The University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture: The First Century Part VII. Schools and Short Courses

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Part VII. Schools and Short Courses

Chapter 1. Schools of Agriculture

School of Agriculture, Lincoln

Chapter 2. Short Courses

Farm Operators Course
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Chapter I. Schools of Agriculture

School of Agriculture, Lincoln

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Year Enrollment Graduates
Spring 1896 15' (N.A.)
1896-97 33 (N.A.)
1897-98 51 (N.A.)
1898-99 57' (22) (N.A.)
1899-1900 114 (49) (N.A.)
1900-01 132 (40) (N.A.)
1901-02 119 (59) 1
1902-03 206 (70) 10
1903-04 266 (112) 17
1904-05 (N.A.) (135) 24
1905-06 (N.A.) (183) 41
1906-07 235 35
1907-08 300 50
1908-09 341 71
1909-10 346 84
1910-11 378 88
1911-12 354 60
1912-13 474 51
1913-14 515 88
1914-15 481 101
1915-16 466 97
1916-17 476 68
1917-18 361 67
1918-19 319 50
1919-20 471 59
1920-21 335 68
1921-22 250 43
1922-23 176 26
1923-24 152 32
1924-25 167 24
1925-26 144 23
1926-27 120 21
1927-28 120 15
1928-29 47 17

Name

The School carried the name as shown above from its inception in January 1896 to its termination in the spring of 1929.

Administrators

Principal
T. L. Lyon Director 1896-1897
A. E. Davison Head Master 1897-1899 (1)
A. E. Davison Director 1899-1901
A. E. Davison Principal 1901-1911
Fred M. Hunter Principal 1911-1912
Harry E. Bradford Principal 1912-1929

Other
Julia Loughridge Asst. Principal 1908-1917
Mary Virginia Zimmer Asst. Principal 1917-1929

Data for enrollment (shown in the first column) through 1903-04 obtained from (1, p 10). From 1904 through 1926-27 from (12).

Year of the opening of the three-year course (1, pp 6, 7).

Data in parentheses taken from (15, p 4). These data from the second column apparently do not include the "winter course" students but only the full academic year enrollees. The "winter course" in the middle of the academic year lasted for two months. It consisted of "practical" courses in agriculture geared for students who wanted to spend only a limited amount of time in the School and who were not interested in the traditional academics. Both groups of students took the "winter course".

First year of the 4-year course (3, p 137).
The Period of Opening of the School to 1909

During this period of the state's history, studying agriculture at the University was largely for the purpose of learning to become a better farmer. The term "agribusiness" had not yet come into common usage, and there were few opportunities for a person trained in agriculture for employment off the farm.

In order to make training in agriculture available to all who wanted to become farmers, the Board of Regents announced in March 1894 (3, p 71) that they proposed to open in September 1895 a School of Agriculture and Mechanics. Eligibility for entrance consisted of "... agriculture boys who have completed the work of the district (eight grades) schools" (4, p 3). The first classes of 12 weeks duration were started on January 7, 1896 (15) with 15 students enrolled (13, p 142). Teaching was done by the faculty of the College of Agriculture (3, p 71). During the first year classes were conducted on the city campus.

In April 1898, the Board of Regents took action to make the School a three-year course to run concurrently with the University academic year with the additional proviso that "... all students who completed the course should be admitted to the Technical Agricultural Group of the University" (16).

At the close of the school year in March 1898, the students were entertained at the residence of Chancellor George E. MacClean. At the conclusion of a social evening, he proposed the organization of an Association of Agricultural Students for the purpose of continuing the work begun in the School. In a meeting of the students the next day, unanimous action was taken to establish the Association, with invitations being extended to Chancellor MacClean and Dean Bessey to help develop it (16).

The Association consisted initially of all then current and former students in the School of Agriculture. The membership starting with 51, had reached 450 by 1902 (16). The Association published its proceedings for one or two years, before starting publication of Agriculture in March 1902 (16). In February 1903, A. E. Davison, principal of the School of Agriculture, was listed as editor, and A. L. Haecker, professor of Dairy Husbandry, was shown as business manager (11). In February 1904, there appeared in the publication for the first time a listing of an editorial board consisting of Davison, Haecker and 11 students (16), but by March 1906 the names of students had disappeared from the board (16).

In 1908, Haecker resigned as business manager of Agriculture, and Davison, who had been editor-in-chief, was elected editor and publisher. At the same time, Davison wrote: "In the past two or three years, the Association of Agricultural Students has done nothing other than to hold an annual meeting" (16).

It is evident that the sponsorship of Agriculture by the Association of Agricultural Students was nominal, and in reality the publication was largely in the hands of the faculty, principally Davison.

A Department of Home Economics was added to the School in the fall of 1906. The Department was patterned after the one at the Minnesota School of Agriculture which offered work "... for farmers' girls" (15). The subjects taught included cookery, house practice, physical training, sewing, design, household economics, house practice, physiology, hygiene and German. Rosa Bouton, Head of the Department, stated "The ultimate object of this work is to develop high ideals with reference to the home ..." (15).

The School of Agriculture proved to be a successful undertaking. Enrollment grew from 15 students in the first year to 515 in 1913-14. E. A. Burnett stated in 1908 "... about 20 percent of all the students in the University are now registered in the School of Agriculture" (3, p 71).

The Period of 1910 to 1923

The School of Agriculture catalog, published in 1910, announced that the course of instruction had been increased from the previous three years to four years, with a school year of 6½ months. There was a revision in the senior year course work starting in the fall of 1912 to "... consist of three groups, the Technical, the University Preparatory, and the Normal Training." As the names imply, the Technical course was for those intending to go back to the farm, the University Preparatory for those who planned to enter the University, and the Normal Training course for those who planned to teach in the rural and village schools (3, p 137).

In a printed announcement for the classes to open October 31st, 1910 (source unknown—sent in by Virgil Taylor, who was both School and College Alum), appeared the following: "No school offers as good an opportunity for instruction that will result in increasing the earning capacity of farm boys. ... Young men trained here are competent to undertake the management of a large farm ... The work in Home Economics gives young women training in cooking and sewing, and in the care and management of the home. Through this training girls learn to take delight in doing housework in such a manner as to make home life healthier and happier."

