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Agricultural Experiment Station News April 1972

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Rural development research

Rural development has been receiving a great deal of attention at the national level and much has been written and said about rural development in recent months at the local level. All of this attention raises the question as to what research is being done (or should be done) in the experiment station on rural development. Rural development is not a new concept. Most of the research which has been conducted in the experiment station over the years has been designed to help rural America. One criticism has been that we have tended to look at the bits and pieces without enough attention being given to putting it all together and relating the results to greater social and economic well-being for people and their communities.

An ad hoc committee on Rural Development was appointed in 1971 by Director Ottoson to provide leadership, ideas and critical review of rural development research at the Nebraska Station. At present the members of the committee are Glenn Vollmar, Agricultural Economics, Chairman; J. C. Woodward, Human Resources; Dean Manbeck, Agricultural Engineering; J. T. Horner, Agricultural Education; and P. H. Gessaman, Agricultural Economics. The committee is interested in developing a greater awareness among the staff of the research that is underway and to provide for an exchange of ideas on rural development. Hopefully new approaches and new rural development projects will evolve. A Rural Development Research Seminar is being considered by the committee.

The Department of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Education and Human Resources have six active projects which have been approved by CSRS as qualifying for funding as rural development research. These projects have 3.1 SMYs and $127,350 assigned to them during the current fiscal year. In addition Nebraska is one of 13 states of the North Central Region involved in sponsoring the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development at Iowa State University. Some of the problems the regional center will study include the increasing migration of families from farms and small towns to the already-congested cities, the decline in quality of life in many small towns, and the low income levels of many rural areas.

If any of you have ideas or questions about the role of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station in rural development research, please discuss them with Dr. Vollmar or members of the ad hoc committee on rural development.

REWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

CSRS has approved two grants to Nebraska under PL 89-106 for research relating to Southern Corn Leaf Blight and Soybeans. One grant, $89,900, has been awarded to J. M. Daly, Biochemistry and Nutrition and L. D. Dunkle, Plant Pathology in support of research on "Biochemistry and Susceptibility and Resistance to Southern Corn Leaf Blight." A second grant of $85,000 has been awarded to A. K. Vidaver, J. R. Steadman, and M. G. Boosalis, Plant Pathology, in support of research on "Interactions of Soybean Bacterial Pathogens and their Antagonists." Each state experiment station was permitted to submit a total of two research proposals for competition. Six grants were awarded nationally for research on Southern Corn Leaf Blight and a similar number for research relating to Soybeans. Congratulations are certainly in order to our Nebraska researchers for their success in keen competition.
PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Addink, John W. - State Irrigation Specialist and Asst. Prof. of Agr. Eng. (appointment)
Case, Ronald M. - Assistant Prof. of Poultry Science (appointment)
Christenson, Ronald K. - Assistant Prof. of Animal Science (Research Physiologist at the U.S. Meat Animal Res. Center in Clay Center (appointment)
Hogg, Alex - Associate Professor of Veterinary Science (appointment)
Hudson, Joseph M. - Instructor of Animal Science (resignation)
Tiwari, Narayan P. - Assistant Professor of Food Science and Technology (resignation)

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Anderson, Frank A. - Scotts Bluff Station - Growers-G W Joint Res. Commit. $ 1,500
Dickason, Elvis A. - Entomology - Stauffer Chemical Company 500
Froning, Glenn W. - Poultry Science - Campbell Inst. for Food Research 5,000
Klopfenstein, Terry - Animal Science - Weyerhaeuser Co. 20,000
Klopfenstein, Terry - Animal Science - Commercial Solvents Corporation 3,500
Peo, Ernest R., Jr. - Animal Science - BZD-Livestock Products, Inc. 1,500
Peo, Ernest R., Jr. - Animal Science - Waldo Farms 300
Semancik, Joseph - Plant Pathology - Public Health Service 19,021
Shahani, Khem M. - Department of Food Science and Technology - Dairy Res. Inc. 11,400
Shahani, Khem M. - Department of Food Science and Technology - Microlife Technics 500
Thompson, Tom L. - Agricultural Engineering - USDA-ARS 40,000

GENERAL NOTES

1. New signs have been installed in front of several buildings on the East Campus. Signs for the remainder of the buildings have been ordered and will be installed in the near future.

2. The 21st annual Tractor Power and Safety Day will be held at the University of Nebraska Field Laboratory, Mead on Thursday, July 20. The theme of this year's field day is You and the Farm - Work and Safety.

3. Warren Sahs reports that the annual used equipment auction at the University of Nebraska Field Laboratory on March 28 was very successful. Many items from roll top desks to farm machinery were sold. All departments should plan now to include excess and/or obsolete items in the next auction.

4. According to recent information from CSRS on funds for agricultural research at State Agricultural Experiment Stations during fiscal year 1971, Nebraska ranked 21st in state appropriations; 27th for Hatch funds; 29th for all federal funds (CSRS); 11th for non-federal funds; and 15th for total funds. For purposes of comparison Nebraska ranks 5th nationally in farm income.

5. Home Economics Building plans are well along and should go out to bid shortly after July 1. The vacating and demolition of the old building is planned for June. The Home Economics staff is well along in planning interim accommodations.

E. H. Cobb
R. W. Kleis


ABSTRACTS


BULLETINS PRINTED

Nebraska Tractor Test Data 1972.


RB 249 Residential Environment Studies Relevant for Research Programs. Editor - Florence Walker.