



December 1971

Dear Former Agronomists at NDSU,

This is the fifth annual Christmas letter from Agronomy, NDSU--and you can notice from the postmark that we are barely getting the job done in 1971. Much correspondence with CSSA and ASA activities plus always increasing paper work of this job seems to keep us meeting only the deadlines that are "frantic" classification. We hope that you will find the letter interesting and bring you up to date on happenings at NDSU as we know them--I'm sure that I do not get time to keep up on everything going on here. We have had some interesting letters and visits from you and some family pictures which are appreciated. We need some current addresses and job responsibilities from some of you, and appreciate information on promotions, change of jobs, pictures, heirs, accomplishments, etc. We are interested and concerned about your family and your progress in your job. We especially like to have you stop and visit us as you pass nearby, so please stop even for only a short time.

Many of you have asked about Dr. Elham Talatt. He stopped here this fall en-route home after attending the dedication of the new CIMMYT building in Mexico. He continues to work at his former wheat breeding position in Egypt at the location shown in address list. The Talaat's have a lovely young daughter to go with son, Noor now. Apparently several of our alumni attended the CIMMYT building dedication and renewed acquaintances there. We also will hope to see some of them at annual ASA, CSSA meetings in Miami October 29-November 3, 1972.

Change continues here as everywhere--hopefully progress too. Not many major NDSU personnel or campus changes have occurred. Dr. Wurster, pharmacy professor of University of Wisconsin became Dean of Pharmacy College--this is of interest to us for several reasons but mainly because we use Sudro Hall (Pharmacy) rooms for most or all of our large lecture classes, large seminars, etc. now. The biennial North Dakota Legislature did the best possible, I guess, with funds available but salary increases barely kept pace with inflation and most projects will operate at previous levels without increases. Nevertheless, our staff adjusts well and continues to perform at highly productive level, I believe.

Building construction and completion continues to progress on NDSU campus. Another new high rise dormitory is about completed and also another dining center which will be surrounded by and attached to the four high rise dorms. A food preparation center also has been completed and in use supplying all food facilities--this building is south of Agronomy greenhouses and near Naval Reserve building. A sugar beet research building also was constructed west of greenhouses by Red River Valley Sugar Beet Growers Association. Two new quonsets are under construction for machinery storage for field research bringing total to six in use by several departments--these are west of Poultry Research Center. The NDSU heating plant also is

being expanded. The old apartments in North Court are being moved away as vacated and "North Court" soon will be history apparently. University Village on east side of University Avenue is completely and mostly occupied, I believe. The Buildings and Grounds building also has been enlarged, changed in appearance and renamed Thorson Maintenance Center. (Mr. Thorson and Miss Toring of Business Office have retired recently.) The SU-75 program continues and recently received a large gift from former owner of WDAY. If you receive Bison Briefs and/or Bison Highlights, perhaps you have read of some of above already.

North Dakota farmers and agronomic research enjoyed a very favorable crop year--in fact a record year surpassing all others, I believe, although final reports are not in yet. Rainfall and soil moisture supplies were favorable over entire state most of summer, and temperatures were mostly favorable too. The fall was long, favoring corn and soybean production, but some sugar beets were lost to flooded fields. Short wheats released by various agencies including Minnesota produced very well in eastern North Dakota and at some points in western North Dakota quite in contrast to 1970. NDSU has very high yielding hard red spring and durum short wheats at advanced stages of development but it is not known yet if these will meet our quality standards--no other short wheats have met these standards either but are being grown, and the real quality decision awaits the ultimate action of those who buy and mill wheats or sell them for export. Some crop problems were (1) higher than usual ergot content in our wheats and (2) rapidly declining prices with bumper crops. Other persistent crop problems are weed competition and troublesome leaf diseases. Sunflowers for both oil and edible seed (confectionary and birdfeed) have increased rapidly in acreage and will increase further in 1972. We will be attempting to create an edible oilseed flax to complement the declining demand for industrial oilseed flax, and enter the bullish edible oilseed market with an edible linseed oil. Hopefully we can retain the flax crop for North Dakota farmers.

Change continues in our faculty. Mr. Wiidakas has retired and been replaced by Dr. Harold Cross, University of Missouri graduate. The Cross family is native to New Mexico and have four children. Lars Jensen retired and was replaced by Mr. Harold Wilkins, veteran extension agronomist from Kansas State University, whom some of you may know. This transition from Lars to Howard was much easier than would have been possible with new, inexperienced person. Lars continues to work part time for Agronomy on weather modification project (predictive), as a consulting agronomist for others, etc. so we see a lot of him. Mr. Wiidakas also continues to work some on corn history and writing for which he did not take time in past. Dr. G. N. Fick, University of California graduate, joined NDSU as USDA sunflower geneticist, and has become involved quickly in very active and large program to improve, evaluate, inform, etc. about oilseed and edible sunflowers in North Dakota and Minnesota. Several commercial companies have involved themselves with expanded activities or new programs in sunflower improvement, processing, marketing, etc., e.g. Cargill Inc., Dahlgren and Company, Agway, Minnesota Linseed Oil Company, Interstate Grain and Seed Company, etc. to name a few. Sunflowers are a "new crop" of interest in southern U. S. also. Several departments at NDSU are now engaged in research of various kinds on sunflowers.

