2-1972

Agricultural Experiment Station News February 1972
SANDHILLS AGRICULTURAL LABORATORY DEVELOPMENT

The Sandhills Agricultural Laboratory has been in existence since January 8, 1972 as an adjunct to the North Platte Station. Project leaders of several disciplines are currently involved in research program development.

Research will begin with a typical cow-calf Sandhills ranch with range as the primary feed resource, i.e., growing cattle with grass and/or hay and moving the calf crop as grass feeds to the North Platte Station for additional trials. Irrigation will be superimposed upon this 3,280 acre unit with the alternative of producing feed for supplemental ranch income as irrigated pasture and/or alfalfa. Feedstuffs will be produced under irrigation to feed cattle in various experimental programs, using corn silage and/or corn grain, in comparison to selling the grain as a cash crop.

Objectives are related to the optimization of soil use, water use, and present or new Sandhills ranch management systems. This will be accomplished through a logical priority of facility and program developments.

Potential problems created by intensifying practices (irrigation) into an agricultural situation that traditionally has been extensive in nature, will be studied. Studies will emphasize research on inherent fertility of sandy soils and change under intensive cultural practices; the use of agricultural chemicals by monitoring the water supply and quality; the soil loss through wind and water erosion along with optimum plant establishment; and the change in insect populations and plant diseases. Animal diseases will also be evaluated under existing and new regimes. Ecological objectives will receive a fair share of the research effort under this intensified production schedule.

The "Smith-Thompson" ranch unit has been leased as the site of the "Sandhills Agricultural Laboratory." This 3,280 acre unit is located approximately 10 miles north of the intersection of Highways 92 and 97 in eastern McPherson County. It has one good set of improvements and 14 stock wells. It was considered appropriate by the site selection committee on the basis of location, distance, soils, irrigation potential and leasing arrangements. The assistance of the Soil Conservation Service will aid in developing detailed soil and range site classification.

Ground water should be available in the Ogallala formation at an approximate pumping level of 140 feet. A test hole for an irrigation well will be drilled in February and an irrigation well will be designed and developed in March, 1972.

Warren W. Sahs
PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Douglass, Richard L.-Assistant Prof. of Agricultural Education (appointment)
Laster, Danny B.-Assistant Prof. of Animal Science (MARC, courtesy appointment)
Streeter, Charles L.-Associate Prof. of Animal Science (MARC, courtesy appointment)

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Campbell, J. B.-Entomology-Shell Development Company 1,000
Coyne, D. P.-Horticulture and Forestry-William Underwood Company 1,000
Danielson, D. M.-North Platte-Shell Development Co. 5,000
Guyer, Paul Q.-Animal Science-Celanese Chemical Corp. 1,000
Klopfenstein, Terry-Animal Science-Flambeau Paper Co. 7,500
Mandigo, Roger W.-Animal Science-National Pork Producers Council 85,000
Satterlee, L. D.-Food Science & Technology-Viobin Corporation 1,250
Splinter, W. E.-Agricultural Engineering-Deere & Co. 45,000
Splinter, W. E.-Agricultural Engineering-Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy 25,000
Sullivan, T. W.-Poultry Science-Borden Chemical Company 2,000
Tolman, Walter L.-Northeast Station-Celanese Chemical Corp. 2,500
Twiehaus, M. J.-Veterinary Science-Eli Lilly and Company 1,300
Twiehaus, M. J.-Veterinary Science-Nebraska SPF Swine Accreding Agcy. 18,140
Twiehaus, M. J.-Veterinary Science-Hess and Clark 1,600
Twiehaus, M. J.-Veterinary Science-Miscellaneous Donor 245
Weihing, John L.-Scotts Bluff Station-Gering National Bank 1,000
White, Gene R.-North Platte Station-Nebraska Livestock Foundation 8,000

GENERAL NOTES

1. Dean E. F. Frolik has recently returned from a trip to East Africa. The purpose of the trip was to check on the possibility of a USAID-supported University of Nebraska technical assistance program in Tanzania. Dean Frolik also visited agricultural research programs in Kenya and Uganda.

2. Mary Ann Stritikus has joined the Experiment Station staff as secretary to the Associate Director's office. She will be responsible for the work formerly handled by Susan Lantz.

3. Just a reminder that anytime you have news releases you should contact J. P. Holman or Grant Johnson in the Department of Information. They will be glad to assist you in getting the information to the public.

4. Each staff member is responsible for submitting his or her "staff activity" to Mr. Ken Keller, editor of the Bulletin Board. Each department should establish its own procedures for getting this information to Mr. Keller.

5. As of January 1, 1972, all Experiment Station and A.R.S. research activities have been phased out at the Fort Robinson site. The programming functions for these research activities have been transferred to USMARC.

6. The station superintendents (Baxter for Lucas) are serving as a committee to consider more appropriate names for the outstate units and will be submitting suggestions in the next few weeks.

E. N. Cobb


ABSTRACTS


Bulletins Printed


85th Annual Report of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station.