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Agricultural Experiment Station News February 1980

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As a result of my participation during the month of January in the annual evaluation review sessions with Department Heads and District Directors, I was again impressed with the many accomplishments and contributions of the Agricultural Experiment Station scientists. These reviews provided an excellent opportunity to learn of ongoing research projects within the Ag. Experiment Station. That educational effort will be pursued further during upcoming visits to the various Experiment Station units.

Three recent developments at the federal level are important to the Agricultural Experiment Station. The President's budget recommendation for FY '81 included an overall increase of 4.6 percent for Cooperative Research, although it is difficult to refer to this as an increase at a time when the inflation rate is more than double the proposed budget adjustment. The President's recommendation includes increases in Hatch and McIntire-Stennis payments to state agricultural experiment stations slightly greater than the overall increase figure. Also, the President recommended an increase in competitive grants from $16 million to $25 million. These proposed increases came at the expense of funds for Animal Health and Disease Research (Section 1433), Title V (Rural Development), and some special research grant categories. The President's recommendation represents only the beginning of the budget building process. There is optimism that the final FY '81 budget for Cooperative Research will be better than the President's recommendations, and in particular, that some of the key programs reduced or eliminated in the President's recommendation can be restored.

A second development of importance is the initiation of an extensive review of agricultural research by the Office of Technology Assessment. This review will consider planning, organization, coordination and impact of agricultural research. This effort will call for collection of data and impact assessment information from the state agricultural experiment stations. As this review proceeds, I will be calling upon unit administrators and station scientists for assistance in documenting the impacts of our research programs.

Finally, Secretary Bergland's comments regarding discontinuation of future USDA funding for research which would cause displacement of farm laborers has resulted in establishment of a special committee within USDA to review proposed new research projects involving mechanization. Although the role of this committee has not been precisely defined, it appears that approval by this committee will be required before Hatch funds can be allocated to new agricultural experiment station research projects on mechanization. Recent studies have refuted the basic assumptions which led to announcement of this policy. However, it appears that the policy is being implemented by USDA, and will have an impact on future patterns of research funding within the agency. This is an area of continued active discussion. Further explanation of USDA policies and procedures should be forthcoming in the near future.

Roy Arnold

GENERAL NOTES

1. Dr. Robert Oltjen, USMARC Director, will present a seminar on USMARC update on February 21, at 3 p.m., in Room 31 Home Economics Building.
2. Station scientists from USMARC will visit the Lincoln facility from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock on February 27.
3. SEA/CR review of Veterinary Science Department was completed in January. Useful suggestions for future directions for the research program in Vet. Science were provided by the review team.
NEWSLETTER READER INPUT NEEDED

It has been some time since we asked you for input concerning what you would like to see in the Newsletter. Since we want the Newsletter to be as good as an informational source as possible, we find it necessary to ask your help. Here are some of the things we have been thinking about.

Each issue could list all new and completed projects.
Personnel actions would be given a little more space with, perhaps, a short personal profile of new personnel and a little more information on other personnel actions. We might have a feature section that would include such things as computer tips which would give an update on procedures, programs available, etc.
Another feature might be notes from AGNET where the use of the AGNET system for research could be highlighted.
Publications available and publications received with a note about them might be included.
We might feature one AES unit each month where the unit could relate whatever they wanted to about their research program.
SEA/CR reviews and self-studies could be announced.
We could have an expanded newsletter quarterly. This issue would give a complete list of all new and completed projects for the quarter, with a short summary of each. It could include pictures of all new personnel and perhaps some who retire after long service.
A more detailed description of other AES activities could be included.
We would like very much to have your response to these ideas and to have ideas of yours to incorporate in the Newsletter. Please send your comments to John Woodward, c/o the Director's Office.

REMINDER TO STAFF

All members of the IANR staff are reminded that repackaging and distribution or delivery of any unlabeled pesticide constitutes a violation of FIFRA. Violators are subject to fines and/or imprisonment. More importantly, packaging a toxic material in a food container creates a very serious health hazard. Both the individual involved and the University are made liable by such actions.

Each person on the IANR staff who has occasion to use pesticides should be thoroughly familiar with, and abide by, all provisions of FIFRA. If there is any question about handling, storage or use of pesticides, contact either Dr. Roger Gold or Emery Nelson, Office of Environmental Programs, 101 Vet Sci. Bldg., Lincoln, Nebraska 68583; phone (402)472-1446.

GRANTS

Anderson, F.N. - (PH Station) - Growers G W Joint Res. Committee, Inc. $ 9,400
Brandle, J.R. - Forestry - Miscellaneous Donors 1,400
Brumm, M.C. - (NE Station) - Animal Science - Eli Lilly Res. Lab. 3,600
Case, R.M. - Forestry - ICI Americas 1,500
Danielson, M. - (NP Station) - Norden Laboratories 11,000
*Gold, R.E. - Env. Programs - OSU/OARDC Pesticide Impact Assess. Program 23,510
Gold, R.E. - Env. Programs - ICI Americas Inc. 1,000
Grabouski, P. - (NP Station) - Mobay 600
Johnson, V.A. & P.J. Mattern - Agronomy - USDA/SEA 60,000
Kelling, C.L. - Vet Science - USDA/SEA/AR 15,000
Kinbacher, E.J. - Horticulture - Nebraska Turf Grass Foundation 2,000
Kinder, J. - Animal Science - USDA/SEA 37,500
Klopfenstein, T. - Animal Science - International Harvester 6,000
Mayo, Z.B. - Entomology - Dow Chemical 1,500
Moser, B. - Animal Science - Fats & Proteins Res. Foundation, Inc. 12,000
Splinter, W.E. & A. Hashimoto - Ag. Engineering - USDA/SEA/AR 46,000
Wilson, R.C. - (PH Station) - Growers-G W Joint Res. Committee, Inc. 4,750
Woodward, J. - Home Economics - USDA-Ag. Exp. Sta. Title V Rural Develop. 24,703

*with J. R. C. Leavitt, T. Holsclaw, R. C. Schnell

5811. Vitamin B6 Nutritional Status of Several Strains of Mice and Rats as Affected by Pantothenic Acid Deficiency. L. Huang, C. Kies and H. M. Fox. Journal of Food Science.


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


BULLETINS PRINTED

SB 544. Survey of Pesticide Use in Irrigated Regions of the Nebraska Panhandle. R. G. Wilson, Jr.