The February 1911 issue of Agriculture was the last one put out by the School of Agriculture management and editorial supervisor. Following this issue the publication was turned over to the Agricultural Club of the College of Agriculture with H. J. Gramlich, student in the College and an Alumnus of the School, as the first editor (16). The differences in the last

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The attitude of the Board of Regents was expressed in their 1896 report in part as follows: "Its (the University graduates in agriculture) graduates were few, and were weaned from the farm ... A missing link in the state system of education is the technological high school, or high school of applied science" (3, p 70). In 1896, the Regents organized also the School of Mechanic Arts, which existed for a number of years but never attained the success of the School of Agriculture (3, p 71).
issues published by the School and the first ones published by the students of the College were not great. In both cases the contents were heavily slanted to technical information emanating from the research of the College. Gradually, the news stories relating to students had been shifting from those about the School to stories concerning the College. A March 1911 editorial stated “The policy of the paper will continue to be much the same as in the past, the editors considering that for the present at least, Agriculture should not make too sudden a change” (16).

The School, as did the College, participated fully in military training for the male students. Many School students and alumni served in WW I [see (14) and Part VIII, Chapter 5 for further information].

Student organizations in 1918-19 consisted of the YMCA, YWCA, and the Davisson and the Orphelian Literary Societies. Student publications were the Aggie Tattler (bimonthly), and the School Annual, Shucks. Activities included a glee club, orchestra, basketball, class plays, parties (including those held in Robbers' Cave in southwest Lincoln), convocations, carnivals, slouch day, a junior prom, and interclass games (tournaments) (14).

School enrollment during this period was apparently reported in two ways: 1) total, which included special short courses, and 2) the regular four-year course. Crawford (3, p 136), obviously including short courses reported total attendance as 602 in 1910-11, reaching 895 in 1919-20, and dropping to 589 in 1921-22. Bradford (2) stated that the School had its greatest period of growth in numbers from 1909 to 1917. He attributed this to the fact that few sparsely populated areas of the state had high schools, or if so, only to the first or second year level. Consequently, there was an accumulation of older farm boys, and farm and town girls who had had little high school education. They came to the School of Agriculture “... because it offered them practical courses among students of their own age ... Girls were older than high school girls but younger than the men” (2).

Bradford (2) attributed the decline in enrollment beginning in 1918 to the establishment of four-year high schools in the sparsely settled areas of the state. Farm boys and girls could now live at home and attend high school.

“The older group of young men and women with no high school education had vanished and only a smaller group of younger students came to the School of Agriculture,” Bradford wrote. “During the decade beginning in 1920, public high schools added vocational agriculture and home economics to their curricula which tended to hold nearby students at home and the School of Agriculture suffered another loss in enrollment.”

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*The football schedule was canceled in the fall of 1918 because beginning on October 12 the School was closed for three weeks due to the outbreak of the Spanish influenza (14).*
Probably the "prom" for the "winter course" (short course) of the School of Agriculture at Lincoln, which included students on campus for the full academic year and also students here for the two-month practical course. (See also footnote 3 at the beginning of this chapter.) Location of ballroom not known, but not on East Campus.

The Period of 1924 to 1929

By 1924 the School of Agriculture had long since passed the zenith of its existence. Enrollment which had reached 515 in the fall of 1913 had dropped to 152 in the fall of 1923. By this time there was probably little real need for the School.

The School Programs

Academic. The School continued to maintain high academic standards. In addition to agriculture and home economics, the students were able to get adequate course work in the traditional academics. No problems were encountered in the students being eligible to enroll in the colleges of the University, providing they had taken the college prep course of instruction in the School.

Extracurricular. Over the years, the School had a rather complete program of extracurricular activities. Virginia Zimmer, assistant principal, mentioned class plays, carnivals, convocations, the junior-senior banquets, cave picnics (likely Robbers' Cave), slouch days, class scraps, the olympics, football and basketball (10, p 62). The same publication included pictures of the Shucks (annual) staff, orchestra, the glee club, the "A" Club, the "Workizer Rifles" (military unit), and the Student Council.

Class memorials. The classes of 1911 through 1929 made class gifts or memorials which were placed at various locations on the East Campus (10, pp 20, 21). Those still on campus are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Memorial</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Davisson Fountain</td>
<td>Between Ag Hall and Home Ec. Bldg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Boulder with bronze map of campus</td>
<td>Southeast of Plant Industry Bldg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Statue of Clio, the Muse of History*</td>
<td>Formerly on the landing between 2nd and 3rd floors of Ag Hall. Presently in storage. To be on loan to College of Architecture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\*Commonly mistaken by persons on campus to be Ceres, the Goddess of Agriculture.
1919 Class bench Between Ag Hall and Home Ec. Bldg.
1920 Sundial South of Plant Industry Bldg.
1921 "C" bench Between Ag Hall and Home Ec. Bldg.
1925 Stone benches Along Holdrege St., directly south of Ag Hall.

School Closed
The *Omaha World-Herald* stated (9) that the School of Agriculture was closed by the Regents with the class which was graduated April 18, 1929. However, the Board, perhaps expecting the usual type of opposition to discontinuing a program, took a somewhat more euphemistic approach. On March 21, 1929, the following appeared in the Regents’ Minutes: “. . . recommendation . . . to change the name of School of Agriculture and modify courses of instruction therein, is hereby referred to Chancellor Burnett and Regent Marsh to report later . . .” (7). Subsequently, in the April 1929 Minutes, it was noted that the name was changed to Farm Operator’s Course (8). The School of Agriculture at Lincoln predated its sister school, the UN School of Agriculture at Curtis, with respect to both date of start-up (1896 vs 1913) and date of termination (1929 vs 1968).

Alumni (5)
Today the Alumni Association of the School of Agriculture still holds annual meetings. The members constitute a very loyal group. It is estimated there are about 250 living alumni, and the Association annual meetings are well attended. David P. McGill of the IANR staff, although not an alumnus of the School, has been “adopted” by the Association as “sponsor and coordinator”.

