



December 1972

Dear Former Agronomists at NDSU,

This is the sixth annual Christmas letter from Agronomy, NDSU--and you can notice from the postmark that we are barely getting the job done in 1972. 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 uptodate 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.

The North Central Branch of the American Society of Agronomy will meet at NDSU, Fargo, July 12-13, 1973, so this will be our invitation to you and good excuse for those of you in the North Central area, or anywhere, to come visit us. Also, the International Wheat Genetics Symposium will meet at University of Missouri, Columbia, in early August and will have a post-conference tour which will make its only research stop at Agronomy, NDSU, Aug. 13-15, 1973, so we are inviting and hoping that some of you even from foreign countries that will be attending the Symposium will plan to take the post-conference tour to NDSU.

Change continues here as everywhere--hopefully progress too. We have had no faculty or staff changes in Agronomy except Mrs. Joleen Markey who worked for us a few years ago returned as secretary to replace Mrs. Linda Schneekloth who left when her husband finished school. Jerry Miller also replaced Ken Rogers as noted later. LeRoy Spilde replaced Mark Jendro (retired) July 1, 1972, as Superintendent of Agronomy Seed Farm, Casselton. Dean Wurster of Pharmacy was here only a short time and moved on to University of Iowa. We are without a Dean and Director of Extension as Art Schulz died quite suddenly about a week ago. Vic Sturlaugson, former Superintendent of Langdon Experiment Station also died within last month.

Building construction and completion continues to progress on NDSU campus. The third High Rise dorm has been completed and will be used for our NC Agronomy summer meetings, July 12-13. A complete dining facility, bookstore annex, skating rink, etc. accompany this new dorm. A sugarbeet research building has been completed and 2 new quonset machinery storage buildings west of the Poultry Research Center. Practically

all the North Court apartments have been moved away and students now occupy Bison Court and University Village east of University Drive and the new Field House. The old south stands at the stadium were torn down and replaced with new stands purchased from changes in a stadium for a professional football team in the east. If you receive Bison Briefs and Bison Highlights, probably you have read of much of the above.

North Dakota farmers and agronomic research enjoyed another good crop year with increased acres of wheat and good yields resulting in the most bushels ever. Prices have increased to the best in many years and farmers should feel prosperous. Prices of most crops including wheat continue to advance with sales of United States wheat and other grains to the Soviet Union, China, our regular customers like Japan, and some pending to India, etc. The need for promoting U.S. wheat in foreign markets has subsided temporarily. Some of you will be interested that we have made some modifications of our wheat varietal recommendations to include in "wheats of marginal quality" three of the "semidwarf" group that have many but not all of the desired quality characteristics desired in our quality wheat from North Dakota. Great demand for wheat and ready sale of all wheats have stimulated the above change. We hope to have an NDSU hard red spring wheat to add to the list of either "acceptable quality" or "marginal quality" wheats soon. Yield per acre is now the "name of the game" with all wheat selling at a good price apparently and farmers with high yields taking advantage of the very strong market selling cash wheat now and selling some 1973 crop on the "futures" market. This trend could reverse quickly with large wheat crop in U.S. and the world, of course. Sunflowers were an important crop in this Red River Valley in 1972 with about 800,000 acres but will have lots of competition from other crops in 1973 due to higher grain prices.

A relatively new research activity taking considerable time and stimulating interest is the irrigated crop facility at Oakes, N.D. This Oakes site is in south central N.D. and warm-season crops like corn and soybeans have produced a high level. Alfalfa also has produced very well--up to 8-9 tons/A of dry hay in some cases. Interest in irrigation increases and we have requests to extend the research areas to the northwest on a line from Oakes, Carrington, onwards to the area east of Minot and beyond to Canadian border. Also we have increased our effort in oat breeding research and will expand further in 1973.

Farmers became very interested in losses caused by wild oats in crops this past year and several of them in Jamestown area "wrote their Congressmen" and got some results. We are getting considerable labeled research funds from USDA federal sources to expand research on wild oats. Dr. Shimabukuro of the USDA Metabolism and Radiation Lab on campus will cooperate and also participate in some similar related research. We probably will be involving one Postdoctoral, a technician and several GRA's on this research for the next several years.

