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The University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture: The First Century Part XI. Closely Related Organizations

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Part XI. Closely Related Organizations

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Chapter 1. Organized Agriculture and the Agricultural Societies

The First Two Decades

Organized Agriculture meetings at Lincoln were first held in 1901 (1, Jan 31, 1907, p 122), according to E. A. Burnett2, and in 1902 (28) according to an article in the Nebraska Farmer in 1905. The early gatherings were conducted in conjunction with the semi-annual meetings of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, held in January of each year. General meetings were held in the evenings on the City Campus3, often with presentations by prominent speakers from out of the state4.

Available records are not complete enough to provide a full chronicle of the establishment of Organized Agriculture; but it is clear that along with the meetings of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, various other agricultural organizations and societies held their meetings during the same week5. Thus, their annual business meetings were held along with educational programs of interest to particular groups, and then all would join together in general sessions. At first these overall meetings were held mostly in the evenings.

It is obvious from reading various reports of the State Department of Agriculture (1) that the College of Agriculture (Industrial College) spearheaded the Organized Agriculture meetings throughout the existence of the activity. In lauding Organized Agriculture, an editorial in the Nebraska Farmer in 1906 (2, p 72) stated: “Let this praise extend to the State Agricultural School, which is really the basis of promotion of these meetings. The professors in this school labored nobly in their efforts to promote the best interests of the occasion…”

The earliest meetings of the individual Associations, in connection with Organized Agriculture, were held on the City Campus but were later transferred to the East Campus where they continued to be held until Organized Agriculture was terminated with the 1949 sessions.

The makeup of the audience was shown by the introductory statement made in 1903 by W. A. Henry, Dean of Agriculture and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin: “Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, members of numerous agricultural societies, agricultural students of the UN…” (1, Jan 31, 1904, p 94).

Some insight on the operations of Organized Agriculture can be gained from the following (1, Jan 31, 1907, p 6): “Representatives of the various associations constituting ‘Organized Agriculture’ met pursuant to call in the office of Director E. A. Burnett at the University farm, Tuesday, October 16, 1906.”

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1The authors are indebted to Charles R. Fenster for his painstaking efforts, both in searching through historical written materials and in conferring with various individuals, and providing most of the information on Western Nebraska Organized Agriculture.
2In January 1907, Burnett stated “The meetings of Organized Agriculture are the milestones which mark the progress of the agricultural industries in this fruitful state. Scarcely half dozen years have passed since the various societies interested have been associated in this organized movement…” (1, Jan 31, 1907, p 122).
3At first in the Chapel in Memorial Hall, and later in the Temple Building (1).
4Even prior to the establishment of Organized Agriculture, the State Board of Agriculture sponsored evening educational meetings on the City Campus, just when the switch of sponsorship was made to Organized Agriculture is not clear.
5Most of these associations predated Organized Agriculture, some by a considerable period of time. For example, the State Horticultural Society was granted legal status by the Nebraska State Legislature in 1879 (19). However, it came into being in 1869.
Among those in attendance were E. A. Burnett, president, Farmers’ Institute Conference; Val Keyser, assistant superintendent, Farmers’ Institutes; and A. T. Peters, secretary of Organized Agriculture.

At the above conference it was decided to hold “the meetings” January 14-18, 1907, inclusive. The meetings were to consist of 16 associations. It was suggested that “very strong men” be secured for the evening meetings. It was thought that “... the elderly people that come here to see some noted man, and although he may not give an eloquent address, yet they are happy to have heard him” (1, Jan 31, 1907, p 7).

Peters reported that 10,000 copies of the program (for Organized Agriculture) had been printed in the “year before last” and nearly 9,000 “last year”. Peters asked to be relieved of active management of Organized Agriculture and was replaced by Val Keyser (1, Jan 31, 1907).

By 1913 there were 20 “state organizations allied to agriculture” constituting Organized Agriculture (1, July 31, 1913, p 151). The only joint meeting that year was the Organized Agriculture banquet, held on Wednesday evening, January 22, 1913 in the Lincoln Hotel in honor of Dean Charles E. Bessey.

The 1919 meetings were postponed because of the Spanish influenza epidemic raging that winter. In an editorial, C. W. Pugsley stated (3) on December 21, 1918 that “... already more than 350,000 people have died from influenza and its after effects in the U.S. alone... the epidemic is not abating... entire counties have placed a ban on all meetings...” The cancellations were considered unfortunate because “a great many farmers make the week their only vacation time. They come to Lincoln with their wives to attend as many of the programs as possible... The hotels are crowded to overflowing and Lincoln homes are thrown open to accommodate the people”. Pugsley also stated that there were approximately 30 agricultural societies involved. The 1919 meetings were held on the postponed dates of February 25-28 (4, p 603-604).

The 1920 meetings were again held in January. It was reported that “A strong program featuring production, selling, management, and economic problems of the farming industry was offered to farmers ...” (18).

1921-1949

As noted in the 1921 program (5), the joint session was held on Wednesday afternoon of Organized Agriculture Week, January 3-7. A few of the large number of Nebraska associations holding their meetings as a part of Organized Agriculture were: Milk Goat Breeders’ Association, State Florists’ Society, Home Economics Association, Association of Rural School Patrons, Farm Bureau Federation, the Farm Equipment Association, Galloway Breeders’ Association, and Horse Breeders’ Association.

The first Farmers’ Family Fun Feed was held as a part of Organized Agriculture during the first week of January 1923 (21, p 22). It was stated that those in attendance “... forgot they must be on their good behavior, blew up balloons and laughed to their hearts’ content.” During the banquet the Ag College orchestra played, the University Glee Club sang, and the University Players presented a play. The food, prepared by the Department of Institutional Management, was served by the girls of the food classes and the boys of Alpha Zeta (24, p 9).

In 1924 a student organization was no longer an official part of Organized Agriculture, nevertheless, students in the College of Agriculture continued to attend many of the sessions. Included were the following statements in the Cornhusker Countryman relative to the 1924 meetings (20): “We are fortunate indeed to have the opportunity of attending them (the Organized Agriculture meetings). Most of the classes were dismissed to give the students a chance to attend. We hope that the majority went to the meetings instead of playing ‘hookey’... they (the meetings) give the students... an opportunity to supplement their theoretical study with the results of practical farmers.”