Professional Attainment and Public Service of Some Alumni

In spite of the declining enrollment, many very good students attended the School to the last. Among the graduates from 1925 to 1929, their latest known addresses and professional attainments and public service, were: Ruth E. Davis (Mrs. Roscoe Hill), Phoenix, AZ, partner with her husband in a successful poultry hatchery business and prominent Lincoln civic and educational leader; Claude E. Walkup, York, successful farmer and community leader; Clifford D. Webster, Sarasota, FL, successful farmer and agricultural leader; Loyd F. Nichols*, Brock, successful farmer and community leader; Lyle A. Rolofson, Lincoln, NE, Table Rock public schools administrator, Lincoln public schools instructor, and John F. Kennedy College staff member; LaVern Gingrich*, Omaha, NE, chief executive officer of the Farmers National Company of Omaha; J. Russell Garl*, Lincoln, for 50 years assistant in the alfalfa breeding project. USDA/UN and recipient of the USDA Superior Service Award; Virgil Taylor*, Neligh, county agent, successful farmer and agricultural leader.

In addition to the above, other graduates of the School of earlier times and their accomplishments were:

Howard J. Gramlich* '08, Chairman of the University of Nebraska Department of Animal Science, 1917-38.
Dr. Karlis August Ulmanis, '08, Prime Minister and subsequently President of Latvia.
Otto H. Liebers*, '09, originator of the Skyline Dairy, Lincoln, Chairman of the Budget Committee, Nebraska unicameral Legislature; and leader in soil and water conservation. Mrs. Liebers, nee Ethel L. Kindig, graduated from the School in 1910.
Abner K. Chestem*, '15, Decatur and Tekamah, NE, farmer, Chairman of the USDA/ASCS State Committee, and in 1944 was appointed Agricultural Advisor to the American Embassy in Norway (6).

*Small portion which had been broken was used for the marker for the living Christmas tree south of East Union.
**Most graduated from the UN College of Agriculture.
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The nicknames are not easily documented. However, one verification is a picture of Bradford’s home labeled “Duke’s Mansion”.
He probably gained the nicknames through the fact that he was always proper in his attire, demeanor and discourse.

The UN School of Agriculture/UN School of Technical Agriculture (at Curtis)

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Names of the School

| Nebraska School of Agriculture (NSA) | 1913-1945 |
| University of Nebraska School of Agriculture (UNSA) | 1946-1968 |
| University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture (UNSTA) | 1965-present |

Administrators

Superintendents

| University of Nebraska School of Agriculture (UNSA): | 1913-1918 |
| C. V. Williams | 1918-1919 |
| A. P. Davidson | 1919-1933 |
| C. K. Morse | 1933-1961 |
| H. K. Douthit | 1961-1963 |
| H. C. Crandall | 1963-1965 |
| Gordon Quick | 1965-1968 |
| K. R. Baker | 6/65-6/65 |
| Robert Crosier | 1965-present |

| University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture (UNSTA): | 6/65-1968 |
| Stanley Matzke, Jr. | 1968-present |

Other Administrators

| Gerald J. Huntwork, Assistant | 1965-1975 |

References

8. _____, Apr 20, 1929, 10:284.
11. Agriculture. Feb 1903. The UN School of Agriculture. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
15. Agriculture. Dec 1907. The three years’ course in the School of Agriculture. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
16. _____, Various dates. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.

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Establishment of the School

The Nebraska School of Agriculture was established by passage of HR 2 by the 1911 Nebraska Legislature and signature of Governor Chester Aldrich. The purpose was to have a school located in the southwest quadrant of the state which would be similar in functions to the School of Agriculture at the “State Farm.”

The statute providing for the School gave the principal functions to be the same as the one at Lincoln, i.e., “... furtherance and promotion of agriculture and stockraising interests.” The first School catalog, distributed May 1, 1913, included the following statement: “A strong and practical course in agriculture and manual training and regular high school subjects are offered for the young men who wish to go back to the land. A course will be offered for young women in sewing, cooking and the art of housekeeping, along with the regular high school subjects.” Although the catalog emphasized that the UNSA was primarily a “technical finishing school”, it also stated “Men and women who complete the four years course in agriculture or home economics in the University preparatory groups may enter any of the undergraduate colleges without examination.”

The School Proves to Be a Success

Throughout its existence (it closed its doors in June, 1968), the UNSA was known for both its excellent practical training in agriculture and home economics, and its high academic standards, including preparation for college entrance. Enrollment for the period of 1913-14 through 1967-68 is shown in Table 1 (19).

The success of the School was due in no small part to the strong leadership of H. K. Douthit who served as superintendent from 1933 to 1961, when failing health forced him to retire. Douthit had a charismatic personality — he liked everyone and was, in turn, liked by students and others. He was a strong promoter and never left a stone unturned to help UNSA. Mrs. Douthit (Edith), a charming and vivacious lady who also served on the staff, was an equally strong supporter. Together, they contributed a great deal to making the School a success. There was, and continues to this day to be, much pride among the alumni, as expressed by the strong UNSA Alumni Association.

From its inception and throughout its existence, the School carried out a curriculum which provided two types of training: a) agriculture and home economics (as required under the enabling legislation), and b) a

Table 1. Enrollment in the University of Nebraska School of Agriculture, Curtis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913-14</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1937-38</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>1952-53</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1938-39</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>1953-54</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915-16</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1939-40</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>1954-55</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-17</td>
<td>(N.A.)</td>
<td>1940-41</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>1955-56</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-18</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>1941-42</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>1956-57</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918-19</td>
<td>(N.A.)</td>
<td>1942-43</td>
<td>3400</td>
<td>1957-58</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-20</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>1943-44</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>1958-59</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-21</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>1944-45</td>
<td>(N.A.)</td>
<td>1959-60</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-22</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>1945-46</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>1960-61</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932-33</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>1947-48</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>1962-63</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933-34</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>1948-49</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>1963-64</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934-35</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>1949-50</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935-36</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>1950-51</td>
<td>(N.A.)</td>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936-37</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>1951-52</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1967-68</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Law provided that the above Board was to select the location and equip the School, with administration being under the Board of Regents of the UN thereafter.
regular high school curriculum including meeting the requirements for entering any college of the University. The School had an outstanding reputation for normal training which enabled graduates to teach in rural schools.

The School had high scholastic standards, developed early by C. K. Morse who served as superintendent from 1919 to 1933. Morse was a strong disciplinarian and insisted on high academic standards. His imprint on the School was never lost.

Athletic activities included football, basketball (including girls in the earlier years) and baseball. Social events and other extracurricular activities consisted of a mistletoe dance, farmers formal, carnival, corn show, band, orchestra, glee club, chorus, madrigal singers, minstrels, twirlers, aggie land picnic, junior Ak-Sar-Ben (including crowning of a Goddess of Agriculture), livestock and crops judging teams, publication of a student newspaper called “Aggie” (which won numerous awards) and an “Annual”, FFA and FHA, and a style show.