You will recall that we have had several Postdoctorals from Poland working in weed control research. Dr. Jerzy Pudelko now with us is the fourth of these Postdoctoral Fellows from Poland and another may come in the spring, 1973. This program is sponsored by the Church of Brethren Scientist Exchange Program but the Fellows are funded mainly by Agronomy. Two other Postdoctorals have joined with Dr. Maan in wheat cytogenetics research, Dr. Willie Washington, a student of Dr. Sears and associates at Missouri, and Dr. Jerald Bergman, our graduate from NDSU. This latter is funded by D. F. Jones Fellowship program from funds accumulated with the Jones-Mangelsdorf hybrid corn principle patent and administered by the Research Corporation of New York. We are continuing to compete in this program and are seeking Postdoctorals or Pre-doctorals having training and interest in wheat or other crop cytogenetics.

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 Juan Dominguez from Spain, Louis Marquis, Gary Schultz, Dennis Chamberlain, Perry Cregan, Eugene Jorgenson, Narayan Kharache from India, Sutin Sorowat from Thailand, Rudolph Vigil, Herb Schmidt, Gale Ellingson, Dennis Miller, John Drege and Jerry Miller, the latter on staff and replacing Kenneth Rogers. Five Ph.D.'s and 6 M.S. students completed degrees and took positions or returned to positions in their home countries in 1972. Jobs are more plentiful than in 1971 period but still not as much choice as 3-4 years ago.

Foreign visitors during the year have been numerous with mainly our wheat and barley improvement staff as hosts. Wheat Trade Teams from Japan, Korea, Norway and Italy have been group visitors with individuals from the Soviet Union, Sweden, France, Brasil, Ethiopia, Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Philippines, Sudan and Egypt to name most of them. Cornell University made a stop here again with their summer tour in agriculture--this is the third time they have stopped at NDSU and toured N.D. in recent years.

Many of you have commented about the Agronomy Christmas party and fall picnic in your letters. Our Christmas party was Dec. 19 at the Bowler with 110 attending. Ian Edwards and Ghassem Atashi-Rang on the accordion and violin, respectively, entertained the group. Probably other hidden musical talent is available in the graduate student group but was not displayed due to excessive modesty. The fall picnic was well attended with Dr. Cross and the "corn crew" providing Illinois Supersweet roasting ears in abundance. Usually our Christmas party scheduled on Saturday has conflicted with appearance of the Bison in a bowl game. The football Bison had a good 8-2 season, beat UND, and ended in 3-way tie for conference championship. UND represented N.D. in the Camellia Bowl and beat their opponent soundly. You are welcome at Homecoming or any time.

Our staff continues to travel with visits to Obregon, Mexico, and Arizona to produce new crop varieties the most frequent. Dr. Foster traveled to Obregon twice last spring due to illness of Dr. Peterson at a critical harvest time. Mr. Ebeltoft produced new durums and barley in Mexico and Drs. Zimmer and Fick produced a new sunflower in Hawaii. Many staff and students and a few wives traveled to Miami in Nov., 1972, to annual Agronomy meetings. Dr. Carter made two trips to Madison, Wisc., Headquarters as CSSA President and Dr. Williams traveled there also as member of the CSSA-ASA Finance Committee. The weed control scientists have traveled to several meetings and seminars. Dr. Fick, USDA sunflower geneticist, traveled to France to International Sunflower Conference. Dr. Carter attended the North Central Branch ASA summer meetings at Purdue and Dr. Messersmith spent about 3 weeks at Purdue in July at special national workshop on Audio-Tutorial system of teaching. Dr. and Mrs. Maan and family are now in India on a personal vacation trip. Dr. Maan became a U.S. citizen in March, 1972, with Dr. Williams and Dr. Carter having the pleasure as sponsors. Speaking of travel, both Dr. Lebsack and Dr. Briggles have been moved from Beltsville, Md., to St. Paul, Minn., in the latest USDA reorganization.


