

# From the Director

**A. G. HAZEN**



On June 30, 1964, a constitutional measure was approved by the voters in North Dakota allowing a separation of legislative budgets for the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Stations from the budgets of the institutions of higher learning. Following this change, and beginning with the 1965-67 biennium, there has been a separate appropriations bill for the Extension and Station budgets each biennium.

The appropriations bill authorizes expenditures from the general fund, from local income, and from trusts and grants. The figures set by the legislature for expenditures from local income cannot be exceeded unless interim action is taken by the Budget Section of the Legislative Council. The pertinent language in the 1973-75 appropriations bill reads, "... public moneys from local sources, which shall include receipts from sale of grains, personal services, dairy products, livestock, and other agricultural products at the North Dakota main experiment station, branch experiment stations and the cooperative extension division, may be expended in excess of that specifically appropriated through biennial appropriations bills of the legislative assembly only in the event that an authorization has first been received from the subcommittee on budget of the legislative council."

Estimates of expenditures from local income sources for the 1973-75 biennium were developed early in calendar year 1972 for inclusion in the budgets proposed to the administration of North Dakota State University, the State Board of Higher Education, the Executive Budget Director, and ultimately the 1973 Legislature. Considering the drastic and unanticipated changes in prices during 1973 for those items which are normally both sold and purchased and involving the sales income funds, it became apparent shortly after July 1, 1973, the beginning of the current biennium, that the legislative authorizations based upon these estimates were far too low to permit continuation of the programs at the main station and the seven branch stations. For this reason it would be necessary either to reduce the programs at the several branch stations and the main station to stay within the legislative maximums for ex-

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**On the Cover:** JoAnn Bell, laboratory technician, and Dr. David E. Walsh, associate professor, Department of Cereal Chemistry and Technology, inspect a quality check sample of spaghetti made from an experimental North Dakota durum variety as it comes from the extruder to be prepared for further quality analysis. (Photo by Jim Berg)



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(Hazen . . . from page 2)

penditures, or seek additional authorization as provided in the legislation.

Therefore, on March 20, 1974, the Budget Section of the Legislative Council received and considered a proposed increase in income expenditure authorization for the main station and seven branch stations. The current Budget Section of the Legislative Council is composed primarily of the members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees from the 1973 Legislative Session, and Representative Robert F. Reimers is the Chairman of the Budget Section. Mr. Reimers also served as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee during the 1973 Legislative Session.

The proposal for increase in income expenditure was developed on the basis of actual expenditures during the first seven months of the current biennium, or from July 1, 1973 through January 31, 1974. These estimates together with records of sales income during the same period provided validity to the request. The Budget Section of the Legislative Council considered the request very carefully and discussed the many facets of allowing the change during the interim period. Following deliberation, the Budget Section voted to approve the request as presented with one minor change.

The Budget Section of the Legislative Council is to be commended for taking this positive action as it will assist the agricultural research program, particularly at the several branch stations, to cope with the current financial problems. It is also very fortunate the existing legislation was originally designed and maintained to provide and allow this procedure to be taken when the situation becomes critical as it is at the present time.

(Corn Hybrids . . . from page 30)

of two groups, an early group and a late group. For the four years, the early group averaged 80, 50 and 80 bushels per acre at Fargo, Mandan and Larimore, respectively, while the late group averaged 78, 96 and 98 bushels per acre at Fargo, Mooreton and Sheldon, respectively. The data presented should be of use to seedsmen and plant breeders interested in developing various types of hybrids adapted to North Dakota or areas with comparable environmental conditions, and of general interest to corn grain producers.

#### References

1. Cross, H. Z., and H. D. Wilkins. 1974. **North Dakota Hybrid Corn Performance Testing, 1973.** Agronomy Circular 108, North Dakota State University.
2. Wiidakas, William. 1967. **Adapted Corn Hybrids are More Dependable.** North Dakota Farm Research 25(1):13-15.