**Enrollment Drops and Opposition Develops**

The high-water mark for enrollment was reached in 1946-47 when there were 415 students (1). In spite of the school strengthening its curriculum over the years, including the work in agriculture and home economics, and providing its strong extracurricular programs, enrollment dropped rather precipitously during the fifties, going from 401 in 1948-49 to 200 in 1959-60 (1). The School had surmounted the addition of K-12 schools in many western Nebraska districts and the improved roads and transportation facilities (making it possible for high school students to live at home and drive to school), but the final blow came with the addition of vocational agriculture and home economics instruction in many high schools. Now much of the need of a boarding school for high school students, especially those wanting to study agriculture or home economics, was largely gone. However, due in no small part to the strong leadership of the administrators, and the faithful alumni, enrollment stabilized at a little over 200.

Since the Curtis School District (No. 70) High School had been closed when UNSA opened in the fall of 1913 (3, p 1), Curtis was left with no other high school until 1968.

As the enrollment dropped, opposition to continuing the UNSA began to manifest itself in various quarters. The opposition helped crystallize the efforts of the supporters, so that a fairly good donnybrook developed between the two groups.

Examples of the varying points of view were:

- a) On November 12, 1957, Lester Harsh4 of Bartley wrote to Chancellor Clifford Hardin: “... There is one phase of the University that I think might be curtailed without any loss to the state. This is the School of Agriculture at Curtis ... It does a good job with the well-to-do-ranchers' children, but it is not liked by many local people ... I honestly think it might be better to turn the high school back to Curtis and spend the money saved on our University. I also think you would find quite a few people in Curtis who feel the same way” (9).

- b) An editorial appearing in the December 22, 1962 issue of the *Lincoln Journal* read in part: “Should the State of Nebraska continue to financially support what is virtually a general purpose high school for one town in the state? A Legislative Council study committee found the need for a special agricultural high school no longer the same as it was in 1910 ... Rather than battle the inevitable, people of the Curtis community would be wiser to start planning now to take over and operate the school as a locally financed high school in September 1965. Such was the study committee's recommendation.”

- c) Harold K. Douthit, Jr., responding to the above editorial in a “letter to the editor” of the *Lincoln Journal* wrote: “The fact of the school's connection with the University of Nebraska cannot be dismissed semantically. It is a fact which has been increasingly embarrassing to the University ... the University, mindlessly, would wash its hands and abdicate its responsibilities ... The solution proposed by a legislative study committee, with full approval of the Lincoln establishment, is simply incredible ... The Lincoln establishment arrogantly moves forward into the 19th Century” (8).

The growing opposition to the School was partly justified. District 70, like any other district without a high school, paid $540 per year per student tuition to the University (3, p 1). On the other hand, students not eligible for “free” high school tuition because they lived in a district with a high school, paid only $25 per year tuition out of their own pockets. In 1961-62, out of total enrollment of 220, 95 of the students came from Frontier County (probably mostly from District 70). This amounted to 45 percent. So as time went along, the proportion of UNSA students residing in Curtis and the immediate vicinity was increasing.

On November 21 Dean W. V. Lambert, in writing to H. K. Douthit, noted the decreasing need for a school of agriculture to serve the high school students, and recommended reorganizing the School to a “... non-degree school to train students for various types of service” (4). He suggested seven fields of specialization, six in the area of agribusiness, plus one for farm and ranch operators. His overall recommendation came surprisingly close to the School as it operates today.

**The End of the UNSA and Beginning of the UNSTA**

During the time that the UNSA had been in existence, 2,672 young men and women had been graduated (1). Students who had attended the high school

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4Lester Harsh served as Senator from the 46th Legislative District, which encompasses the town of Curtis, from 1967 to 1970.
had received a quality education, both academically and with respect to extracurricular activities. In all fairness, however, it must also be noted that by the time the School was closed in 1968, time had passed it by, i.e., there was no longer much need for a live-in state supported high school specializing in agriculture and home economics.

The turning point in the life of the School came in 1965 when Horace C. Crandall, a long time member of the staff and superintendent from 1961-63, served in the State Legislature as senator from the 46th Legislative District (which encompasses the town of Curtis). Understandably, he was most interested in having the School continued in some capacity.

Crandall drew on counsel from Franklin E. Eldridge, director of resident instruction, and Dean Frolik in formulating plans for a new technical school of agriculture to replace the high school. Chancellor Hardin and the Board of Regents took no official action but generally took the position that vocational/technical education is outside the mission of the University.

On April 6, 1965, Resolution 33 was introduced in the Legislature by Senators Crandall, Albert A. Kjar, George C. Gerdes, and Fern Hubbard Orme, which provided: “That the Board of Regents of the UN be instructed to set up courses of study related to agriculture on a post high school level but not to be considered as college grade at the UNSA at Curtis and that high school courses at such school be discontinued after June 30, 1968, with the school continuing under the administration of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics as provided under the original law” (10).

All of the co-introducers of the Resolution were supportive of education in general and of the College of Agriculture in particular. Senator Gerdes was an alumnus of the UNSA, and Senator Kjar lived in Lexington, not far from Curtis. Also in the forefront of support was State Senator Stanley Matzke, Sr. of Lincoln, formerly of Seward. He was known as the “father” of the Trade School of Milford, as it was originally named (12, p 4), and a strong supporter of vocational/technical education in general. The Resolution was passed by the Legislature without a dissenting vote (12, p 7).

The “Born Again” School Develops Well and Rapidly

The creation of the “born again school” did not automatically solve all of the problems. It remained for the Curtis community to build and operate a new and completely separate high school. Also the Legislature appropriated no additional funds for operating the new UNSTA, or for providing any additional physical facilities to make the newly created school operative.

The College of Agriculture had the responsibility of starting the new school. The College administrators were fortunate, in the fall of 1965, to obtain the services of Stanley Matzke, Jr. as superintendent to get the UNSTA underway. Matzke, holder of a bachelor of science degree in Agriculture and a master’s degree in Education from UNL, had operated a dairy farm and at the time was teaching at what is now the Milford campus of the Southeast Community College. He had the organizational qualities and fortitude needed to start from “square one” to get the School going.