A writeup of the plans for the 1925 Organized Agriculture (6, p 1549) included this statement: “This annual gathering of all the agricultural associations in the state is under the control of the State Board of Agriculture... The annual Farmers’ Family Fun Feed will be held in the Engineering Building Wednesday evening. The feed will be open to farmers and their wives principally, with legislators as honored feeders, and enough faculty mixed in to liven the party up a bit”.

The General Committee for the 1928 Organized Agriculture consisted of: George Jackson, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, chairman; W. H. Brokaw, secretary; C. B. Steward, Margaret Fedde, Dean E. A. Burnett, and P. H. Stewart (7, p 24). The Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement designated two honorees, posthumously. Three banquets were held: on Tuesday evening the Nebraska Farmer presented the master farmers; Wednesday evening the Family Fun Feed was held in the College Activities Building, with banquet tickets sold out, the balcony filled, and attendance estimated at 750 to 800 people; and on Thursday evening the annual livestock banquet sponsored by the Nebraska State Dairymen’s As-

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8The Associations consisted of the following: Assn. of Agricultural Students, NE State Veterinary Medical Assn., NE State Board of Agriculture, NE Duroc-Jersey Breeders’ Assn., NE State Dairyman’s Assn., NE State Poultry Assn., NE State Swine Breeders’ Assn., NE State Beekeepers’ Assn., Woman’s Section of Organized Agriculture, NE Improved Live Stock Breeders’ Assn., NE Corn Imrovers’ Assn., NE Park and Forestry Assn., NE Shorthorn Breeders’ Assn., Farmers’ Institute Conference, Organized Agriculture, and NE State Horticultural Society (1, Jan 31, 1907).

9Postponement as it turned out.

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Agriculture and the Nebraska Improved Livestock Breeder’s Association held at the Lincoln Hotel (8, pp 17, 26; and 27, pp 88, 89).

Entertainment following dinner at the 1933 Family Fun Feed consisted of a spelling bee, “ciphering down”, county song groups, old fiddlers, rope splicing, shoe half soling, carpet beating, button sewing, ballroom dancing (by the student waiters and waitresses) and square dancing (25, pp 3, 6).

The 1944 Organized Agriculture was scheduled to be held for two days, February 9-10. The Nebraska Farmer stated that “The first day’s sessions were attended by an unexpectedly large number of people (WW II was on), but a storm of blizzard proportions drove home most of the audience on the second day, and many scheduled sessions were not held” (9, p 5). Headline speakers were Edmond E. Lincoln, chief economist for the duPont Corporation, and William B. Jeffers, President of the Union Pacific Railroad and administrator of the National Rubber Program. D. L. Gross, extension agronomist, spoke on “three war crops” which he identified as dry beans, soybeans, and flax. Leo M. Christensen of the Nebraska Chemurgic Project was quoted as follows: “He saw this development (chemurgy) as one of the important factors in winning the War and looks for it to be one of the factors in maintaining prosperity after the war.”

The last meetings of Organized Agriculture at Lincoln were held in 1949 (10, p 39). Actually, there were two sets of meetings held in that calendar year, the first on February 1 to 4, and the second in November (31). Each of these last sessions covered four days, with emphasis being on the Departments rather than on the agricultural societies which had been the case up to that time. However, a number of the agricultural societies still held their annual meetings during Organized Agriculture Week, with the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement naming its honorees at that time. The Family Fun Feed was held in February 1949, but under the name of Farmers’ Fun Frolic (11, p 19). Without a great deal of fanfare involving the change of name, the meetings in November 1949 were billed as “…the first annual Farm and Home Week” (31), a name that had been used for many years at various other agricultural colleges over the nation. It was stated that “Meetings were scheduled much as college classes…” The Lincoln Junior Chamber of Commerce provided a band for a concert and sponsored a square dance festival. “The meetings were terminated Saturday with a pleasing afternoon of football as Nebraska defeated Colorado 25-14” (31). It turned out that the first Farm and Home Week meetings were also the last.

Western Nebraska Organized Agriculture

The first meeting of Western Nebraska Organized Agriculture (WNOA) was held at the Chadron Normal College on December 15-17, 1926, in conjunction with the Nebraska Potato Improvement Association annual meeting. At this meeting H. O. Werner encouraged those present to “…let it be known to the legislature, the State Board of Agriculture and the Agricultural College that you are interested in these meetings.” (1, 1927, pp 572-573).

WNOA meetings were then held annually for many years. They came to consist of sessions held at several different locations in one year. For example in 1952, the meetings were held at Kimball, Oshkosh and Harrison (16). Meeting locations were rotated among various cities in the Panhandle of Nebraska. Typically, the meetings were one day stands with the daytime program being devoted to discussions of agricultural and home economics subject matter. Usually the group would meet in the evenings for a covered dish dinner or a served banquet, with an outside, entertaining/inspirational type of speaker. In some instances the featured speaker would appear at the noon luncheon, with no evening meeting.

Charles R. Fenster, who put forth a good deal of effort in checking the records and talking to persons involved, has concluded that the last meeting of the Western Nebraska Organized Agriculture was the one held in 1969 at Oshkosh in Garden County. The featured speaker was Sister M. Thomas More of Holy Family College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The Sister had gained fame as a speaker on farm organizations (23).

Subsequently a somewhat different use was made of the state appropriated funds, which remained at a fairly constant level, and hence gradually had less and less buying power. Prominent outside speakers were brought to the Panhandle to appear at other than WNOA meetings. Finally, the funds were used exclusively for conducting agricultural and home economics educational programs through the mass media (17).

Legislation and Finances

Long after the demise of Organized Agriculture at Lincoln, a number of the agricultural and home economics societies continued to obtain modest appropriations from the State Legislature.

