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Review of "Our Purpose is to Serve"; The First Century of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

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BOOK REVIEWS

usefully fills a gap in the history of agriculture on the Great Plains. The author explains how the experiment station was founded and the development of the main interests of its scientists: breeding varieties of crops and livestock, diversifying production, and adopting modern agricultural and business practices.

An important theme throughout the book is the bitter political struggle between conservative agriculturists and agrarian radicals, a division that reflected a traditional split between Whig political ideals of government-sponsored education and scientific research, and a Jeffersonian exaltation of the common farmer. Much of the book is therefore concerned with these politics and serves a useful function by providing a microcosm of national political and economic concerns.

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"Our Purpose is to Serve": The First Century of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. By David B. Danbom. Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1990. Photographs, notes, index. xii + 225 pp. \$24.00.

Danbom's exhaustive account of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station at Fargo