole dustbowl effort became past tense — Pearl Harbor. For the next twenty years I became a representative of the U.S. Army Engineers stationed in San Antonio, then Dallas, Texas, making the wind stop blowing (blowing dust that is — dust that fouled planes and army tanks, army generals’ desks) and reducing the clouds of soil so thick the barracks across the street could not be seen. After the war, I did a stretch with a couple of Air Force headquarters, Barksdale in Louisiana and Scott in Illinois, then went back with the Army, still as a civilian, to its engineers headquarters in Arlington, Va. I was placed in a section they called “land management” and in charge of the same activities I had seen so much of during the years before. I had seen every county in the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. This new job took me also to other states, including Hawaii; also to Japan, Puerto Rico, and South Korea. The new job included work assistance involved with landscaping army camps, and ouling land to farmers and ranchers, and activity that reduced fire hazards. The army had at that time acreage amounting to that of several New England states. We supervised timber management and sales, and adopted southern foresters’ methods of burning forest ground cover at times when fires could be safely controlled. We even got into the wildlife business some. I retired in 1965 to manage a fine private library at a retirement complex in Richmond, Va. After fourteen years at that, I retired again. Enough is enough!

Alumni President Freese and Professor McGill have mentioned in The Sower and Prof. McGill in a letter, respectively, an interest in any awards. A real award defeats me. But I have a few awards that in my life impressed me. For a boy out of the sandhills an award is about any sign of approval; not a marching band and confetti thrown out of a window. I won a twenty dollar gold piece for a thumbnail history of the Southfork Valley offered by the local bank. Does that count? There was being valedictorian at high school graduation. That was a victory of sorts. I had written letters and pieces for a retirement home over a considerable number of years that my nephew Jack and his sister Eleanor liked. So they made a 140-page book out of them. I couldn’t beat that for an award. I wrote a prose-poem to be presented at my parents’ fiftieth wedding anniversary that my mother liked; my Dad had nothing to say one way or another. But Frank Keim liked it; do you remember him? He made speeches all over Nebraska in high schools urging students to go to the Nebraska University. At the end of each speech he pulled out “In Praise Of A Pioneer Couple,” and told them a pupil of his had written it. For me that rated as an award. Graduating from UNL and with a master’s are awards in my book, right? Getting the rating as Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy is another, OK? So much for awards. Not much, but it’s all I was able to manage. Thanks for asking, I needed that. My typing has been atrocious. My spelling was worse but recall that I failed eighth grade!

Regards to all,
Buron R. Kiltz
1713 Bellevue Ave, Apt. c-602
Richmond, Va. 23227

P. S. I forgot to mention the Certificate of Merit for Excellent Service from the Chief of Engineers at a dinner at Fort Belvoir when I retired in 1965. Also initiating another section of the American Society of Agronomy, A-2, the section of Military Land Management. I’ve forgotten the date, but it must have been in the early 1960s. The Army, Navy and Air Force were working together to accomplish this. Also forgot Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta fraternities for scholarships. I really liked that, too.