In retrospect Matzke’s assignment constituted almost the impossible. He came on deck June 15, 1965, only weeks after Resolution 33 was passed. Classes were to open October 4, 1965 with the deadline for registration set for August 15. Like Willy Loman in “Death of a Salesman” about all Matzke had to go on was “... a smile and a shoe shine”. But go he did. He hoped to get 15 or 20 students for the opening class (7, p 107). He had to recruit students, develop an operational plan, and largely on a “baling wire” basis, develop facilities to teach the two initial programs. These programs were a) agricultural machinery mechanics, and b) agricultural drafting, surveying and soil science. The School opened on schedule with 28 students enrolled. The next fall there were 72 students and a year later, 123. (See Table 2.)

Matzke reported that he was asked by Chancellor Hardin to meet with the Board of Regents in late October of 1965, following a previous meeting the Board had had with Governor Tiemann (12, p 9). There was discussion on whether the Board should close the school. Matzke reported “... they kind of said that they didn’t feel that it was needed and maybe it wasn’t the role of the University to have a technical school”. Matzke presented a spirited defense of the School. Following discussion, the Board took no action.

Robert Crosier served as superintendent of the UNSA during the last three years of its existence, i.e., from 1965 to 1968, which coincided with the tenure of Matzke as superintendent of the UNSTA. The two Schools had to share facilities and operating budgets during this period. The two superintendents worked together splendidly and much credit belongs to both of them for getting the UNSTA established during what could not have been other than difficult circumstances.

When, in 1968, Franklin E. Eldridge prevailed upon Matzke to join him as assistant director of resident instruction at Lincoln, the University was fortunate to obtain the services of Bill J. Siminoe, vocational agriculture instructor at Holbrook, as superintendent. His tenure started in 1968 and continues to the present. He has had the assistance of two highly capable

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[7] The three years time was required for District 70 to build a new high school at Curtis and have it ready for occupancy.

[8] Although there was no state appropriation of funds for the UNSTA, Matzke did succeed in getting Cecil Stanley, then head of Vocational Education in Nebraska, to provide some federal funds (12, p 7).
Terry Carpenter introduced a bill to this effect. It was with respect to curriculum and number of students and water management option, and veterinary technician enrolled. Presently the School offers five majors: agricultural business technology, agricultural machinery mechanics technology, commercial horticulture technology, production agriculture technology with soil and water management option, and veterinary technology. There were only two other such programs in the U.S. when the UNSTA program was started in 1967. There are now three doctors of veterinary medicine (DVM) on the faculty. From its inception the veterinary technology program has had the participation and strong support of the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association. In his book, *A Century of Veterinary Medicine in Nebraska*, Leo L. Lemonds points out that the need for such training was recognized by the Legislature, underscored by the fact that Nebraska had no college of veterinary medicine and that there was little likelihood of building one. In 1966 the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association voted to support the program and pledge its assistance through an appointed veterinary state advisory committee. In 1979, the Legislature passed LB 676 which provides for the title of “Approved Animal Technician”. In order to attain this designation, a person must be a graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited Animal Technician program, have been employed by a licensed veterinarian, and be approved by the State Board of Veterinary Examiners (14, pp 174-177).

On August 26, 1973, the veterinary technology program of study was accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the first such program in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition (1). UNSTA graduates in all majors can now transfer 56 hours of credit to the UNL IANR, of the total of 128 hours required for a bachelor of science degree in agriculture (11, p 2).

On January 18, 1975, the Board of Regents approved “... equivalent ranks for the staff at the UNSTA at Curtis ...” (5). The UNSTA Bulletin issued July 1986, lists the ranks for the individual staff members, which range from Instructor (Curtis) to Professor (Curtis) (17). The Departments are administered by “Chairs”, analogous to the Departments in the IANR at Lincoln. The professional staff now numbers 26, including the three DVM’s.

The present physical facilities consist of a 78-acre campus plus a 392-acre farm. The principal buildings include Ag Hall, two dormitories, an auditorium-gymnasium, soil and water building, the commercial horticulture complex, the ag machinery mechanics complex, and a production agriculture-veterinary technology classroom and laboratory complex (17).

During 1986 the UNSTA campus became a member of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Student activities include departmental student organizations, intramural sports such as basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer, bowling and archery; the UNSTA Rodeo Association; a swing choir and pep band; dramatics; a chapter of the Nebraska Farmers/Ranchers Educational Association (17); and Phi Theta Kappa, a national honorary fraternity for students in two year educational institutions (18). On February 16, 1985, the 30th Chapter of the Farm-House Fraternity was installed on the UNSTA campus (6, p 1).

### Table 2. Enrollment in the UN School of Technical Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1972-1973</td>
<td>239</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An attempt was made at the 1974 Legislature to move the UNSTA from Curtis to Scottsbluff. Senator Terry Carpenter introduced a bill to this effect. It was noted that the campus of the defunct Hiram Scott College was being turned over to the University, and that the campus, including dormitories, would provide excellent facilities for the School. Richard Lewis, Senator from the 46th District which includes Curtis, noted that the campus of the defunct Hiram Scott College was being turned over to the University, and its assistance through an appointed veterinary state advisory committee. In 1979, the Legislature passed LB 676 which provides for the title of “Approved Animal Technician”. In order to attain this designation, a person must be a graduate of an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited Animal Technician program, have been employed by a licensed veterinarian, and be approved by the State Board of Veterinary Examiners (14, pp 174-177).

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### The Threats of 1986 and 1987

Because of pressures to eliminate University programs brought on by inadequate financial support for the University, President Ronald W. Roskens, in 1986 and again in 1987, suggested that consideration be

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3 Some variety of competition is scheduled with other independent colleges, primarily for basketball and volleyball.
given to termination of the UNSTA as a part of the University of Nebraska. Other programs were also recommended for termination. The School survived 1986 although the publicity given to possible closing, along with the depressed farm economy, resulted in the enrollment in March 1987 being down to 158 students. The future fate of the UNSTA is not known at the time of this writing.

Personal Recognition
Served in the Nebraska Legislature

Staff - Horace C. Crandall 1961-63
Alumni - George C. Gerdes 1959-67 and 1975-80

References
2. Aggie. 1913-1968. UNSA. Curtis, NE.
4. Letter from W. V. Lambert, Dean of the College of Agriculture to H. K. Douthit, Sup't. of the UNSA. Dec 21, 1959. UN, Lincoln.
5. Meeting of the UN Board of Regents. Jan 18, 1975. 38:11. UN, Lincoln.NE.

