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Agricultural Experiment Station News January 1980 Letter

Howard Ottoson

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Institute of Agriculture
and Natural Resources

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68583

Reply to:
Agricultural Experiment Station
Office of Director
221 Ag Hall
East Campus
Phone 402 472-2045

January 7, 1980

Dear Station Colleagues:

As you know Dr. Roy Arnold has been appointed by The Board of Regents as Dean and Director of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station effective January 1, 1980. Personally, I am very pleased with Roy's appointment. I have become well acquainted with him while he has served as a staff member and a Department Head, and know that he will be a very effective Director of the Nebraska Station. I congratulate him, and you.

This letter is in the nature of an expression of appreciation to you as I leave the job of Dean and Director of the Station. I still vividly recall my somewhat mixed feeling in November, 1966 when I went from Agricultural Economics to Ag. Hall to "break in" to a new job during the few weeks that Herb Kramer remained at Nebraska. The new job appeared challenging and demanding; at the same time I loved my own research activities, and felt more than one pang at the inevitable break which I sensed would occur to that part of my life.

Since that time I have learned to know most of you, and to appreciate the many contributions which you make to Nebraska agriculture and the Nebraska economy and society. In the job of Station Director it is easy to become immersed in the volume of paper represented by budgets, program plans, CRIS forms, project outlines, requisitions, and travel requests. However, the success of the Station endeavor is ultimately and finally measured in the research successes which each of you experience individually. The Nebraska Station is an effective and achieving research organization, and you make it so.

I look back over the past thirteen years with satisfaction; many things have been accomplished including:

- Increased coordination between research and extension.
- The administrative consolidation of research activities in the Panhandle.
- The creation of a new district station at Clay Center, and the development of facilities for that program.
- The development of the Roman L. Hruska U. S. Meat Animal Research Center.
- The initiation of research in the Southeast District.
- The move of many research activities from the East Campus and Havelock to Mead, and the development of the Field Laboratory.
- The development of research facilities on East Campus for several departments.
- The development of the Sandhills Agricultural Laboratory.
- Growth in the number of Station scientists from 112 SYs in 1966 to 145 SYs today; an increase in State and Hatch appropriated funds from \$2.4 million in FY 1966 to \$9.7 million in FY 1979; and an increase of 350 percent in dollar support per SY. Included in the latter is an increase of support personnel per SY of Station scientist staff from 1.64 to 2.78.

Of course, all of these things have happened through group effort--the commitment and energy of many people. The Station administrative group has been highly effective. Associate Director Kleis has efficiently backstopped my efforts in a variety of ways. Assistant Directors Sahs, Woodward, and Hall have contributed in special ways. I owe a debt of gratitude to my faithful secretary, Mrs. Sorensen; to three financial officers, Walter Spilker, Charles Koopmann, and Alan Moeller; and to our Station analyst, Jerry Workman. I would cite the responsiveness and the dedication of the department heads and chairpersons, and the district directors. The cooperation of the Deans and Directors of the other divisions has been instrumental. I have enjoyed the support and confidence of three bosses--Frolik, Acker, and Massengale. And again, your efforts, and those of professional and classified staff of the Station have made things happen.

I do leave the position of Dean and Director with genuine regret; I can say that I have enjoyed no assignment more. However, change is stimulating, and I look forward to devoting full time to my assignment as Assistant Vice Chancellor, with its new challenges.

I do wish Roy Arnold exciting and challenging years as Dean and Director of the Nebraska Station, and to each member of the Station staff--a Happy and Rewarding New Year!

My best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Howard W. Ottoson