On January 29, 1967, Dale Ohrtman stated in the Omaha World-Herald that “Six Nebraska organized-agriculture groups which draw state tax funds appear to be operating either without or contrary to existing legislation… two of the groups are authorized by statutes to draw tax funds but neither has filed an annual report with the Governor in recent years, as prescribed by the enabling legislation… No mention of three other groups could be found in the statute books and the sixth one is not identified by name although its duties are outlined… Detailed records

No mention of three other groups could be found in the statute books and the sixth one is not identified by name although its duties are outlined. Detailed records

**An example of a dynamic speaker who provided entertainment was Danny Liska of Niobrara at the WNOA meeting in Chappell on March 20, 1968. At the time he was referred to as “…globe-trotting adventurer and rancher from Niobrara, NE” (29). Liska now has a second home in Bogota, Colombia. He has recently published a rather unconventional history of Knox County, Nebraska, which is in its second printing (30, p 13).**
on how the funds have been used over the years have been maintained with the allocations channeled through the UN... Membership in the groups is sort of a nebulous thing” (26, p 21B).

Inasmuch as the secretariats of all of the six societies treated in Ohrman's article were held by University staff members, a “white paper” was prepared by the College of Agriculture and issued on April 3, 1967, to clarify the situation of the Agricultural Societies, including the financing and the connection with the College (22). The societies involved were Nebraska Horticultural Society, Nebraska Crop Improvement Association, Nebraska Dairyman's Association, Nebraska Livestock Breeders and Feeders Association, Nebraska Home Economics Association of Organized Agriculture, and Western Nebraska Organized Agriculture.

The first three listed were recognized by statutes, however, over the years the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association had changed its name twice, which may have led to some confusion on its listing. The names of the last three organizations listed above were not found in the statutes.

It was further pointed out in the “white paper” that prior to 1921 funds were appropriated directly to each of the organizations then in existence. From 1921 to 1945 funds were appropriated to the State Board of Agriculture and, on the basis of statements concerning the organizations, the Board allocated the funds. In 1945 the Legislature appropriated the funds to the University for distribution to the organizations. “The Board of Regents refused to allocate the funds without definite instructions. These instructions came through a suit in Lancaster County District Court (Journal Entry 193-92, January 7, 1947) ... The court order also stated that the appropriation provided by Bill 71 is independent of and not subject to the provisions of Sections 2-305, 2-504, and 2-704 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska for 1943 ... The court order specified that the Board of Regents has power to distribute the said (1945) appropriation between the organizations as the Board of Regents may determine ...”

McGill and Noyes reported that they were unable to determine whether law requires that all organizations receiving state funds submit a report to the Governor. They further stated “These organizations do make a fiscal report in the form of the annual UN Financial Report” (22).

In 1969, the legislature passed and the Governor signed LB 1629 which provided, among other things, for channeling the Agricultural Society funds through the University of Nebraska. The legislation spelled out eight “qualifying organizations” to be included. This legislation repealed previous pertinent legislation and spelled out the mechanism and the purposes of the expenditures involved (12). At first the funds were handled by the Business Office of the University, on the City Campus, but on March 13, 1972, the financial activity was transferred to the College of Agriculture Office of Finance and Personnel, East Campus, with transactions from then on being handled directly by the latter with the Department of Administrative Services, State of Nebraska (13).

Thomas A. Fogarty of the Lincoln (Neb.) Sunday Journal and Star did not like the state funding of Agricultural Activities. In 1981, he wrote: “Agricultural Activities is an agency on paper only. It is actually a bureaucratic mechanism for paying private agricultural organizations from the state general fund. Although it is the Lilliput of state government, senators and other state officials suggest that tradition and a vocal constituency allow Agricultural Activities a budget-cut immunity that would be the envy of most mainline state agencies ... The Nebraska Horticultural Society is typical. The state has appropriated money to the society ... for 109 years” (14).

But time proved Fogarty wrong with respect to Agricultural Activities being “budget-cut proof”. The 1985 Legislature eliminated all funding for the Agricultural Activities. The final appropriations for the year of 1984-85 totaled $12,917, divided among seven Nebraska organizations as follows: State Horticultural Society $1,691; Crop Improvement Association $1,210; State Dairymen's Association $2,977; Western Nebraska Organized Agriculture $1,269; Livestock Breeders and Feeders Association $2,293; Home Economics Association $948; and Poultry Improvement Association $2,529 (15). Following termination of state funds, the Home Economics Association and Western Nebraska Organized Agriculture simply ceased to exist. In 1985, the Livestock Breeders and Feeders Association and the State Horticultural Society voted themselves out of existence. The other three organizations remain active.

References
1. Nebraska State Board of Agriculture Annual Reports. Lincoln, NE.
5. ______. Dec 18, 1920. Organized Agriculture. Lincoln, NE.
6. ______. Dec 27, 1924. Meet me at Organized Agriculture. Lincoln, NE.
Chapter 2. Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement (1, 2)

At a meeting of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society on January 19, 1916, Samuel C. Bassett of Gibbon, Nebraska, a homesteader, former member of the State Legislature, and prominent member and officer of a number of agricultural organizations, proposed establishment of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement (3). The proposal was accepted1. Bassett was elected the first president of the Hall, and A. E. Sheldon, secretary/superintendent of the Nebraska State Historical Society was elected first secretary. Among the other 34 charter members were Chancellor Samuel Avery; Dean E. A. Burnett, who later became Chancellor; and the famous Jules Sandoz, the main character of Mari Sandoz' *Old Jules*. Over the years all of the above were selected as honorees.

The purpose of the organization is “To gather and compile the history of achievements in agriculture in the territory and State of Nebraska; to preserve and exhibit the records of these achievements and the portraits of the men and women who achieved them in a permanent hall”2.

The connection between the Hall and the University has been rather close from the start. When the Hall was organized, the Board of Regents were asked to “…set apart on the University Farm a hall to be

1The letterhead of the Hall includes the statement “Organized January 19, 1916”. However, it was not incorporated until January 16, 1950.

2In spite of this provision to include women, it was not until 1987 that the Hall honored the first woman, viz. Congresswoman Virginia Smith.

