



December 1970

Dear Former Agronomists at NDSU,

This is the fourth annual Christmas letter from Agronomy, NDSU--the letters seem to be appreciated so we will try another in 1970. We hope that you will find it interesting and bring you up-to-date on happenings at NDSU as we know them--I'm sure we do not keep up with everything here. Last years letter brought some interesting and appreciated responses from you too, some current addresses, photos of families, etc. and we hope that you will continue to respond as we like to hear from you and your progress. We especially like to have you stop and visit us as you pass nearby, so please do even if only a few minutes.

Change continues here as everywhere--hopefully progress too. Not many major NDSU personnel or campus changes have occurred. Dean Miller of Pharmacy retired during the year and a replacement, Dr. Wurster, pharmacy professor of the University of Wisconsin, will replace him July 1, 1971. President Starcher of UND also will retire July 1, 1971, but the Board of Higher Education has not selected a replacement for him as yet to my knowledge. This is the year of the biennial Legislature and we hope that some program and budget advances can be made to at least meet inflation although state income resources are difficult and I notice this is a common symptom in most or all states. Some labor unions have just won almost unprecedented 35% increases of wages over 3 year period which will further aggravate inflation. Too many people are already a major problem for most or all countries and you all have noted probably that Dr. Borlaug has stressed the major problem of overpopulation in his Nobel Peace Prize speech in Sweden.

Building construction and completion has progressed some on the NDSU campus. The new Field House has been completed and is a wonderful large facility. However, it has not resulted in reorganization of the Agronomy volleyball team--I believe it is available for games, swimming, etc. at noon and Monday evening so far. Another new high rise dorm paid for with bonds and income has been approved for building just west of North High Rise, I believe, and plans have been approved for new food center to serve the 4 high rise dorm complex when completed. Also, I believe that a new bulk food storage and preparation center has been approved and being built to serve all the food facilities.

North Dakota farmers and agronomists were blessed with another relatively good crop although not as good as 1968 and 1969. Our spring was very late throughout the state resulting in late seeding. Rainfall was sporadic and scattered during the season with drouth conditions in parts of eastern and south central North Dakota. Barley and oats suffered more yield reduction than other crops. The summer was unusually warm so that corn and soybean yields were good if moisture was adequate, however, most of the corn area was too dry in July and August for good yield expression. Prices of wheat and feed grains are quite good, however, due to very good domestic and export demand for our high quality hard red spring and durum wheat, and the influence of the corn leaf blight and drouth on corn and feed grain prices. We expect our wheat acreage to increase sharply with demand for our wheat, and flexibility provided in the new government Crop Program.

Change continues in our faculty. Dr. Ken Larson has moved to the University of Missouri as professor, and took with him a new wife and family. I'm sure Ken would be glad to see you if you pass by his way. Dr. Dwain W. Meyer, Iowa State graduate and native of Nebraska, replaced Dr. Larson and seems to have survived a busy summer in research and teaching a large class in forage crops in the Fall Quarter. Dr. H. Roald Lund moved to Morrill Hall as Assistant Dean and Director but for a while we have continued to see a little of Roald in Agronomy. We hope that he also can give us some "continuity" as new staff person takes over the corn breeding project upon the retirement of Mr. Wiidakas next June 30, 1971. Dr. Edward L. Deckard, graduate of University of Illinois and native of Indiana, replaced Dr. Lund. Dr. Deckard had excellent training with Dr. Hageman at Illinois and will be conducting research in crop physiology here--mostly wheat and barley. Dr. Deckard also will assist in teaching Agronomy 103. Dr. Cal Messersmith completed his doctorate with May 29 graduation and we were fortunate to retain Cal here as Assistant Professor to take leadership of 103 teaching and do research in weed science.