Chapter 2. Short Courses

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Farm Operators Course

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Name

The name of this program has always been the “Farm Operators Course” as designated by the University Board of Regents in making the initial authorization for the course. However, it has often been referred to as the Farm Operators Short Course, and in fact the bulletins in which the course was described and the curriculum shown had the term “short course” in the title (5).

Administrators

H.K. Douthit Supervisor Fall 1928-Spring 1933
T.H. Goodding Supervisor Fall 1933-Spring 1938
Jerome V. Srb Supervisor Fall 1938-Spring 1943
W.W. Burr Dean Jan. 1946-March 1946

Origin of the Course

The origin and evolution of the Farm Operators Course and termination of the School of Agriculture at Lincoln provide an interesting record in the Minutes of the University Board of Regents. In November 1928, the Board authorized the course beginning on November 26, 1928 (1). Accordingly, the course did get underway, and with the School of Agriculture still going, both operated during the 1928-29 academic year. Board actions on March 21, 1929 (2) and April 20, 1929 (3) made it appear that they were authorizing the start-up of the Short Course. For example, the following appears in the April 20, 1929 minutes: "... That the School of Agriculture have its name changed to 'The Farm Operator's Course' in the College of Agriculture; its term changed from 26 weeks to 16
weeks, and its course of study transformed from a regular high school curriculum into a practical group entirely agriculture, with the exception of one practical course in English" (3).

Purpose
The purpose of the course was stated as follows: "... to give the farm boys of Nebraska a chance to get the most up-to-date information on general farming..." (5, 1935-36, p 2) "... It (the course) should almost assure his parents that the young man would be prepared to take proper care of the land..." (5, 1935-36, pp 2, 3). By implication, girls were excluded. In fact, Dean W. W. Burr, referring to the course, stated on November 9, 1932: "... We have not as yet, however, undertaken to provide for the girls who desire high school work that stresses homemaking courses. What the future will develop, we do not know" (6, p 4).

Requirements for Admission
The boys had to be at least 17 years old to matriculate. There were no requirements with respect to previous schooling. However, in 1934-35, 60 percent of the students were high school graduates (5, p 6). By 1940, the percentage of entering students with high school diplomas had increased to 90 (8, p 18).

Faculty
The instructors in the Farm Operators Course were staff members of their respective departments. For the most part, they were ongoing members of the University faculty, but in a few cases junior instructors were hired temporarily to help carry the extra load.

In 1935-36, in addition to chairmen of the departments, 23 faculty members were listed in the annual catalog of whom three were junior members hired specifically to assist in teaching the course (5).

Time Required for Completion
The course consisted of two academic years, with two eight-week sessions taught each year. Classes opened about the middle of November and closed about the middle of March, with one week allowed for Christmas vacation. The course was scheduled for "... the time of year when most farm boys can get away from home with the least loss to the farm business" (5, 1935-36, p 5).

The Curriculum, Extracurricular Activities, and Living Expenses
Courses were given in agricultural engineering, agronomy, animal husbandry, animal pathology and hygiene, English, public speaking, dairy husbandry, entomology, horticulture, physical education, poultry husbandry, and rural economics (5, 1935-36 pp 10-21). As part of their course work, students participated in judging contests and were taken on field trips. (10).

The students participated in the University YMCA; athletics, including basketball, volleyball, handball, swimming, wrestling or boxing; parties and banquets; College mixers (dances); debates; convocations (with entertainment); and the annual College Coll-Agri-Fun show where their Farm Op Follies not uncommonly won first prize (5, 1935-36). The Farm Op Glee Club, under the direction of Altinas Tullis, and the Farm Op Orchestra, under the direction of Jerome Srb, made various public appearances (8, pp 2, 10).

The students edited and published a four page, printed, well illustrated newspaper known as the Farm Op Spotlight, which in 1939 was in its ninth year of publication (10). Some of the graduates married College of Agriculture alumnae whom they had met while in school.

Students not living within commuting distance roomed in private homes near the campus, the cost of rooms ranging from $8 to $14 per month, with two students in a room. Meals were available, family-style, at "... a low cost..." at a special Farm Ops boarding club conducted by the College cafeteria. University fees for an eight week term were $6 (5, 1935-36, pp 6,7).

Enrollment and Course Modification
Enrollment started with 54 students in 1928-29. Enrollment held fairly steady at about 55 to 75 students per academic year throughout most of the time the School was in existence. The highest number of graduates was 31 in the spring of 1935.

WW II brought a major change in the Farm Operators Course. It was announced in December 1943, that instead of the traditional two eight-week terms, the course was being modified to offer the following series of shorter sessions, running chronologically as follows: January 3-15, farm mechanics; January 17-29, livestock; and January 31-February 5, poultry and gardening. A student could elect to take any one, two, or all three courses, as he wished. It was also noted that home economics "... will be added if at least five women register." General Guy N. Henninger, head of Nebraska Selective Service, put his approval on the courses by stating that "... farm boys of draft age may be permitted to attend the farm short courses if their absence does not handicap farm operation". Also permission to attend had to be secured from the local draft board (11).

Otto J. Dauber (4) and Bob Summerer (7) both recall being members of the "last" class. Dauber thinks there were about 20 students and Summerer thinks 12 or less. They are fully agreed on one point, — that one of their classmates, Bessie Watson of Wayne, was the first and only girl to take the Farm Ops Course.

1The basketball team had regular schedules with local schools and organizations.
Suspension and Demise

To the best of our knowledge, the course was suspended after the spring of 1944. It was reactivated in January 1946 with 88 students enrolled (12). This large enrollment resulted from the return to civilian life of a large number of WW II veterans (9).

The Farm Operators Course was terminated with the session which began in January 1946. Dean Burr announced in December 1946 that there would not be a Farm Operators Course in 1946-47 because the large College enrollment resulted in a shortage of classroom and laboratory space, and teaching personnel. He also stated that a special eight-day short course would be offered for the period December 27 to January 4 (13).

Alumni Organization

An alumni organization, started in the spring of 1935 (14), has remained active since and operates largely on an informal basis. Officers in 1985 were: Clarence Frenzen, Fullerton, Class of 1935, president; and William E. Paulsen, Lincoln, Class of 1936, secretary-treasurer. Paulsen attempts to keep an up-to-date mailing list of living alumni, and also a list of those who have died.