3An additional purpose which is included in Article III of the Certificate of Incorporation but which has never been activated is as follows: to “…collect and display trophies awarded for agricultural accomplishments…”

Jules Sandoz, made famous in the book *Old Jules* by his daughter Mari Sandoz, was a charter member of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement and was the Hall’s honoree in 1931.
known as the ‘Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement’ on the walls of which might be displayed portraits of men and women . . . whose achievements in agriculture this society deems to warrant such public recognition . . .” The portraits of all honorees, formerly hung in the auditorium of Agricultural Hall, have, since its completion, been displayed in the C. Y. Thompson Library. Except for the first 11 years (1916-1927), when A. E. Sheldon served as secretary, the office has always been held by a staff member of the College of Agriculture. Formerly the dean of the College of Agriculture and now the vice chancellor of the IANR serves as an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees.

Membership in the Hall is by election and is limited to approximately 100. The major activity of the organization is to select annually one to three honorees, living or deceased, who have made noteworthy contributions to Nebraska agriculture. The accomplishments of the honorees are presented at the annual banquet. Including 1987, there have been 86 honorees selected by the Hall. Copies of tributes to the honorees, biographical sketches of honorees and members, and records of the Hall become a part of the archives of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Chapter 3. Ceres Club

Ceres Club had its beginning in 1911 and has been active since. Article I of the original Constitution of the organization read as follows: “The object of this Club shall be to promote social intercourse among the women of the Faculty of the College and School of Agriculture and give opportunity to the students of the School of Agriculture for development along social lines.” What this meant was that membership consisted of the wives of the agricultural faculty members (virtually all of whom at the time were men) and the Home Economics faculty members, all of whom were women. When Home Economics became a College in 1970, the faculty decided that they no longer wished to be a part of Ceres Club. To this day the Club membership consists exclusively of women.

During the period of 1928 to 1959, it was customary for the wife of the dean of the College of Agriculture to serve as president. However, since 1959 the wife of the dean (now the vice chancellor) has served as honorary president, while the president is elected by and from the membership.

Meetings have always been held on a monthly basis during the academic school year. Programs have been both informative and entertaining with musical numbers sometimes being presented by children of the members, home economics faculty members giving talks and demonstrations of their respective specialties, and travel talks. In 1929, Count Tolstoy, nephew of the renowned Count Leo Tolstoy, novelist and playwright, spoke to the group. In 1944 the group was to be entertained with a musical program by a number of soldiers from the STAR Unit stationed on Campus. However, the program never materialized because on sudden notice, the soldiers were “shipped out” before the meeting took place.

Beginning in 1946, dinners were held annually, the honor guests being spouses of the members and new faculty members and their spouses. The first few of these were “served” dinners at various places and then for 32 years they consisted of pot luck dinners held at the College Activities Building. During recent years the dinners have been served by and at the East Union.

Over the years Ceres Club has carried on a variety of projects, always of public benefit. A scholarship program was started in 1934, with the recipient being a student in Home Economics. The amount of the scholarship started with $25 and has gradually increased, reaching $200 in 1981-82. In 1975 the scholarship was changed from being awarded to students in Home Economics to students in the College of Agriculture.

Earlier the Ceres Club members assisted the faculty of home economics in sponsoring a tea for women attending Organized Agriculture. Later the Club took over full responsibility for this activity, with the minutes of the Club showing that there was an attendance of 275 at one of these affairs.

From 1951 until the early 60’s, members of Ceres Club and their spouses brought hot food dishes to the East Union for Sunday evening suppers for students, an activity under the sponsorship of the Student Ac-
tivities Manager of the Union. These suppers were known as "pot luck with the profs". Nine such suppers were held during the first semester of the program, but gradually the number diminished. There was a good deal of opposition on the part of some of the faculty and spouses, and early in the 60's the program was discontinued.

Other activities over the years included: 1) serving cookies and punch (the latter provided by the Union) at the annual Ag Chorus Christmas concerts; 2) making hospital garments for the University Hospital at Omaha; 3) entertaining the Legislature Ladies League; 4) making donations to the University YWCA; 5) making contributions to the Faculty Women's Memorial Student Aid Fund; and 6) providing cookies and helping to serve at the annual reception for College of Agriculture graduates and parents following spring commencement.

Ceres Club, in addition to providing interesting educational and social programs for its members, has an illustrious record of being of service to the College of Agriculture, to the University, and to the citizens of the state generally.

Chapter 4. Great Plains Agricultural Council (1, 2)

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Administrators and Headquarters Locations

Since its inception, the name of this organization has been the Great Plains Agricultural Council and the headquarters location has been Lincoln, Nebraska. The principal administrators, their office location, and the years served are listed below.

Elmer A. Starch\(^1\) Executive Secretary Downtown Lincoln 1946-1949
W. H. Brokaw Executive Secretary Agricultural Hall, East Campus 1950-1955
John Muehlbeier Executive Secretary H. C. Filley Hall 1956-1974
O. Wendell Holmes Executive Secretary H. C. Filley Hall 1975-1985
Norman E. Landgren Director Agricultural Hall, East Campus 1986-present

Early History

The Great Plains Agricultural Council evolved from the cooperative efforts of USDA agencies and the land grant colleges in the development of special agricultural programs to combat the effects of the severe drought and economic depression that ravaged the region during the 1930's. The origin of the Council goes back to 1935 when the Regional Advisory Committee on Land Use Practices in the Southern Great Plains, consisting of representatives of USDA agencies and the land grant colleges, was formed to advise and make recommendations on land use and related problems. In 1939 the Committee reorganized as the Regional Agricultural Council of the Southern Great Plains. A similar group was organized in the Northern Great Plains in 1938. These two Councils held their first joint meeting in 1939 and merged in 1946 to form the Great Plains Agricultural Council.

\(^1\)Elmer A. Starch had also served as executive secretary of the Northern Great Plains Agricultural Council from its inception in 1938.