Another new research activity is our involvement in the irrigated research facility at Oakes, North Dakota being administered by superintendent Olson of the Carrington Station. Several of our professors are involved in research on corn, soybeans, forages, miscellaneous crops, grain crops, etc. at Oakes to develop information for use by farmers of the area when irrigation becomes more general there in 3-5 years.

Some other staff changes are resignations of secretaries Diane Gjernes and Mrs. Virginia Haug (the Haug's have a new son) by Sharon Collette and Mrs. Elaine Dobrinz, respectively. Some of you will recall that Elaine worked for us several years ago and part time more recently for USDA and some thesis typing. Harris Anderson resigned as technician to Dr. Williams and Raymond Olek is new technician for Dr. Fick. Mr. Ebeltoft returned from sabbatical at Oregon State University where he was taking course work, etc. as Ph.D. candidate. Ann Pruszyński married to become Ann Huseby.

Dr. Adam Dobrzanski and Mr. Bohdan Skopiec, research fellows with us in weed science from Poland under Church of Brethren Scientist Exchange Program, have returned to Poland. Dr. Jan Piss also from Poland has joined us also as Post-doctoral research fellow in weed science under same program. These men accomplish a lot in one year and we hope get training of great value to them when they return to Poland. Mr. Gible, administrator of this program, visited us this past summer regarding the program. The "exchange" part of program involves U.S. citizens who go to Eastern Europe, etc. to study art, language, etc. as the counterpart program.

New graduate students are few due to slackening of Rockefeller, Ford, AID, and other fellowship programs. Our NDSU alumni in foreign countries are encouraged to assist outstanding young scientists to come here and to help find fellowship support for them as we in Agronomy have limited resources to provide financial aid to foreign students. We would like to help train scientists in plant breeding and weed science especially who will return to their native countries to improve food crop production and production techniques. New students this year are: Hailu GEBRE from Ethiopia, Ghazanfar RASHID from Pakistan, and Wayne VIAN as NDEA Fellow from Nebraska. Two Ph.D.'s and five M.S. candidates have finished since last Christmas which is fewer than 1970. Jobs are more scarce too so maybe decreased output is not all bad.

Foreign visitors during the year have been numerous with mainly our wheat and barley improvement staff as hosts. Wheat Trade Teams from Algeria, Spain, United Kingdom, Japan, etc. have been group visitors and individuals from such countries as Russia, India, Australia, Japan, Egypt, Ireland, etc. have visited. Two Agronomy Clubs from other states visited (Montana State and Minnesota) and were hosted by staff and our NDSU Agronomy Club. Cornell plans to send their summer tour for class credit to North Dakota again in 1972 for the third visit to NDSU and North Dakota.

Many of you have commented about the Agronomy Christmas party and fall picnic in your letters. The party was held December 17 in the NDSU Memorial Student Union with 103 persons attending. Several staff wives presented an original skit as the "Agronomy Gripe Committee" impersonating their respective husbands--they were entertaining, prettier than their husbands and well received by everyone to our knowledge to date. The Union Game Room was available for all after the party. The fall picnic was similarly attended in Oak Grove park with Drs. Deckard, Cross, etc. providing Illinois Supersweet roasting ears. Usually our Christmas party conflicts early in evening with completion of Bison playing in Camellia Bowl--not true this year although the Bison still had an excellent 8-2 season and very interesting and pleasing games except for one at home and one on road. We expect a good season from them in 1972. The rest of NDSU athletic program had very good year too but gets less attention than football.

Our staff continues to travel widely in their work with Drs. Foster, Lucken, Froberg, Quick, etc. in Oregon, Mexico, in spring. Ebeltoft was in Oregon but made one trip to Arizona. Ken Rogers cared for harvest in Arizona of a durum later named Rolette and recently released. Only a few staff traveled to New York to ASA meetings in August because of distance, harvest conflicts, etc. Dr. Carter traveled twice to Madison, Wisconsin, for CSSA-ASA Executive Committee meetings and to New York but the CSSA work is mostly correspondence and planning work and not excessive travel. Weed scientists Nalewaja, Mitich, Dexter and Messersmith have traveled to several Weed Society meetings as well as technical seminars of chemical companies-- herbicides are big business and chemicals are suspect nowadays, or guilty until proven innocent! Several students traveled to New York for interviewing but jobs are scarce and two students soon to graduate are still without firm job offers. Like pollution, Plant Variety Protection Act was a "big thing" last spring and several of us attended several meetings involving USDA, State Experiment Station, and commercial or private seed company personnel to discuss the topic. There are many opinions on plant protection with or without royalties so will be interesting topic to observe in next few years.