The Agronomy department has achieved many things in research, teaching and extension in 1972. Nordic barley has been very good but failed to make the "acceptable for malting" classification by MBIA. Another new barley variety will be re-

leased in January, 1973 and is a pioneer in acceptance for malting prior to naming and release. A new durum variety, WARD, has been released for seeding on about 20,000 acres in N.D. in 1973. Ward is a very promising new durum variety that may replace wells and Leeds very soon if it performs as good in the field as in preliminary trials. A new rust resistant sunflower variety also will be released from the sunflower improvement project, USDA. Our weed control science program continues to be very productive as is other research in the department. Some of our staff publish results of their research promptly--others do not. Again I would urge each of you who have completed theses recently to set a goal of publication of your thesis within the next six months. 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! Congratulations to Dr. Eugene Arnold who received the Outstanding Teacher Award at South Dakota State University in his second year of teaching!

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. The reception and reaction to scientific papers from our staff and students at Miami ASA, CSSA meetings was outstanding. 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,


 Jack F. Carter
 Professor and Chairman

JFC:jgm

AGRONOMY STAFF, 1972-73

J. F. Carter, Professor and Chairman
 D. A. Whited, Ass't. Prof., Soybean Genetics
 H. D. Wilkins, Assoc. Prof., Extension, Crops
 L. W. Mitich, Professor, Extension, Weed Control
 E. L. Deckard, Ass't. Prof., Crop Physiology
 A. G. Dexter, Ass't. Prof., Extension, Weed Control, Sugarbeets
 R. H. Busch, Assoc. Prof., 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
 K. A. 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., Ass't. Director, Experiment Station
 C. 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, Ass't. Prof., Sunflower geneticist (USDA)
 R. H. Shimabukuro, Ass't. Prof., Plant Physiologist (USDA)

TECHNICIANS, 1972-73

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, 1972-73

Janet Matzek, Secretary II
 Virginia Levenson, Secretary II, Ext.
 Candice Blackmer, Secretary IV
 Sharon Collette, Secretary IV
 Elaine Dobrinz, parttime
 Ann Huseby, Secretary IV
 Joleen Markey, Secretary IV

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS, 1972-73

- Dr. Jerzy Pudelko: support is Agronomy and Church of Brethren Scientist Exchange Program, working with Dr. Nalewaja and Dr. Messersmith.
 Dr. Jerald Bergman: support is from D. F. Jones Fellowship Program.
 Dr. Willie Washington: (Jones-Mangelsdorf corn patent funds) for research in cytogenetics of major food crop, wheat, under Dr. S. S. Maan's direction.

**AGRONOMY GRADUATE MAJORS, 1972-73

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|--|---|
| Addink, Sylvan - NDEA | Marquis, Louis - GRA |
| Atashi-Rang, Ghassem - GRA, Iran | Mattson, Marvin - GRA |
| Bernhardson, Ed - Self-support | Miller, Dennis - GRA |
| Chamberlain, Dennis - GRA | Miller, Jerry - Self-support, Staff |
| Cregan, Perry - GRA | Miller, Stephen - NDEA |
| Dominguez, Juan - IRI, Spain | Nowatzki, Robert - Self-support (Langdon) |
| Drege, John - Self-support | Rashid, Ghazanfar - IIE, Pakistan |
| Edwards, Ian - GRA, Rhodesia | Schmidt, Herb - Self-support |
| Ellingson, Gale - Self-support | Schultz, Gary - GRA |
| Gebre, Hailu - FAO, Ethiopia | Sletteland, Raymond - Self-support |
| Gomaa, Abdul - RF, Egypt | Sorawat, Sutin - Self-support, Thailand |
| Gomaa, Mrs. E. - Self-support, Egypt | Spilde, LeRoy - NDEA |
| Iruegas, Andres - GRA, Mexico | Teigen, Tom - GRA |
| Jorgenson, Eugene - GRA | Uglen, Donald - Self-support |
| Kharche, Narayan - Self-support, India | Vian, Wayne - NDEA |
| Lehrke, Robert - Self-support | Vigil, Rudolph - GRA |
| Mann, H. Allen - Self-support | Vivar, Hugo - GRA, Ecuador |

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**Native unless foreign student indicated; RF = Rockefeller Foundation Fellow; AID = Agency for International Development; NDEA = National Defense Education Fellow; GRA = Graduate Research Assistant; IRI = IRI, New York, and INIA, Spain.