Membership

The membership consists of: 1) interested agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and 2) the agricultural experiment stations and cooperative extension services of the land grant universities in the ten Great Plains states — Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

Purpose and Functions

The purpose of the Council is to provide an organization for effective cooperation and coordination in responding to current and emerging issues of importance to Great Plains agriculture, including natural resources. Functions of the Council are to: 1) identify, evaluate and rank the issues of Great Plains agriculture; 2) appraise the adequacy and encourage the development of needed research, education and action programs in the Great Plains; 3) represent the needs of Great Plains agriculture regionally and nationally; 4) promote cooperation, coordinated action...
and idea exchange among state and federal agencies and other organizations concerned with agriculture in the Great Plains; and 5) stimulate state and local participation in studying proposed solutions to agricultural problems.

The Council provides a forum for members to explore: 1) the specifics of program approaches being followed by member agencies, state and federal; 2) prospective changes in these programs; 3) emerging issues as they impact individual programs; 4) opportunity for cooperative activity; and 5) opportunities for action by the Council as a group.

Committees

Much of the work of the Council is performed by committees. The list of committees has varied somewhat, but in 1986 consisted of: crops and soils, economics, forestry, range and livestock, water, and wildlife. The principal function of the committees is to identify, analyze and clarify issues in their respective subject matter areas, and to recommend actions to be taken by the Council.

Funding

The USDA provides funds for the salary of the part time director. The member stations and extension services provide the funds for supplies, travel, secretarial assistance, and other necessary expenses for conduct of the headquarters office. The University provides office space for the director, and institutional support for council personnel and fiscal administration.

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Chapter 5. The College of Agriculture Advisory Council

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Names

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College of Agriculture Advisory Council(N.A.)-1963
College of Agriculture and
Home Economics Advisory Council 1963-1970
College of Agriculture and College
IANR and College of Home Economics
Advisory Council 1974-1975

Chairmen

Those who served as chairmen from the time officers were first elected until the Council was disbanded, have been:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home town or city</th>
<th>Years in position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Otto H. Liebers</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>1961-1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry F. Klosterman</td>
<td>David City</td>
<td>1964-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Nuernberger</td>
<td>Wakefield</td>
<td>1966-1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion R. Morgan</td>
<td>Elwood</td>
<td>1968-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Krejci</td>
<td>Fairmont</td>
<td>1969-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Eveland</td>
<td>Ames</td>
<td>1973-1975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Marion R. Morgan, while serving as chairman of the Council, died suddenly on June 12, 1969.
grams of the College; 2) to help get a wider understanding of those problems among the people of the state; and 3) to assist in bringing about changes that are desirable.

The Council Is Reorganized

In 1961, upon recommendation of a Council Committee on Reorganization, chaired by William E. Colwell of Hay Springs, the Council adopted a rather detailed plan of its structure, organization and functions (1, Nov 3, 1961). With respect to purposes, the Council decided as follows: 1) "... the principal purpose of the Council is that of focusing attention on program needs of the state which the College of Agriculture can play an important role in fulfilling ... consideration of new or expanded programs of research or education or even the curtailment of certain activities ..." and 2) "... second main purpose should be that of obtaining the necessary financial support for these needed programs" (1, Nov 3, 1961).

Throughout its existence, members of the Council served at the invitation of the dean(s)/vice chancellor. In making their selections, the dean(s) solicited suggestions from a wide array of interests, including getting recommendations from members whose terms were expiring. At first members served for a term of four years, but beginning in 1961, in accordance with suggestions from a wide array of interests, including getting recommendations from members whose terms were expiring. At first members served for a term of four years, but beginning in 1961, in accordance with action taken by the Council, the term of membership was extended to six years, with appointments being made on a staggered basis. The Council recommended that members not be reappointed immediately upon term of appointment expiration. There were 34 charter members. In 1961 the Council recommended that there be 60 to 75 members, and in time the membership approximated 100. Throughout the life of the Council, an attempt was made to have the membership be representative of the principal interests of the College of Agriculture and of Home Economics, and also representative geographically of the entire state. The members served without any compensation and paid their own expenses to attend meetings, except that they were guests of the University for lunches and dinners during the time of meetings.

Initially the Dean of the College of Agriculture presided over the meetings of the Council. However, beginning November 3, 1961 (1), in accordance with action taken by the Council, the chairman was elected by the Council from within its group. The Council further recommended that after serving a term of two years, the chairman not be eligible to succeed himself.

Beginning in 1960, David P. McGill, assistant to the dean, usually took the minutes. In a few cases when he was unable to attend the meetings, some other College of Agriculture staff member took his place. The Council had no treasurer.

On the average, the Council held two meetings a year. It was well organized on a committee basis, and the committees sometimes held meetings at times other than when the membership meetings were held.

Throughout the life of the Council there was close adherence to carrying out the purposes as adopted at the 1961 meeting (see above). Typically, the dean and the directors of the College of Agriculture, along with UN (UNL) administrators, would brief the members on the status of the Legislative appropriations. The members, commonly through committees, would analyze the situation and make recommendations that were indicated. They provided an excellent grass roots basis for counseling the College(s).

As the years went along, the Council became more and more concerned with and involved in getting financial support for the College of Agriculture (and Home Economics) through working with members of the Legislature and the Governor. During the latter years of its existence, the Council would invite members of the Legislature to a luncheon or dinner, at which time presentations were made on the financial needs of the College(s). The members would assess themselves to pay for the meals of the state senators who were in attendance.

Meeting During the Great Snowstorm

One of the most unique Council meetings was the one held February 21-22, 1971. The meeting began with a dinner on Sunday evening, February 21, with the Council hosting the members of the Nebraska Legislature at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education (NCCE). Including spouses, 52 Council members, 33 Senators, 3 special guests, and 31 College of Agriculture and College of Home Economics staff members, a total of 119 were present. There was a great deal of enthusiasm and everything looked good for the business meeting to be held the next day.

A severe snowstorm later Sunday night changed everything. By Monday morning travel by automobile even within Lincoln was impossible. The only people who could attend the meeting were those who had stayed at the Center the night before, and faculty and students who lived within walking distance of the Center. Attendance consisted of 13 Council members, two spouses, five staff members and four students with a total of 24. Even Council members who stayed with friends or in hotels and motels in Lincoln were unable to get to the meeting. Fortunately, Chairman Krejci stayed at the Center Sunday night. Agnes Arthaud, Hazel Fox, Elvin Frolik, Philip Sutton, and Warren Sahs, all of whom lived near the Campus, were the only staff persons present1. Philip Sutton was assigned the job of taking the minutes.