Some pending changes are addition of new USDA sunflower breeder to work with Dr. Zimmer, flax and sunflower pathologist. We are interviewing a candidate today. You may be aware that the sunflower and edible oil market has improved considerably and that we predict the sunflower acreage in North Dakota and/or the Red River Valley and N. Dak. could reach 1,000,000 acres in 2 or 3 years if major production problems or market declines do not occur. However, the United States is asking for a 6 to 8 million increase in soybean acreage to meet domestic and export demand so the edible oil market looks good for the immediate future. We hope that this market trend also will help linseed oil or that we can convert linseed oil to some types of edible uses.

As noted above two fellows will be retiring in June 1971. Bill Wiidakas, leader of our corn breeding project, will be 70 in January, I believe, and must retire. Bill is apparently in good health and will really miss the corn field in summer, I expect, but maybe he can help out some local companies with good advice, and write a history of corn breeding at NDSU, we hope--also I'm sure Bill can use some rest and more leisurely pace. We will miss him. Lars Jens also has decided to retire before he must. We certainly will miss Lars who is an extension agronomist extraordinary. We have been trying to get an additional extension agronomist for several years and having a slightly experienced second person on the job now would really pay off.

Some other staff changes are appointment of Mr. Ken Rogers to Instructor rank. Ken has leadership of a project to investigate hybrid wheat seed production techniques as we are hoping that the hybrid wheat breeders will have a "real hybrid" ready for production within 3-5 years. David Ebeltoft is taking about a 9-month sabbatical to work on doctorate course work in seed processing and production at Oregon State University, Corvallis--we miss Dave as there is a lot of paper work in his seed stocks activities.

Other staff changes are retirement of Miss Olga Kastet who has been capably replaced by Miss Janet Matzek. Olga is still in good health and can work when we need her for special jobs. An additional loss in our experienced secretarial staff was Sharon Arnold who went to S. Dak. State with Dr. Gene to take a position there. Sharon is replaced by Miss Diane Gjernes. Mrs. Kathleen Strander resigned Dec. 1, 1970, and has been replaced by Mrs. Candice Blackmer. These three gals composed about 58 years of experience (most of that Olga's) in Agronomy which is not replaced easily. A new purchasing system has added to the detail and responsibility of these girls trying to do a good job for several bosses.

New technicians are Carl Madsen replacing Norman Shelton, retired, with Dr. Froberg; Roger Genoch replacing Don Welle With Dr. Peterson; David Langerud replacing Dennis Stoen also with Dr. Froberg; and Larry Wegner replacing Kerman Alm with Dr. Nalewaja and Mr. Swallers.

Some of you recall Mr. Gotzov of Bulgaria who was here as a wheat geneticist-breeder working with Dr. Lucken and funded with NDSU subsistence plus travel, insurance, etc. from the Church of Brethren Scientist Exchange Program. This program was expanded to larger number of scientists from Poland and we have Dr. Adam Dobrzanski and Mr. Bohdan Skopiec, plant physiologists and weed scientists, conducting research with Dr. Nalewaja.

New graduate students are Luis Bueno from Brasil, Ian Edwards from Rhodesia, Andres Truegas from Mexico, LeRoy Spilde from South Dakota, Phillip Stahlman from Oklahoma, Robert Lehrke from Minnesota, and from North Dakota, Terry Gregoire, Larry Wegner, Roger Weinlaeder, Donald Uglem, James Kramer, Tom Teigen and Raymond Sletteland. Mrs. Soon J. Park also has joined her husband from Korea. See the end of list of graduates for those that have completed and left NDSU or continue further work here. Eight Ph.D. and 8 M.S. candidates have finished since last Christmas. Mr. Sakhidad, AID Trainee, returned to Afghanistan, Tesfaye Tesemma transferred to Oklahoma State and Ruth Anne Lawn returned to Connecticut. Among the new graduate students we were unsuccessful in enrolling an NDEA Fellow for the first time since 1959, I believe.

Dr. Ahmed Mohktarzadeh, his wife and child completed their year of work here in wheat genetics with Ahmed as Fulbright Research Fellow and returned to Iran. They visited Dr. Colin Law and family at Cambridge enroute home. Dr. S. S. Maan and family are visiting the Laws also as they travel for a visit home to India over the holidays.

