Agricultural Experiment Station News January 1980

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I begin my service as Dean and Director of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station with a sincere feeling of appreciation for the leadership of my predecessor in this role, Dr. Howard Ottoson. As indicated in Dr. Ottoson's New Year's letter to AES staff, much has been accomplished during the past decade. I believe the Nebraska Station is strong. Because of a competent and productive staff, the Station is in an excellent position to respond positively to the several challenges outlined for us by program participants at the recent IANR Staff Conference. The effective integration of Extension, Teaching and Research within IANR is impressive, and must continue to be a priority consideration in our future planning.

I am anxious to get better acquainted with Experiment Station staff and research programs, and will be devoting considerable time to this priority over the next several months. I will be asking questions about your research, covering such issues as objectives of existing projects, progress and accomplishments in existing projects, impact of projects, unmet research needs and opportunities, research priorities in your respective areas, and constraints to performance of research within the Station. These questions will enable me to learn more fully the total research program of the Station.

In my comments at the Experiment Station session of the IANR Staff Conference, I indicated a desire to devote attention to our Experiment Station project system. In my judgment projects need to have more visibility than they now enjoy. New projects and completed projects should have more exposure, both internally and externally. We need to talk more openly about the problems, purposes, methods and potential impacts of our research projects.

During the past year, a White House staff paper questioned the adequacy of program and project reviews within State Agricultural Experiment Stations. It has been my observation that Nebraska's departmental or program reviews generally have been thorough, critical and constructive. Perhaps we need to consider our process for review of Station projects. A multi-year Station project represents a substantial investment for salaries of scientists and support personnel, supplies, operating costs, etc. It is a reasonable criticism that similar investments in research by other agencies frequently involve more rigorous review and evaluation of proposed research projects.

These issues will become early agenda items for the Experiment Station Advisory Committee. Your comments and suggestions are invited.

I am excited about the opportunity to give leadership to the Agricultural Experiment Station. I look forward to working with you.

Roy G. Arnold
Dean & Director
PERSONNEL ACTION
Arnold, Roy G. - Dean & Director, Ag Experiment Station - New appointment
Daigger, Louis P. - Professor of Agronomy - Retirement
Diffendal, Robert F. - Associate Professor - Cons. & Survey - New appointment
Moon, Leon - Assistant Prof., Ag Economics - PH Station - Resignation to Texas A&M
Petersen, George M. - Assoc. Prof., Ag Engineering - Retirement
Young, Joseph O. - Prof. Emeritus & Curator of Arboré tum - Horticulture - Retirement

GRANTS & CONTRACTS
Fenster, C. R. - Agronomy - (PH Station) - Miscellaneous Donors $ 6,700
Frey, M. L. - Vet Science - Merck, Sharp & Dohme 9,500
Omtvedt, I. T. - Animal Science - Mid-America Dairymen 3,252
Peo, Jr., E. R. - Animal Science - Smith Kline 4,800
Shearman, R. C. - Horticulture - Miscellaneous Donors 2,625
Vogel, K. P. - Agronomy - Anna Elliott Fund 7,600

GENERAL NOTES
1. Two more special Ag Experiment Station Seminars scheduled: February 21, 3-5 PM, Dr. R. R. Oltjen discussing the Meat Animal Research Center programs, in the small Home Economics auditorium; and April 23, 3:30-5 PM, Governor Thone will discuss international marketing in the Prairie Suite of the East Campus Union. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.
2. Thank you all for your participation in a productive biennial IANR Staff Conference.
3. The comprehensive programs review of the Veterinary Science Department is January 22-25. Dr. Dickinson indicates that cooperators from other units are welcome to attend portions of interest to them. A phone call will get you schedule information desired.
4. Sahs sez - that the public relations program of allowing hunting at the Field Laboratory was successful again this year, thanks to fine cooperation of many staff. There were 2318 hunter registrations taking 423 animals of all species involved.
5. The 2.7 miles of Avenue A, the N-S public highway through the Field Laboratory has been newly improved and turned over to Saunders County. This has represented a serious problem of cost, maintenance and control as a University road used as a key public highway. The problem is now permanently solved through fine cooperation of Saunders County.
6. I have served as editor for this AES monthly newsletter since it was initiated in 1968 and have enjoyed doing so because I considered it an important communications mechanism and because of fine cooperation of many in providing materials and suggestions. Because of pressures of my duel administrative areas, I have asked Director Arnold to be relieved of this duty. Dr. Woodward will be taking over this newsletter. Thank you for your attention and help for the past 12 years.
7. "The secret of patience is doing something else in the meanwhile".

R. W. Kleis

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