Most of the discussion had to do with the proposed 1971-72 budget for the UNL. John Klosterman reported that, based on his previous contacts, he thought the Governor (Exon) would be receptive to having the

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1Even they had to work hard to walk through the accumulation of large snow drifts.
Council members discuss the budget with him (1, Feb 21-22, 1971).

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. to provide time for the attendees to reach their homes.

A Success Story

The Council can be termed a success, indeed. In reviewing the minutes (1), correspondence, and various reports of the Council over the 21 years of its existence, one is impressed with its constructive activities in support of agriculture and home economics in the University. The roster of members over the years reads almost like a “Who’s Who” in agriculture and home economics among the lay public of the state. These members gave of their own time and paid most of their expenses in attending meetings and sessions of the Legislature. Agriculture and home economics at the University and the citizens of the state generally owe a great deal to the Council members, a considerable number of whom are now deceased.

The Council Is Disbanded

The final chapter in the story of the Council occurred in late 1974 and early 1975. The last meeting of the Council was held on December 11 and 12, 1974. In the call for the meeting, D. P. McGill, acting for Vice Chancellor Acker, gave as one of the purposes of the meeting: “... to discuss possible reorganization of the Council so as to better serve the needs of the Institute” (4). Four discussion groups presented “... alternatives regarding the structure and operation of the Council” (1, Dec 11 and 12, 1974).

On March 3, 1975, Acker wrote to the Council members (5): “The Deans, Directors, and I have decided to disband the College of Agriculture and College of Home Ec Advisory Council and form a new group, the ’Citizens Council for the IANR’ ... with the objective of maintaining open communications between the Institute and all segments of Nebraska’s society and economy to which we relate ... We are asking about 60 members of the former ... Council to be members of the new Citizens Council and would like to add about that number of new people ...” Thirty-four of the old Council members who were not appointed to the Citizens Council, were awarded the “Certificate of Service” which, over the years, had been given to each member at the time his/her six year term on the Council had expired.

The Citizens Council instituted by Acker for the IANR became inactive some years ago.

References
The Formative Years

ABN, Inc. was the brainchild of Clare R. Porter and Elvin F. Frolik. On January 5, 1970, after months of informal discussions and planning, they jointly sent an invitation to a small group of agricultural leaders in Nebraska inviting them to attend a meeting January 26. Because of a snowstorm, the meeting was rescheduled to March 7, 1970.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the formation of a group of agricultural leaders (individuals—not organizations) to "...bring broad leadership to agriculture in Nebraska." Porter and Frolik further stated "We feel that agriculture is not receiving the impetus nor exerting the leadership that is available to it...the organization might be entitled 'Nebraska Agriculture Builders'... Organizations of or sponsored by public officials are not always entirely free to express their thinking on important issues..." (1).

The March 7 meeting in Lincoln was attended by 15 individuals. The group responded favorably to continuing functioning on an informal basis and elected Porter temporary chairman. Subsequently, meetings were held in 1970 on May 26, July 14, July 30, September 11, December 11 and December 21. At the September 11 meeting it was decided to incorporate. Clare R. Porter was elected president, Glenn H. LeDioyt, vice president, and Elvin F. Frolik, secretary (1). President Porter appointed the following committee on incorporation: John E. Eidam, Omaha, chairman; Glenn H. LeDioyt, Omaha; and Ralph Raikes, Ashland.

At the meeting held December 11, it was agreed unanimously that the group should continue as an organization. Frolik stated that it might be better not to have appointed public officials as voting members of the organization, which suggestion was accepted. The group "...was especially interested in asking for as high a priority for the proposed home economics building as possible." Glenn Kreuscher, director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, telephoned Governor-elect James Exon to prevail on him to meet with the group on December 21.

At the meeting with Governor-elect Exon, a strong plea was made for a new home economics building. Exon indicated that he was favorable, and also expressed strong support for agriculture.

An important meeting was held on January 14, 1971. All Departmental Chairmen in the College of Agriculture made presentations of their programs to the Builders. At a meeting held on February 27, George David was elected secretary-treasurer of the organization. Contacts were being maintained with the Governor, the Legislature, and the UN administrators, with emphasis on the College of Agriculture budgets. By May 3, John E. Eidam reported that he had completed writing a first draft of "Articles of Incorporation" for the organization. On November 5, 1971, the organization voted to change its name from "Nebraska Agricultural Builders" to "Agriculture Builders of Nebraska".

The Organization Incorporates

The Agriculture Builders of Nebraska was incorporated in the State of Nebraska on December 17, 1971. The Directors of the Corporation at the time were listed as Clare R. Porter, Glenn C. LeDioyt, George David, Willard Waldo and Ralph Raikes. The purposes listed were fairly all-encompassing, and can best be summarized with the statement "improving and enhancing agriculture”. An important feature of the Articles was the spelling out of requirements for membership. Voting members were to be persons "...actively engaged in farming and ranching, and in related agribusiness activities. In electing members, attention shall be given to maintaining a relationship of about one-half active farmers and ranchers, and the other half persons closely related to farming and ranching by vital concern, agribusiness activities, administering credit to agriculture or similar activity. Non-voting members shall also be persons vitally concerned with farming and ranching, but whose position is paid from federal, state, county or school, or other public funds.” The dean of the College of Agriculture/vice chancellor of IANR and the director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture are invited to be non-voting members of the organization.

Also with respect to membership, the following statement appears in the Articles: “Total membership shall be kept small enough so that the organization is active, viable and constructive. Membership shall be large enough so as to give wide and active consideration to all of Nebraska...to become a member, a person must be first approved by the Board of Directors and then voted upon by the full membership.”

The first set of bylaws was dated December 17, 1971.

Although not so directed in the articles or the bylaws, ABN, Inc. functions primarily as a catalyst to attempt to get other organizations and individuals to carry out constructive programs for agriculture, and also to attempt to block any programs and actions considered negative to the best interests of agriculture. Publicizing ABN, Inc. directly in the media is not encouraged.