The group meets biennially on the East Campus. They have a picnic lunch and relive old times. There is no formal program except for election of officers. The meetings are held in the summers of even-numbered years.

Professional Attainment and Public Service of Some Alumni

Harold W. Benn, Ord, class of 1934; UN, BS, 1939; MS, 1944. Vice President of the University of Wyoming.

Wayne L. Campbell, Lodgepole, class of 1935. Successful farmer, UN cooperator, certified seed grower.

Ray L. Cruise, Gurley (now Sidney), class of 1934. UN, BS, 1939. Polk County Agent, successful farmer, active UN cooperator, early adopter and promoter of soil and water conservation practices.

A. Neil Dawes, Osceola (now Fairbury), class of 1936. BS in Agric., UN, 1939. County Agent in Holt and Jefferson Counties.


Maurice A. Kremer, Aurora, class of 1931. Prominent in farm and agribusiness organizations. Senator in the Nebraska Legislature, 1963-82. Honoree, Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.

J. Merton Kuhr, Blair, class of 1931. UN ’39. Successful farmer, community leader and strong Extension cooperator.

Jean W. Lambert, Ewing (now St. Paul, MN), class of 1937. BS in Agric, UN, 1940. PhD Ohio State Univ.; Prof. Dept. of Agronomy & Plant Genetics, Univ. of Minnesota.


Ross H. Rasmussen, Hooper, class of 1939. BS in Agric, UN, 1942. Successful farmer, Senator in the Nebraska Legislature 1961-67, and Executive Director, Nebraska School Boards Association.

Melvin D. Sahs, Schuyler, class of 1938. BS in Agric, UN, 1943. Twenty-two years with USDA, SCS. More recently successful farmer and community leader.

Robert Skinner, Herman, class of 1934. Successful farmer, UN cooperator.

Harold Stryker, Rising City, class of 1937. Successful farmer and Senator in the State Legislature 1957-67. More recently agricultural consultant to a large number of less developed countries.

Wayne L. Warner, Harrisburg, class of 1940. Successful farmer, and leader in soil and water conservation.

References

2. ______ Mar 21, 1929. School of Agriculture at Lincoln. UN, Lincoln.
3. ______ Apr 20, 1929. School of Agriculture at Lincoln. UN, Lincoln.
5. Bulletins of the UN Col of Agric Short Courses. 1934-35 and 1935-36. Lincoln, NE.
7. Sommerer, Bob., Farm Op Class of 1943, July 19, 1985. Personal communication. 808 Grandview, Rt #3, Norfolk, NE.

Footnote:
2 Home towns at time of attending the Course are listed for each Alumnus immediately after the name, followed by yeas of graduation.
Farm and Ranch Operators Short Course

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Origin and Names

The Midwest Institute for Young Adults (MIYA), which was started in 1961, was one of the initial integral programs of the Hall of Youth of the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. The Hall was the unique feature of the NCCE which Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin used in part in convincing the Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, that it should provide major funding for construction of the Center. MIYA was converted to the Farm and Ranch Operators Short Course in 1965. Today (1987) the Hall of Youth, MIYA, and the Short Course are all gone. The quarters (initially consisting of a dormitory, cafeteria and a few offices) are now used for housing various academic and service functions of the University, chief of which is the Division of Continuing Studies.

Administrators

Otto G. Hoiberg, Head, Hall of Youth, and Director of MIYA ............................................. 1961-Dec. 1964
Clinton A. Hoover, Head, Hall of Youth ............................................. 1965-1969
Ralph H. Cole, Coordinator, Farm and Ranch Operators Short Course .............. 1965-1966
Robert C. Mason, Coordinator, Farm and Ranch Operators Short Course ........... 1966-1969

Evolution of the Farm and Ranch Operators Short Course

The establishment of the Short Course came about through an evolutionary process. The origin dates back to the “Nebraska School for Community Living” conducted by the Extension Division and the College of Agriculture during February and March of 1956 and 1957, with the term each year consisting of four weeks. The director was Otto G. Hoiberg. The purpose of the school was given as “… an opportunity for out-of-school Nebraska youth to develop their leadership qualities, broaden their cultural horizons, enjoy good fellowship” (12).

The School was reactivated under Hoiberg in the fall of 1961. The length was increased to two 8-week terms each year, and the name changed to MIYA.

The purpose of MIYA was given as “An 8-week educational experience for young men and women whose present plans do not include college attendance, but who desire further training for self-improvement” (13). Most of the students were young adults from farms and ranches.

Still another major change occurred in purpose and course content in the fall of 1965 when the name was changed to the Farm and Ranch Operators Short Course. Chief administrator was Clinton A. Hoover, Head, Hall of Youth. The purpose was now given as “A short course for young farmers and ranchers who do not plan to attend college but who desire a more complete knowledge of modern farming and ranching practices” (11). In a sense establishment of the Short Course was merely a formalization of what already existed — the interest among students in MIYA had become primarily one of learning how to be better farmers and ranchers. Also, it was among the farm and ranch young men and women where the potential for increased enrollment existed.

As the years went along, during the life of the School, MIYA, and finally in the Short Course, there was a gradual shift in course content in the direction of emphasis on agriculture at the expense of courses in business and the liberal arts. Actually in the School held from February 5 to March 2, 1956, no courses had been given in agriculture (12). In MIYA by 1962-63 there were 11 courses in business, 9 in agriculture, and 5 in the liberal arts (13). In the first year of the Short Course, 1965-66, the offerings consisted of: agriculture - 8; marriage and the family - 1; music - 1; recreation leadership - 1; and world affairs - 1. In addition to the formal course work, seven social and recreational activities were listed (14).

In 1968-69 (the last year of the Short Course) the subjects taught were animal husbandry, mechanized agriculture, crops and soils, agricultural economics, ranch management, marriage and the family, and human relations. One night per week was devoted to each of the following activities: swimming, basketball, dancing and music. Students were encouraged to participate in the student council, yearbook preparation, and alumni activities (5).

Financing and Academic Administration

In 1965 to expedite establishment of the Short Course, Franklin E. Eldridge, director of resident instruction, working with Cecil Stanley, assistant commissioner for Vocational Education in Nebraska, made arrangements for a 50 percent reimbursement (federal funds) of the proposed budget of $25,370, through the State Department of Education (4). Academically, the Short Course was placed under the Department of Agricultural Education.

