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From the Director's Desk

Scholarly Activity by Experiment Station Scientists

Recent discussion of IANR Promotion and Tenure Guidelines has prompted a few questions and comments by Experiment Station scientists on the meaning of "scholarly activity."

For research organizations generally, and for the Agricultural Experiment Station specifically, refereed journal publications are the principal measure of scholarly activity. Publications are the traditional means whereby scientists present their work for scrutiny, criticism, and acceptance. This is likely to continue.

Scholarly activity includes much more than publications, however. Patents, new varieties and new techniques are specific examples of the products of scholarly activity. Perhaps the word "invention" best describes my concept of scholarly activity ...... "making something new", or "the act of finding, or finding out; discovery" (World Book Dictionary, 1974).

Creating something new or something in a new form which other persons find useful and accept or adopt is scholarly activity, in my view. Publication of a paper for a refereed journal is one type of acceptance by others. Citation of the publication by others is even stronger evidence. Similar evidence can be developed for acceptance or adoption by others for scholarly activity which results in a product, a process, a technique, an instrument, a program, a practice, a variety, etc.

Returning for a moment to the issue of refereed publications, it is likely that this form of reporting of scientific work may change significantly over the next several years. Increased publication and mailing costs, and evolution of sophisticated computer-based information systems are causing serious consideration of alternative means of cataloging and reporting of scientific data. As new reporting systems evolve, we will need to be imaginative and creative in developing ways to recognize these as evidence of scholarly activity by scientists.

Instrument Repair Service

Beginning September 1, 1981, a three party agreement involving the Agricultural Experiment Station, Scientific Stores and Lab Research Products of Lincoln will establish a scientific instrument repair service on East Campus. The service will be provided on a charge basis for repair and maintenance of scientific equipment. The agreement will provide an on-campus office and work area for this service, in Agricultural Biochemistry Hall. However, much of the repair work will occur "on location" in the Departments.

Repair service can be requested by calling 475-9020. Scientific Stores will arrange for expedited ordering and procurement of parts, and will perform the billing function for the repair service. This service should reduce "down time" of instruments through rapid response to equipment breakdowns. Routine maintenance on instruments should also be improved. It is expected that this service may eliminate the need for expensive service contracts on some equipment items.

Further information on this service will be presented in the September issue of Agricultural Experiment Station News, and in mailings to units.

Sahs Sez

Energy Farm Progress

Construction of the alcohol building is underway; the grain handling units will be assembled promptly. The alcohol still is on hand and it is planned to produce alcohol in early September.

General

Irrigation well No. 8, replacing the 1942 municipal type No. 8 well, is on the pressurized main at 700 GPM. This increased capacity will bolster our irrigation research needs during drought periods.

Grants and Contracts

Ball, E. M. (Plant Pathology) - Loosli Stem Cut Potatoes ................................................. $500
Burnside, O. C. (Agronomy) - ICI Americas, Inc. .......................................................... $500
Burnside, O. C. (Agronomy) - 3M Company ................................................................. $500
Burnside, O. C. (Agronomy) - Union Carbide ......................................................... 1,050
Compton, W. A. (Agronomy) - Cargill, Inc. ............................................................... $20
Projects Approved

The Nebraska Wheat Development, Utilization and Marketing Board approved the following projects for FY 81-82 funding:


6577. Post-Glacial Migration Pathways of *Quercus rubra* L., Northern Red Oak, as Indicated by Regional Genetic Variation Patterns. S. E. Schlarbaum, R. P. Adams, W. T. Bagley and W. J. Wayne. Silvae Genetica.


Journal Articles - Submitted for Publication (contact authors for more information)


6602. Implications for Motor Carrier Deregulation for a Case-Study Rural Community. Dale G. Anderson and Elmo Falcon.


6604. Isolation of a Stable Enzyme $^{14}CO_2\cdot Mg^{2+}$ CABP Complex with RuBP Carboxylase from Chromatium vinosum. H. M. Brown and R. Chollet. Journal of Bacteriology.

6605. Micronutrient and Acidity Factors Reducing Sorghum Yields and Breeding Plants to Tolerate These Stresses. Ralph B. Clark. "Sorghum in the 80's Book or Proceedings."


Journal Abstracts - Submitted for Publication (contact authors for more information)


81-1535. Development of Phaseolus vulgaris with Resistance and/or Avoidance to White Mold Disease (Sclerotinia sclerotiorum). D. P. Coyne, J. R. Steadman, Cheryl Campbell and Peter Fuller. Bean Improvement Cooperative.


BULLETINS PRINTED

RB 267. Rates of Water Entry into the Subsoil of Several Soil Series in Nebraska. David T. Lewis.