October 1981

Welcome

Martin A. Massengale
Chancellor, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/gpwdcwp
Part of the Environmental Health and Protection Commons

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/gpwdcwp/139

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop Proceedings by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
It's a real pleasure to welcome you to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln this morning. I see many people here that I know have come from numerous states across this part of the country. We welcome you. I'm sorry we don't have a sunny Lincoln to welcome you to, but I'm sure that if you've come from this part of the country, you welcome the moisture whenever it arrives.

We, at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, are always pleased to have people from other states with us. We are pleased to host or co-host working conferences and as I look back over my career, some of the more productive meetings that I attended were seminars or conferences of working groups rather than some of the large national meetings. I say that because smaller conferences give you a chance to get together in an informal way to visit with people in your own discipline or interest area, allowing an exchange of ideas in a creative environment. It seems to me that this kind of program can provide for a productive exchange. And I know that many of your sessions will be informal, question - answer type, where you will have a chance to really get involved and exchange ideas, and ideas are what we are involved in.

It's obvious to me that the speakers on this program, with their backgrounds and knowing the institutions from which they come, have a wide breadth of experience and depth of subject matter, and certainly will be able to get into the subject that you are here for, Wildlife Damage Control, in a very effective and efficient manner.

One thing that I was impressed by in looking at your program was what I'll call "team work" or "joint effort". After all, this conference involves a number of groups not only universities and the U.S. Government, but also industry. It seems to me that that is one of the things that those of us involved in agriculture, natural resources, and wildlife, have always had, and that is a capacity to work with people and to cooperate with others in serving the welfare of our citizens.

The University of Nebraska - Lincoln is no exception to that. We are now beginning our 112th year as a University and in developing this institution I think there's always been a close feeling or mission to this state, to serve it, and the citizens who are really the stockholders of the University, and to pay them a dividend on their investment. This University, obviously, is still defining its role and mission to some extent--it always will, because it will be changing as we move ahead. But it seems we must never forget that we are supported by people, our stockholders, and that we must try the best we can to serve them. But the University of Nebraska, which serves both as a state university and a land-grant university, has a unique mission because it is, if you will, the center of higher education. It is the center of our graduate programs in education and research. It is the center of our Cooperative Extension program that extends across the state, and I know many of you are familiar with extension, undoubtedly the undisputed leader of higher education or post-secondary education in the state of Nebraska.
This year the University has about 25,000 students from every state of the union and many foreign countries. I suppose that many of you from neighboring states know the University of Nebraska as much or more for its Big Red activities on Saturday afternoons. But let me assure you that it is a strong academic University, one that continues to grow. The faculty is really the heart of the University, and when you have faculty like Howard Wiegers, Bob Timm, Ron Johnson, Ron Case, and others in the wildlife program you know that it's going to go places. So I think in the future you are going to hear more about wildlife from Nebraska. Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife is, of course, the name of the department and I am very excited about the potential of that department and what it's going to be able to do.

I know you have many things to do this morning, that you want to get on with your subject matter and you need to do that. Let me simply say in closing that I trust that this conference will be stimulating and educationally rewarding for you, and one that you will go back home from a little better person than you were when you came. We always feel that when we have people here at the University that we gain from them, that we are a little bit better as a result of their being with us. And I hope truly that when you leave later in the week that you feel that you have gained something. If my office can do anything to make your conference here more rewarding to you or a better experience, don't hesitate to get in contact with some of our faculty. Have them call us, we'll try to do what we can.

It's a real pleasure to have you with us at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Do come back often and thank you for having me with you for a few moments this morning.