FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I would like to mention two items from recent deliberations which will be of interest to you: 1) Project reviews. With general agreement from the department heads and district directors, and in an attempt to speed up the project review process we are going to transfer the responsibility for setting up project reviews to the respective department heads. The department heads will arrange for the reviews and schedule the meetings. The Director will continue to select the reviewers, and someone from the Director's office will chair the review sessions. We are viewing this as a one-year experiment. 2) Travel to commercial meetings. There has been concern expressed about the number of invitations which members of the Experiment Station staff receive to attend commercial meetings with expenses paid or at least with travel paid. I should point out that even though all expenses are paid, such trips are not without cost to the University or to the Station. The staff time represented in such trips will usually represent a larger cost than the out-of-pocket expenditures.

Approval for such travel is not automatic. Each such request has to be examined on its own merits. The following criteria necessarily apply: a) does the trip provide a sufficient potential contribution to the research area in which the staff member is engaged? b) can the trip be made without disruption of other activities, including teaching or extension to which the staff person is committed? We suggest that trip requests for such events be accompanied by a note to your department head or district director touching on these points.

"Stashing away" of grant funds. Quite a number of grants received by Station staff are in the form of payments made to finance the testing of certain materials or concepts. Presumably the funds are to be used in conducting these tests. However, we frequently notice that the funds apparently are not so used, which means that the tests are actually conducted with appropriated project funds while the grant funds are being left to accumulate and be carried forward sometimes indefinitely.

We do not regard this procedure of funds management to be appropriate. Where such occurs, we consider such unused grant funds to be available for the use of the department or district station at the discretion of the unit administrator.

Howard W. Ottoxon
PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Bish, Cyril - Extension Agriculturist - Lancaster County - Retirement
Bryan, Carol R. - Ass't. Extension Home Economist (SC Sta.) - Resignation
Bush, Mary A. - Ass't. Extension Home Economist - New Appointment
Fricke, Carl A. P. - Ass't. Professor - Cons. & Surv. Div. - Resignation

Fritschen, Robert D. - Assoc. Dist. Dir. - PH Sta. - Promotion
Hall, Millard W. - Dir, Water Res. Ctr. & Ass't. Dir, A.E.S. - Leave (7 months)
Long, Carol A. - Ass't. Professor - Food Science & Technology - New Appointment
Pond, Wilson G. - Professor - Animal Science - Courtesy Appointment

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Ball, H.J. - Entomology - American Cyanamid Company $ 500
Boosalis, M.G. - Plant Pathology - G. W. Joint Research Committee, Inc. 2,200
Burnside, O.C. - Agronomy - American Cyanamid Company 1,200
Burnside, O.C. - Agronomy - Hercules, Inc. 500
Chollet, R. - Biochemistry - USDA/SEA Competitive Grants Office 60,000

Fenster, C.R. - Agron. (PH Sta.) - Chemagro 1,850
Fenster, C.R. - Agron. (PH Sta.) - PPG Industries 500
Fenster, C.R. - Agron. (PH Sta.) - Eli Lilly and Company 2,000
Fenster, C.R. - Agron. (PH Sta.) - Shell Development Company 1,000
Lagrone, W.F. - Ag Econ - USDA Economics, Statistics, & Cooperative Service 5,800

Lindgren, D.T. - Hort. (NP Sta.) - ICI United States 600
Martin, A.R. - Agronomy - Miscellaneous Donors 625
Mayo, Z.B. - Entomology - American Cyanamid Company 1,800
Moomaw, R.S. - Agron. (NE Sta.) - Miscellaneous Donors 825
Retzlaff, R.E.J. - Ag Econ (PH Sta.) - Ag Products Industrialization & Util Comm 3,000

Shearman, R.C. - Horticulture - Nebraska Turf Grass Foundation 1,475
Shearman, R.C. - Horticulture - OMC - Lincoln 600
Thompson, T.L. - Ag. Engineering - DOE - USDA/SEA 39,101
Weihing, J.L. - PH Sta. - Rocky Mountain Bean Dealers Association 2,500
Wilson, R.G., Jr. - Agron. (PH Sta.) - PPG Industries, Inc. 2,000
Wilson, R.G., Jr. - Agron. (PH Sta.) - American Cyanamid Company 400

GENERAL NOTES

1. Wayne Collings of our library has information and usage of the "Current Awareness Literature Service" of SEA, USDA. Your department head or district director also has some information on this, dated October 30 from our office. It appears that this service newly available to us can usefully supplement CRIS search procedures for determining the published material of a topic and the research in progress.

2. Department Heads, Department Chairmen, District Directors and AES Administrators held a day long workshop on November 1 for discussing a wide array of concerns and concepts relating to AES program execution. This was the second in what will be a continuing series of such sessions for enhancement of AES programs.

3. Major areas of the Field Laboratory are again open to hunting.

4. Please be again reminded of the importance of the annual "staff activity reports" and the CRIS AD-421's (project progress reports). They will be coming to you soon. They are read and used. Please give them thorough and prompt attention.
Journal Articles - Submitted for Publication (contact authors for more information)


5587. Electroantennogram Responses of the Western Corn Rootworm, Diabrotica Vigifera LeConte, to Various Extracts from the Same Species. Charles A. Staetz and Harold J. Ball. Environmental Entomology.


Gerald R. Bodman, Assoc. Prof. of Agricultural Engineering, came from Penn State in June 1978.

J. Robert C. Leavitt, Assist. Prof. of Agronomy, joined the staff in June 1978, in the herbicide dissipation in soils position. He came from Michigan State.

E. A. Olson, Extension Agricultural Engineer, retired in August, 1978. He started to work for the University in 1939 as an Assistant County Extension Agent in Cheyenne County.

Raymond Chollet, Assoc. Prof. of Biochemistry, joined the staff in October, 1977, coming from the DuPont Company.

George E. Meyer, Assist. Prof. of Agricultural Engineering, joined the staff in April 1978, in the Center of Excellence in irrigation position.

Dennis Schulte joined the Agricultural Engineering Department in March, 1978 as an Assoc. Prof. in structures processing and instrumentation. He came from the University of Manitoba.

William A. Gustafson, Assist. Prof. of Horticulture and District Horticulturist, joined the staff in February, 1978. He came from Texas A & M.

Angel Ramos, Assist. Prof. of Veterinary Science, joined the staff in April, 1978 as a research pathologist, coming from Los Angeles, California.

Patrick Reese, Assist. Prof. of Agronomy, is district range management specialist at the Panhandle Station. He joined the staff in February, 1978, coming from Colorado State.