Other visitors during the year have been Wheat Trade teams from Philippines, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, Portugal, and Ghana. Some examples of foreign visitors to the department have been Mackey, Sweden, McIntosh and Motwan, Australia, Rochaix, France, Hunt, England, four trainees from Pakistan, three Russian Visitors, Dr. Tozu from Japan, and Dr. Nathanson from South Africa.

Undergraduate enrollment has expanded somewhat but graduate enrollment has decreased slightly to about 40. Jobs for all degree levels are very scarce and we are hopeful that all can find jobs reasonably in their area of interest. Many, many applicants for the two jobs available here indicate the abundance of candidates for jobs available. Our enrollment in Genetics courses is increasing. A Genetics Institute was formed finally in late summer with Dr. Whited as chairman of an executive committee also including Dr. Sandal. Many of our larger classes are now met in some of the large very nice theatre type classrooms of the new Pharmacy addition. The new University Village (east across University Avenue from the new Field House) is open to married students and there is no waiting list for married student housing for the first time in many years. Bison Court is still most popular because of proximity. Our campus continues progressive but rational with no student difficulties worth mentioning.

Probably most of you know by now that NDSU had another very successful football season with only a tie in the first game--winning all others, including the Camellia Bowl at Sacramento, Calif., again over University of Montana, 31-16. Again, our Christmas party was held on same evening, with 96 agronomists and wives attending at the transplanted Silver Moon in the Gardner Hotel. The party appeared very successful with Duane Berglund and Steve Miller the life of the party with "Chet and David" commentary on "news" in Walster and Waldron halls during the year. A similar sized group attended the annual Agronomy picnic in Lindenwood Park in mid-September.

Our staff continues to travel widely in their work with Dr.'s Foster, Froberg and Lucken and Prem Bahl, RF Fellow going to Obregon, Mexico, in spring. Mr. Ebeltoft had usual increases of grain in Arizona as we do in small amounts this winter. Dr. Quick, durum breeder, was invited to Toluca, Mexico, in September to review the summer durum nursery at Toluca. The ASA and CSSA annual meetings were scheduled in Tucson, Arizona in August and few than usual number of staff and students attended but several papers were presented. An NDSU Agronomy Club member placed third in the Speech Contest for students. Several staff were selected to serve on important committees and Dr. Carter became President-Elect of the Crop Science Society of America. As you have learned, Dr. Norman Borlaug was selected winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1970 and he will be the featured speaker for CSSA at the 1971 annual meetings in New York City, Aug. 15-20. Dr. Nalewaja, Dr. Dexter, and other weed scientists attended and participated in the NC Weed Control Conference in Lexington, Ky., in December, and are practicing their French for the national meetings soon in Montreal.

The department has achieved many things in research, teaching and extension in 1970. For example, we estimate that Waldron wheat, because of very good yield and high protein content, alone added \$14,500,000 income alone over the next best possible variety as grown on only about 2,000,000 acres in 1970. Many other examples are possible and will be related soon over a new weekly radio program called Research Benefits from NDSU. However, we still need improvement in Publication of theses and other publishable material--I believe that we published less this year than last! I would urge each of you, completed advanced degrees especially, to set a goal for publication of your theses within the next six months. Promise yourselves that you will start writing within one month and continue to write at night only if necessary and you will soon have the necessary manuscript to send to us for first editing. We will expect to hear from you soon with manuscripts enclosed!

As time passes rapidly, the research production and teaching results of our fine, mostly young, staff and their students, increases in quantity and quality earning the recognition of other agronomists here and around the world. Perhaps the real test of our progress is the apparent and stated approval and respectful recognition of our agronomic colleagues here and worldwide as we publish, speak at national and crop conferences, accept and give courteous attention to visitors or are tested by our critics here at home.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and success and satisfaction in your work. Let us hear from you and of your achievements, changed addresses, recent photos, etc. Please stop to visit as you may pass nearby.

