

# From the VICE PRESIDENT FOR AGRICULTURE

**K. A. GILLES**



1973 was a most exciting and rewarding year from the standpoint of North Dakota's agriculture. Record high prices combined with near record production markedly strengthened the state's economy. Moreover, applying research and good farm management practices provided crops under adverse conditions in certain areas.

1973 also seems to have been the year of the review, so far as the Agricultural Experiment Station, the Cooperative Extension Service and the College of Agriculture Resident Instruction staff are concerned. The past calendar year has seen the formation of one new advisory board, one study committee, a State Legislative Council review, and an audit by the Arthur Andersen Company of Chicago as a part of their overall University study at NDSU. The new five-member advisory board is the Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Consultation Board to the State Board of Higher Education, and the study committee is the Task Force appointed to study the organization and operations of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Preparing materials and special reports for these various boards and committees poses an extra burden on staff time and efforts. But, in the long run such requests on the part of interested people outside our organization for this kind of information prove to be most beneficial. In the first place, such requests impose a need to back off and take an objective look at ourselves and our operations. This is good, because most of the time we do not allocate sufficient hours to do this kind of thing. Secondly, requests for these kinds of analyses result in documentation of our efforts in reports that we normally would not do. The end result is a much more complete report to our constituents, the taxpayers of the state, than we normally accomplish.

It is this aspect of reporting what we are doing to our constituents that makes up the most important result of the reviews and surveys. If what we are doing does not meet with the approval of our audiences, the review gives us a base for program analysis, reappraisal, and for moving to more beneficial and rewarding programs.

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**On The Cover:** Sunflower production by North Dakota farmers stirs expanded breeding efforts that lead to new varieties. This is one example of the many cooperative efforts between USDA-ARS and State Agricultural Experiment Station researchers. Dr. David Zimmer, USDA-ARS plant pathologist, is at left, with Dr. Glen Statler, Department of Plant Pathology. (Photo by James A. Berg).

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