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Agricultural Experiment Station News July 1980

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Activities Update

Additional activities involving Experiment Station units have included:
- Plant Pathology departmental visit
- Agronomy Department statewide tour; participated in three days of tour, which included stops at North Platte Station, High Plains Ag Lab, Panhandle Station, Northwest Ag Lab, and several farm, ranch and related commercial operations.
- Meeting of Evaluation Committee of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association at North Platte
- Turfgrass Field Day at Mead, and related Regional Research Committee meeting
- Several research project reviews

National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board

The National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board was established by Congress in the 1977 Farm Bill. The Board brings together varied points of view and prepares independent comments and statements of opinion relative to priority needs and budget priorities for research and extension work in the food and agricultural sciences.

Food and agricultural sciences are defined in the broadest sense, including social, economic, and political consideration of:
- A. Agriculture, including soil and water conservation and use, the use of organic waste materials to improve soil tilth and fertility, plant and animal production and protection, and plant and animal health;
- B. The processing, distributing, marketing and utilization of food and agricultural products;
- C. Forestry, including range management, production of forest and range products, multiple use of forest and range lands, and urban forestry;
- D. Aquaculture;
- E. Home economics, human nutrition and family life, and
- F. Rural and community development.

The Users Advisory Board is made up of 21 citizens representing the following interests as authorized by Congress:
- Producers of agricultural commodities
- Consumers
- Farm suppliers and food and fiber processors
- Food or agriculture related labor organizations
- Environment
- Private sector development in developing countries
- Human Nutrition
- Animal Health
- Food transportation
- Food marketing
- Rural Development

The Board is authorized by Congress to prepare two reports each year:
- One to the President and Congress appraising the President's Budget for food and agricultural sciences.
- One to the Secretary of Agriculture recommending allocations of responsibilities and funding for agricultural research and extension in accordance with the Board's priorities.
The Board's latest reports call for significant increases in funding for agricultural research and extension. In its March, 1980, Report to the President and Congress, the Board states, "It is our unified judgement, across our diverse areas of separate interest, that the resource base for agricultural research and extension must be increased beyond the 2 percent total of total Federal R&D funding it has remained at for the past 10 years if the Nation is to continue increased growth in its ability to produce and export food and agricultural products, while simultaneously maintaining the fertility and productivity of our land and other renewable resources."

Further, the Board has identified in its reports the following high priority areas for increased attention in future budgets:

- Basic research
- Agricultural transportation and distribution
- Integrated pest management
- Energy and agriculture
- Food security
- Competition in the food and agricultural system
- Structure of the food and agricultural system
- Human nutrition
- Water and agriculture
- Soil and land management
- Food security
- Competition
- Structure of the food and agricultural system
- Human nutrition
- Water and agriculture
- Soil and land management

During the past year, the Board has reviewed USDA in-house research programs (SEA-AR). They plan to focus attention on research programs of cooperating Experiment Stations (SEA-CR) during the next year. As research scientists, we need to understand the Board's role and impact on research funding priorities within SEA. And, we need to be prepared to explain to them the nature and importance of our research projects and programs.

Copies of the Board's reports are available in the Experiment Station Office for any who might wish to review them.

Roy G. Arnold
Dean & Director

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

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