The department has achieved many things in research, teaching and extension in 1971. Nordic barley appears to be very good in its first year of production on large field scale. A new durum variety, Rolette, has been released for seeding on about 15,000 acres in 1972. Rolette appears to be a promising early variety choice having good agronomic qualities for some of northern areas in North Dakota. Our Agronomy courses are taught well with apparent good student reaction and response. Agronomy 306 continues to expand in enrollment with about 25-30% of students from colleges other than agriculture. Our Extension program continues good but at least another extension agronomist is needed for all programs possible in this crop state. Lars Jensen received great recognition by many people and many different groups upon his retirement, and the undergraduate scholarship provided by North Dakota Crop Improvement Association was named the Lars A. Jensen Scholarship. Agronomy staff and students have produced many technical publications in 1971 but many more are still possible. I again would urge each of you completing theses or who have done so in last five years to set a goal for publication of your thesis within the next six months if you have not published already. Set a goal of your "first copy" within two months with final copy to us for review within six months--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 critics here at home.

We hope that you had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy, healthful and successful New Year. Let us hear from you and of your achievements, changed addresses, recent photos, etc. Please stop to visit us as you pass nearby.

Sincerely yours,

*J. F. Carter*

Jack F. Carter

Professor and Chairman

AGRONOMY STAFF, 1971-72

J. F. Carter, Professor and Chairman  
 D. A. Whited, Ass't Prof., Soybean Genetics  
 H. D. Wilkins, Assoc. 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., Specialty Crops  
 J. D. Nalewaja, Professor, Weed Control  
 D. W. Meyer, Ass't Prof., Forage Crops  
 H. Z. Cross, Ass't 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. Froberg, 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)  
 R. H. Hodgson, Ass't Prof., Plant Physiologist (USDA)  
 G. N. Fick, Sunflower geneticist (USDA)  
 R. H. Shimabukuro, Ass't Prof., Plant Physiologist (USDA)

TECHNICIANS, 1971-72

Eldien Edinger, durum wheat, USDA  
 Roger Genoch, barley  
 Harold Hickel, durum wheat  
 Gerald Johnson, HRW wheat  
 David Langerud, HRS wheat  
 James Liedahl, hybrid wheat  
 Lyle Lindberg, flax, soybeans  
 Carl Madsen, HRS wheat  
 Wayne Norby, forage crops  
 Sigurd Odegard, HRS wheat  
 Raymond Olek, sunflowers, USDA  
 Allen Schmidt, durum wheat, USDA  
 Merle Skunberg, barley  
 Garrett VanWatermulen, misc. crops  
 Larry Wegner, weed control

SECRETARIES, 1971-72

Janet Matzek, Sec'y II  
 Virginia Levenson, Sec'y II, Ext.  
 Candice Blackmer, Sec'y IV  
 Sharon Collette, Sec'y IV  
 Elaine Dobrinz, part-time  
 Ann Huseby, Sec'y IV  
 Linda Schneekloth, Sec'y IV

\*\*AGRONOMY GRADUATE MAJORS, 1971-72

Doctoral Fellows: support is Agronomy and Church of Brethren Scientist Exchange Program  
Dr. Jan Piss from Poland working with Dr. Nalewaja and Dr. Messersmith.

Addink, Sylvan - NDEA  
Alkus, Erol - RF, Turkey  
Atashi-Rang, Ghassem - GRA, Iran  
Bell, Allyn - Staff, NDSU  
Bergman, Jerald - Self-support  
Bernhardson, Ed - Self-support  
Bueno, Luis - GRA, Brazil  
Chatha, Mohammad - Ford, West Pakistan  
Edwards, Ian - GRA, Rhodesia  
Gebre, Hailu - FAO, Ethiopia  
Gomaa, Abdul - RF, Egypt  
Gomaa, Mrs. E. - Self, Egypt  
Gregoire, Terry - GRA  
Iruegas, Andres - GRA, Mexico  
Kanter, Dwight - NDEA  
Lehrke, Robert - Self-supported  
Maldonado, Uriel - RF, Mexico

Mann, H. Allen - Self-supported  
Mattson, Marvin - GRA  
Miller, Steven - NDEA  
Nowatzki, Robert - Self (Langdon)  
Park, Soon J. - GRA, Korea  
Rashid, Ghazanfar - ITE, Pakistan  
Rogers, Ken - Staff, NDSU  
Sletteland, Raymond - Self-supported  
Spilde, LeRoy - NDEA  
Stahlman, Phillip - GRA  
Teigen, Tom - GRA  
Uglen, Donald - Self-supported  
Vian, Wayne - NDEA  
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.