Agricultural Experiment Station News May 1977
FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Marvel Baker—A great man. The less youthful of us Station staff members, including this writer, noted the passing of Dr. Marvel L. Baker on April 20, 1977 with a sense of personal loss. Station staff members of more recent vintage will be interested to know that Dr. Baker served the Experiment Station as its Associate Director from 1947 to 1955.

I recall with great clarity my first contacts with Marvel Baker, since he was serving as Associate Director when I came to Nebraska. He was crisp and to the point, not wasting words. He was critical and businesslike, but underneath there was deep dedication to agricultural research, and a very warm heart. I still recall the appreciation which I felt when he helped me solve a couple of what I thought at the time were very complex problems in which I found myself involved because of inexperience and a measure of thoughtlessness.

Marvel Baker was a great and good man!

Publication of Research Results. I venture to comment on this topic only with some trepidation; the topic of publications is not without emotional content! However, I feel moved to comment on the subject for two reasons: 1) the staff evaluation cycle through which we pass every year reemphasizes the importance of publications; 2) newer staff members ask us occasionally as to the Station attitude and posture concerning publications.

We are fully aware of the complexities involved in evaluating the quality of publications; distinguishing quality differences becomes ultimately a highly subjective matter. As you know, we do estimate a publication index for each staff member annually, based on his activities report. We also compute departmental averages of these indices. These indices are quantitative, but are based on different weights for various broad qualitative categories of publications.

When people ask us whether we consider only publications in evaluating a Station staff member, the answer is obviously no. Station staff members do many worthwhile and important things besides writing research reports. On the other hand, with only a few exceptions, the job assignments of professional members of the Station staff involve research activity. I do not think that it can be argued that research has been completed until the results have been published; indeed, publications are in fact the only effective means by which a research person can convey his important findings to his colleagues and to information users. Thus, over the long run, the success of a research person's career necessarily rests on his achievements in the form of publications, variety releases, inventions, or equivalent creative achievements. In the vernacular of an important rental car agency, let us all try harder!

Howard W. Ottoson
PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Francis, Charles - Assoc. Professor, Agronomy - Appointment
Hill, Robert - Assoc. Professor, Biochemistry - Special appt., Afghanistan contract
Lavy, Terry L. - Professor, Agronomy - Resignation
Mebus, Charles A. - Professor, Veterinary Science - Resignation
Richer, LeRoy - Asst. Professor, Biochemistry (MARC) - Courtesy appointment
Rush, Ivan G. - Asst. Professor, Animal Science (PH Sta) - Resignation

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Ball, H. J., Entomology - Union Carbide Corp. 750
Burnside, O. C., Agronomy - (2) - CIBA-GEIGY Corp. and Monsanto 3,750
Fenster, C. R., Agronomy (PH Sta) - Shell Chemical Co. 500
Grabouski, P. H., Agronomy (NP Sta) - Garst & Thomas Hybrid Corn Co. 1,150
Hagen, A. F., Entomology (PH Sta) - (2) - E I DuPont and Union Carbide Corp. 1,250
Hergert, G. W., Agronomy (NP Sta) - (2) - Wilson & Meyer Co. & Stauffer Chem. 1,500
Hudson, D. B., Vet. Science (NP Sta) - Norden Lab 1,241
Kindler, S. D., Entomology - Union Carbide Corp. 500
Martin, A. R., Agronomy - Monsanto Co. 500
Mayo, Z. B., Entomology - (2) - Monsanto Co. and Union Carbide Corp. 4,750
Moomaw, R. S., Agronomy (NE Sta) - (2) - Rohm & Hass Co. and Monsanto Co. 1,250
Nielsen, M. K., Animal Science - American-International Charolais Assn. 800
Peters, L. L. Entomology (SC sta) - (2) - CIBA-GEIGY Corp and Union Carbide 750
Peterson, G. A. & D. H. Sander, Agronomy - Phillips Petroleum Co. 5,000
Roeth, F. W., Agronomy (SC Sta) - Monsanto Co. 500
Shearman, R. C., Horticulture - (2) - OMC-Lincoln and Turfgrass Council 1,550
Van Etten, J. L., Plant Path - DHEW, National Institutes of Health 19,774
Wies, A. K., Plant Path - DHEW, National Institutes of Health 24,625
Ward, J. K., Animal Science - IMC Chemical Group 1,000
Wicks, G. A., Agronomy (NP Sta) - (3) - Shell Oil, Monsanto, & Chevron Chemical 2,750
Wiese, R. A. & R. C. Sorensen - Agronomy - Intl. Minerals & Chemical Corp. 15,000
Wilson, R. G. Jr., Agronomy (PH Sta) - Four Miscellaneous Donors 1,850

GENERAL NOTES

1. The Nebraska Station has received two competitive research grants in the 1977 awards by CSRS in which there were some 30 grants nationally. Except for Minnesota which received four the Nebraska Station fared very well among 56 stations.

2. Sahs Sez: Rains have come, temperatures were above normal in March and April, and planting is on schedule. Richard Mills will be Acting Supervisor, Field Laboratory, while I am on a temporary assignment in Afghanistan during June and early July.

3. Director Ottoson has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Farm Foundation (Chicago) and as a member of a national Agricultural Research Policy Advisory Committee. These are both very prestigious assignments. Congratulations, Howard.

4. Dr. Khem Shahani has been honored by the Nebraska Chapter of Sigma Xi as the Outstanding Scientist of the Year. Congratulations, Khem.

5. Field Day Dates: June 24 - High Plains Agr'l Lab, Sidney
   June 28 - VIP Tour - Northeast Station
   July 28 - Tractor Power and Safety Day - Field Laboratory
   Aug. 3 - Sandhills Agr'l Lab, Tryon
   Aug. 4 - Panhandle Station, Scottsbluff
   Aug. 17 - South Central Station
   Aug. 30 - Northeast Station

R. W. Kleis
Journal Articles (contact authors for more information)


Journal Abstracts (contact authors for more information)


77-862. Constraints to Improvement of Rangeland and Livestock in Morocco. J. Stubbendieck. First International Rangeland Congress.


77-867. Effect of Maturity at Harvest and a Preservative on the Value of Corn Silage for Lactation. F. G. Owen.