Programs and Activities

Although the Articles provided for a very wide latitude of agricultural activities, the organization has concentrated most of its programs and activities on the College of Agriculture/IANR. Much attention has been given to budgetary support through the State Legislature and to a lesser, but still significant extent, to encouraging federal support. Meetings are held with elected public officials at both the state and federal level, including meetings with candidates for such offices prior to general elections. Almost from the
start, and well into 1973, much attention and effort was given to the administrative position and structure of agriculture within the University (see Part III, Chapter 1). Attention has also been given to other important agricultural matters, especially to pending legislation at both the state and federal levels.

Although from the inception of ABN, Inc. in 1970, there had been a degree of strained relationships with the University administrators, differences were largely resolved in 1973 with the provision for establishment of the IANR. On April 8, 1974, ABN, Inc. sponsored a luncheon in honor of the new Vice Chancellor, Duane Acker. A feeling of euphoria predominated, with invited guests including President Durwood B. Varner, Chancellor James H. Zumberge, Dean Hazel Anthony of the College of Home Economics and others from the University. On May 20, 1974, President Porter reported to the ABN, Inc. Board of Directors: “

Gilbert Erickson and myself took it upon ourselves to invite Vice Chancellor Duane Acker to become an Advisory member of ABN... we received a letter this morning indicating that he had discussed the matter with Chancellor Zumberge and that they both consider it a compliment and an opportunity for him to be associated with ABN in an advisory capacity.” Acker confirmed his acceptance in a letter of May 16. Chancellor Martin A. Massengale is an honorary member and Vice Chancellor Roy G. Arnold is an advisory member.

Today (1987) ABN, Inc. continues to be active. It now has a Board of Directors numbering 12, the maximum number permitted under the bylaws of the organization. Membership has been increased to over 70. The main thrust of programs continues to center around support for the IANR, and also, to some extent, for the UNL.

Reference
1. Files of ABN, Inc., including minutes, correspondence and various reports. The secretary’s files, Lincoln, NE.

Chapter 7. The Ag 40 Group

Name | Home town or city | Period in position
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John C. Klosterman | David City | 1973
John Klinker | Omaha | 1974-1975
John C. Klosterman | David City | 1976-1977
George David | Lincoln | 1978
Eugene Glock | Rising City | 1979-1981
John C. Klosterman | David City | 1982-present

The history of the Ag 40 group was summarized by John C. Klosterman in 1977 (1) as follows:

“During the latter part of 1972, several farm organizations and agribusiness groups became increasingly aware of the lack of agricultural representation or prominence in decision making with the administrative structure of the UNL. The Dean of the College of Agriculture, representing the largest industry in the state and three major divisions of the Agricultural College, namely the AES, CES and Agricultural Education had only one vote on the Chancellor’s Executive Council. Progress or improvement insofar as the Agricultural College was concerned was at a standstill within the administrative structure of the UNL.

“Seventeen agricultural and agribusiness organizations joined forces in 1973 to take direct corrective action in an effort to bring about a solution to this problem.

“Legislative Bill 149 was drafted and introduced by Senator Maurice Kremer calling for a separate College of Agriculture having its own Chancellor Agriculture (sic).

“Many negotiating meetings between top UNL officials were held and ultimately the two parties agreed that LB149 would be amended to provide for restructuring of the administration within UNL.

“United support was given to LB149 and it was enacted”.

The number of organizations in the group grew from the initial 17 in 1973 to 23 in 1974, 40 in 1975, and 49 by 1984. In 1976 the group adopted a specific name for the first time, i.e., “Ag 40 Group”.

Ag 40 has been especially effective in promoting construction of buildings for the IANR, including the Veterinary Science Complex - completed in 1977; the Plant Science Complex - completed in 1978; construction of the Ag Engineering Laboratory Building - completed in 1980; renovation of the Agricultural Engineering Building (now L. W. Chase Hall) - completed in 1981; and the Animal Science Complex - to be completed by the fall of 1987 (1).

Klosterman also stated (1): “The second major undertaking of the Ag 40 Group is support for the con-
Chapter 8. College of Agriculture Alumni Association

Early Efforts to Organize

Efforts to organize the alumni of the College of Agriculture date back more than a half century. In April 1922 the following headline appeared in the Cornhusker Countryman: “Agricultural College to organize alumni association” (1). The article stated: “A group of Agricultural College Alumni . . . have started a movement to organize an Agricultural College Alumni Association . . . In this movement they have the hearty support of E. A. Burnett, dean of the College of Agriculture, and H. F. Hotz, secretary of the UN Alumni Assn . . . Dean Burnett has prepared a list of the 546 graduates from the Agricultural College, since its inception in 1909 . . . The tentative plan of the committee in charge is to perfect the organization of the association at the homecoming of the University during Alumni Week. At that time a constitution will be adopted and permanent officers elected and installed.” Recruitment of students for the College was foremost in the thinking of the organizers (1). Although not so reported, the attempt must have failed because we have been unable to find any further reference to it.

Shortly after Frolik became dean of the College of Agriculture in 1960, he prevailed on T. H. Goodding, who had retired from the University, to attempt to develop a College of Agriculture alumni organization. No salary was involved but Goodding was provided with an office in Agricultural Hall and limited secretarial help. He put forth a good deal of effort to perfect an alumni organization. He succeeded in establishing two regional groups, one in the panhandle centered around Alliance and Scottsbluff, and the other in east central Nebraska around Columbus and Grand Island. Clifford O. Quick and Charles R. Fens- ter of Alliance, and Chester J. Walters of Scottsbluff were selected to lead the panhandle group; and N. Paul Monson of Osceola, Robert E. Tooker of Silver Creek, and Wesley Huenefeld of Aurora the one in east central Nebraska. Both groups met annually for a period of years, but in time ceased to exist. An overall state organization failed to materialize from Goodding’s efforts.