Sincerely,

Jack F. Carter

Jack F. Carter
Professor and Chairman

AGRONOMY STAFF, 1970

J. F. Carter, Professor and Chairman
D. A. Whited, Ass't Prof., Soybean Genetics
L. A. Jensen, Professor, Extension, Crops
L. W. Mitich, Assoc Prof., Extension, Weed Control
E. L. Deckard, Ass't Prof., Crop Physiology
A. G. Dexter, Ass't Prof., Extension, Weed Control, Sugar Beets
R. H. Busch, Ass't Professor, Wheat Genetics
C. M. Swallers, Ass't Prof., Speciality Crops
J. D. Nalawaja, Professor, Weed Control
D. W. Meyer, Ass't Prof., Forage Crops
Wm. Wiidakas, Assoc Prof., Corn Breeding
Karl Lucken, Assoc Prof., Hybrid Wheat
J. S. Quick, Assoc Prof., Durum Wheat Breeding
A. E. Foster, Professor, Barley Genetics
G. A. Peterson, Professor, Barley Breeding
G. S. Smith, Professor, Graduate Dean, Wheat Breeding
R. C. Frohberg, Assoc Prof., Wheat Breeding
N. D. Williams, Professor, Wheat Genetics (USDA)
P. C. Sandal, Professor, Forage Crop Breeding
J. R. Erickson, Ass't Prof., HRW Wheat Breeding
A. B. Schooler, Assoc Prof., Barley Cytogenetics
S. S. Maan, Assoc Prof., Hybrid Wheat
H. R. Lund, Assoc Prof., Corn Genetics, Production
Calvin G. Messersmith, Ass't Prof., Weed Control
- D. C. Ebeltoft, Assoc Prof., Seedstocks
J. J. Hammond, Ass't Prof., Flax Breeding
L. R. Joppa, Ass't Prof., Durum Genetics (USDA)
A. R. Bell, Instructor, Weed Control
R. H. Shimabukuro, Ass't Prof., Plant Physiologist (USDA)

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Doctoral Fellows: support is Agronomy and Church of Brethren Scientist Exchange Program

Dr. Adam Dobrzanski and Mr. Bohdan Skopiec, both from Poland working with
Dr. Nalawaja and Dr. Messersmith.

Addink, Sylvan - NDEA
Alkus, Erol - RF
Atehi-Rang, Ghassem - GRA, Iran
Bahl, Prem - RF, India
Bell, Allyn - Staff, NDSU
Berglund, Duane - NDEA
Bergman, Jerald - Self-support
Bernhardson, Ed - Self-support
Bueno, Luis - GRA, Brasil
Chatha, Mohammad - Ford, West Pakistan
Edwards, Ian - GRA, Rhodesia
Ergun, Yusuf - RF, Turkey
Gomaa, Abdul - RF, UAR, Egypt
Gomaa, Mrs. E. - Self, UAR, Egypt
Gregoire, Terry - GRA
Iruegas, Andres - GRA, Mexico
Janke, Joel - NDEA
Kanter, Dwight - NDEA
Kramer, James - Self-supported

Lehrke, Robert - Self-supported
Lin, Chy Jiin - Self, Taiwan
Maldonado, Uriel - RF, Mexico
Mann, H. Allen - Self-supported
Mattson, Marvin - GRA
Mekni, Mohammad - AID, Tunisia
Miller, Steven - NDEA
Nowatzki, Robert - Self (Langdon)
Park, Soon J. - GRA, Korea
Rogers, Ken - Staff, NDSU
Sletteland, Raymond - Self-supported
Spilde, LeRoy - GRA
Stahman, Phillip - GRA
Teigen, Tom - Self-supported
Uglen, Donald - Self-supported
Vivar, Hugo - GRA, Ecuador
Wegner, Larry - Staff
Weinlaeder, Roger - GRA

**Native unless foreign student indicated; RF = Rockefeller Foundation Fellow; AID = Agency for International Development; NDEA = National Defense Education Fellow; GRA = Graduate Research Assistant.