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Student Living and Activities

Students lived in the dormitory and ate their meals in the cafeteria of the Youth Center (NCCE) (3).

David L. Lindell, counselor, (10, p 6) pointed out that "While enrolled in MIYA, these students are members of the entire student body." The enrollees were encouraged to participate in athletics and attend the cultural and social functions offered at the University. There were room representatives, a student council, and weekly dinner convocations with a series of speakers. Adelaide Spurgin, in charge of music, reported "Especially pleasant and memorable have been the 'sings' after special dinners . . . " (10, p 6).

Under MIYA a yearbook had been issued at the end of each term of eight weeks known as MIYA Memos (10). This was succeeded during the Farm and Ranch Operators Short Course by The Wrangler (6). Both publications were well illustrated and well done.

Enrollment

From the start, there were problems in getting adequate enrollment. It was thought that conversion of the MIYA to the Short Course would help to solve this problem. Robert C. Mason, coordinator, did much to make the Short Course successful. Through a vigorous recruitment campaign, he succeeded in increasing enrollment from 61 in 1965-66 to 139 in 1966-67. He made follow-up visits to all students at their farm or ranch homes. But the success was only temporary as seen from the following enrollment data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961-62</td>
<td>24* and 26** (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-63</td>
<td>14* and 28** (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963-64</td>
<td>59* and 29** (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>38* and 26** (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>61 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>139 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-68</td>
<td>(N.A.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-69</td>
<td>47 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* First Term
** Second Term

Termination

The course was well received by the students (1, 2, 6), but enrollment did not hold up. The Short Course was closed at the end of the 1969 spring term (7). The sharply decreased enrollment was a result of the Vietnam War — students could be deferred from the draft for college attendance but not for the Short Course. A fairly large enrollment was vital because the Short Course, other than for the federal funds involved, was supposed to be self-supporting (8). A second reason given by Mason (7), was " . . . The short course being too long to permit veterans or young married farmers and ranchers to be away from their home and operations . . . ".

Faculty and Students

Faculty who devoted a good deal of time and effort to the Short Course were: Otto G. Hoiberg, professor of sociology; Clinton A. Hoover, now director of NCCE; Ralph Cole, USDA retiree, agricultural economics; Martin A. Alexander, professor of animal science; Jerry D. Miller, agricultural economics, presently Senator in the State Legislature from the 37th District (1985-88); Robert C. Mason, presently associate dean, College of Continuing Education, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb; and Lester F. Larsen, now professor emeritus, agricultural engineering.

Prominent alumni include Larry D. Hudkins, Malcolm, Lancaster County Commissioner and successful farmer and state leader in agriculture; and Dale Vangergriend, Firth, successful farmer and community leader.

Alumni Organization

Alumni of the course meet every ten years. The last meeting was in 1986. Larry D. Hudkins is president, and Arthur Anderson, Ansley, is secretary of the organization.

References

10. MIYA memos. First Term, 1963-64. The Hall of Youth. NCCE, UN, Lincoln.

Other Short Courses

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Over the years short courses have taken various forms. For example, as early as 1894 there was a brochure announcing "The short course in agriculture (the Round-up Institute) at the State University, Lincoln. February 19th to 23rd, 1894." Four lectures were given on each of the five days, commencing at 2:00, 3:00, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. The lecturers included seven "noted speakers" from outside the University and nine from the University faculty. The subject matter pretty much covered the agricultural "waterfront".

Another set of resident short courses was offered after the demise of the Farm Operators Course in 1946 and before the beginning of the Midwest Institute for Young Adults (MIYA) in 1961. An announcement on December 17, 1955 (3) stated: "Short, practical courses in 'beef cattle production and management' and 'fertilizers and crop production' will highlight the second (semester) session of the new short courses in agriculture at the UN". The session was held from February 6 to March 2, 1956. Students were responsible for finding their own board and room. Enrollment was limited to "...30 men." Franklin E. Eldridge, director, said the course was established to meet a popular demand1. He believes there was a backlog of potential students, for the enrollment was good the first year, but rapidly declined. He thinks the course had a life of four or five years and was ultimately replaced by MIYA (4).

In times past, the short courses have usually been under the directorship of one staff person. For example, from 1928 to 1933, H. K. Douthit was supervisor of short courses and in 1935-36, T. Homer Goodding was listed as the supervisor (2). The bulletin carrying the information on short courses for that year included the Farm Operators Course (the word "short" was not used in the official title). Beginning in 1955, Eldridge was in charge of short courses for a period of time (4).

Over the years short courses have been devoted to dairy manufacturing, butter making, farm mechanics, farm mechanization (for European agricultural leaders), irrigation, cow testing, autos and tractors, ice cream manufacturing, and numerous other subjects.

Management

Presently, as at various times in the past, the IANR exercises virtually no authority over setting up and conducting educational meetings, rather this is left to the departments and the other administrative units. The Department of Agricultural Communications issues monthly schedules of upcoming events.

Since the establishment of the Nebraska Center of Continuing Education in 1961, many of the meetings have been held at the Center and managed by its staff.

Early on the IANR staff members confer with an NCCE representative to jointly work out a framework for the conference. The NCCE staff member then makes all arrangements, with subject matter people concentrating on educational content of the program. The NCCE assists in arranging quarters, some of the meals, meeting rooms, and arranging for speakers. Outside of Lincoln, arrangements for meetings are made either by the Center staff or by the resident Extension staff. County Extension Agents often act as both "arrangers" and subject matter specialists at meetings held within their counties.

The Situation at Present

Meetings have always been and are still widely used and effective in delivering research information to the clientele. These meetings, including short courses and the mass media (both electronic and printed), complement each other effectively as vehicles for presenting educational material to the public.

References
2. Bulletin of the UN Col of Agric. Sep 1, 1935. Short Courses. UN.
4. Eldridge, Franklin E. July 24, 1985. Personal communication. IANR, UNL.
5. Hardin, Clifford M. Dec 16, 1954. Farm short course also recommended. The Lincoln Star. Lincoln, NE.

"Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin reported after visiting northeastern Nebraska in December 1954, that "Farm folks (in that area) are interested . . . in the reactivation of the farm short course program . . . " (5).}