Another alumni activity was organized by the Department of Animal Science. The first annual meeting

References

2. Report of the ABN/Ag 40 Coordinating Committee, based on a meeting held on Nov 25, 1981. Copy attached to minutes of the ABN Board of Directors meeting held on Dec 8, 1981. Lincoln, NE.
3. Minutes of the annual ABN, Inc. meeting, Jan 17, 1986. Lincoln, NE.
4. Minutes of the ABN, Inc. Board of Directors meeting, Jan 17, 1986. Lincoln, NE.

The Action Committee was a small group appointed annually to work closely with the Legislature on attempting to obtain for the College of Agriculture/IANR adequate funding for construction and remodeling of buildings, and for ongoing operations.

So named because the meeting was held in the Sycamore Room, Nebraska East Union, East Campus, UNL.
of the group, with John K. Ward as chairman of the committee in charge, was held on October 23 and 24, 1970 (8). Invitations to attend the meetings are sent to all Animal Science alumni. The get-together (held annually or sometimes biennially) is tied to the Little Ak-Sar-Ben which is an undergraduate livestock fitting and showing contest. Past and present members of the Departmental judging teams provide the backbone of the organization.

The Beginning

The College of Agriculture Alumni Association, IANR, UNL was formed in July 1977 principally by the following: Charles H. Adams, IANR, secretary; Roy G. Arnold '62, IANR, vice president; Ralph J. Knobel '55, Fairbury, president; Leslie F. Sheffield, '50, '64, '76, IANR; and T. E. Hartung, IANR. The organizers received much encouragement from Vice Chancellor Martin A. Massengale, IANR, and Jack Miller, executive vice president of the UNL Alumni Association (2). Sheffield has served since 1980 as executive vice president. Nine other alumni who served on the initial Board of Directors were: Eugene T. Glock, '51, Rising City; Clifford H. Jorgensen, '31, Lincoln; Mark A. Keller, '37, '47, Columbus; Gary E. Kubicek '74, Hickman; Donald J. Lehr '49, Wood River (now Alliance); Jeannene Markussen Wehrbein '62, Plattsmouth; Rex G. Messersmith '52, Lincoln; Ray W. Starosta '44, '47, Silver Creek; and Max L. Waldo '60, DeWitt. Present membership totals approximately 1,950.

The Association is an affiliate of the UNL Alumni Association. It is governed by the Articles of Incorporation of that Association and in addition by its own bylaws. The idea of having college alumni groups which remain close knit and small enough to give reunions a warm and friendly atmosphere, but lack the staff, time and money to carry out the wide range of activities of a larger group, and should, therefore, affiliate with the overall UNL Alumni Association, was first promulgated by Jack Miller in early 1977. He noted that the University of Minnesota had started such a plan about 20 years earlier and that other universities had followed suit. He encouraged deans and directors at Nebraska to adopt a similar plan.

By the end of 1977 previously independent existing UNL college alumni associations, such as dental, home economics, law and nursing groups, had affiliated with the UN Alumni Association. The College of Agriculture group was the first one to be organized directly as an affiliate of the UNL Association (3). The cooperative arrangement has proven to be successful (3).

Objectives/Accomplishments

The objective of the College of Agriculture Association is given in the bylaws as follows: "... to foster cooperation and communication among all alumni of the College of Agriculture, IANR, UNL; and to develop communication between the alumni and the IANR." Methods of accomplishing the objective (paraphrased) are: 1) exchange of information among members; 2) inform parents and students about academic programs and careers in agriculture and natural resources; 3) encourage establishment of financial aids in the IANR; 4) encourage recognition of the importance of the profession of agriculture; and 5) promote events and other activities for alumni (4).

Programs

The principal activities of the Association are holding two annual roundups. At the fall roundup the dean of the College of Agriculture gives a "state of the union" talk. In other respects the program is varied from year-to-year. Tours were conducted on the East Campus from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 18, 1986. The Saturday program was held on the City Campus with socializing in the forenoon and a noon luncheon attended by 500, the largest crowd ever to attend an Ag Alumni function.

Two new honors were presented at the luncheon, the Ag Alumnus of the Year award to Robert O. Gingery, '42, '52, of Lincoln; and the Award of Merit to Willard H. Waldo, '34, of DeWitt.

After the luncheon the crowd attended the Nebraska/Missouri football game, tickets for which had been made available to the members on a paid, first come, first served basis (5, 6).

The second annual roundup is scheduled so that those present can attend a UNL basketball game. A publication is issued and distributed to the members three times a year. Published first in November 1984 issue to The Sower. David E. Parrish of the Department of Communications, IANR, first provided most of the material and, more recently, has served as editor of the publication.

The Association is a joint sponsor, with the IANR, of this book. A number of years ago, the Association prevailed upon then Vice Chancellor Martin A. Massengale to have the IANR join the Association in producing a history of the College of Agriculture. The two sponsors arranged for the UN Foundation, through a finance committee appointed by the Association, to collect private funds to help finance the project. The Association has also made contributions from its own funds in support of production of the history.

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1In 1984 Adams was followed as secretary by Earl F. Ellington, IANR. To date these two men are the only ones who have served the Association in that capacity.

2Presidents who have followed Knobel have been, in chronological order: Rex G. Messersmith, '52, Lincoln; Eugene T. Glock, '51, Rising City; Robert O. Gingery, '42, Lincoln; William G. Siebert, '77, Hickman; and Marcia (MacKnight) White, '81, Lincoln.
Other activities of the Association are: 1) provide financial assistance to the College of Agriculture for the production of brochures, video tapes and slide/tape sets to be used in recruiting students; 2) provide personnel to help operate educational booths at large agricultural events; 3) the approximately 100 "ambassadors" help students identify career opportunities; 4) sponsor a College senior membership awards program; 5) and sponsor jointly with the IANR an annual spring reception for graduating seniors.

The Nebraska Association holds membership in the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association (NAADA). The Nebraska Chapter is very active in this national organization, with Rex G. Messersmith having served as president, and Robert O. Gingery and Earl F. Ellington as directors. The Nebraska Chapter also hosted the sixth annual conference of NAADA in May of 1981.

References
2. UNL Ag College alums plan get-together Dec 10. For release Dec 5, 1977. Dept of Ag Communications, IANR, UNL.