

January, 1976 (for 1975)


Dear Former Agronomists at NDSU, and families,

This is the ninth annual Christmas and New Year's letter from Agronomy, NDSU; sorry about that date above as the jobs multiply each year and the help stays the same, so the letter did not get written until the last day of the so-called "holidays." Many of you are 12-month employed agronomists now so you know how that goes. We have had the usual meetings in 1975 plus a few more. ASA meetings were in the summer at Knoxville, Tenn., and that turned out to be a hot place. Flax Institute was at South Dakota State, Brookings, so we had a good chance to see old friends like Darrell Wells and wife, Lois, who live on a small farm south of Brookings. Dr. Gene Arnold and wife, Sharon (Sharon Johnson, our former secretary), invited us to dinner and we got acquainted better with their children, Deron and Dawn. The National Macaroni Manufacturers met on NDSU campus in April because of our durum wheat production and contacts mainly with Cereal Technology. The North Dakota Agricultural Association met in the new fieldhouse this November--this meeting is getting bigger each year with expansion of agribusiness.

Our new Agricultural Consultation Board which is advisory to the Board of Higher Education met several times in 1975, once with all department chairmen. This Board has been beneficial to NDSU and agriculture so far. Dr. Carter presented a paper on Food Supplies and Population at a Symposium April 24 on the NDSU campus. He, Jerry Miller and Perry Cregan gave numerous talks on campus and in the Fargo-Moorhead community on this topic in 1975. Dr. Carter also continues as member of the Mined Land Planning Group related to revegetation of strip mined land, and is a member of the Task Force on Vegetation of REAP (Regional Environmental Assessment Program) set up by the last North Dakota Legislature. On a similar topic, Dr. Carter and other faculty reviewed position papers on wheat, barley, oats and rye prepared for the Working Conference on Research to Meet World Food Needs held in Kansas City about mid-1975. The Conference papers are now printed and distributed.

Another significant event in 1975 was the 25th anniversary of the Agronomy Seed Farm. A program was prepared in which Dean Hazen, Dr. Carter, Dr. Ebeltoft and Dr. Spilde, the last the new superintendent of the Seed Farm, participated. Attendance was large and many of the fund donors of 25 years ago were recognized. In 1975, Dr. Carter also became a member of the Quarter Century Club at NDSU having joined the faculty in April, 1950--interviewed then by Associate Dean Glenn Smith and Mr. Stoa.

Each of you and our many visitors usually are interested in the staff changes that you will notice at the end of this letter.



Dr. Peter Fay, Research Associate, arrived January 1, 1975, from Cornell University to take leadership of our wild oats pilot (field) program. Dr. Steve Miller, Research Associate and Postdoc since 1973, was appointed Assistant Professor in a new weed scientist position added by action of the last Legislature. Dr. Jerry Miller becomes Research Associate with Dr. Quick in durum breeding effective January 1, 1976. Dr. Mike McMullen of Minnesota will join our faculty March 1, 1976, as oat breeder, another position from the last Legislature. Three new technicians employed from "new program" funds are Darrel Heins with Dr. Schneiter, Russell Mathison with Dr. Smith, and Bruce West with Dr. Cross. Reed Tinkham is a new technician with Dr. Dexter replacing Gary Bordson. New ARS, USDA technician with Dr. Thompson is Larry Lewis. LeeAnn Tommerdahl resigned December 15, 1975, soon to be married, and has been replaced by Ilene Trittin. Dr. Jerome Franckowiak finished his D. F. Jones Postdoctoral and took a potato breeding position in Peru. Dr. Marion Krol has returned to Poland but has been replaced with two new Brethren Fellows, Edward Szelezniak and Ryszard Gorecki.

Members of the department and friends of Jerry and Sharon Miller were greatly saddened in August with the accidental death of the Millers' young son, Devin. The Miller family have started a Scholarship in Agronomy for an outstanding student in plant breeding--it was awarded first to Perry Cregan.

The campus continues to change. The new Family Life Center has been completed and occupied, with an art gallery one of the interesting additions. The new Veterinary Science Building is completed and recently occupied by Veterinary Science and Bacteriology. Modernization of the Meats Lab continues and is nearly completed. Agronomy is beginning plans for enlarging the cold storage facilities for seeds in the Corn Seedhouse and modification of other rooms and facilities in the Corn Seedhouse. We understand that the Agricultural Science Building will be started if the North Dakota General Fund is at an adequate level in the middle of the biennium.

North Dakota farmers and agronomic research enjoyed a good year. Late June and early July floods in the Red River Valley caused considerable damage along the Red River but crop conditions were generally good, resulting in the second largest North Dakota grain crop in history. Crop prices were good through summer and into early fall but have declined greatly in recent weeks so that hard red spring wheat is below \$4/bu. at Fargo, and durum wheat is the lowest in several years. Other crop prices have declined, too, so more grain may be fed to livestock than in the last year or so. Probably none of you have noticed any decline in food prices, however! Waldron and Olaf wheat, all the durum varieties, Larker and Beacon barley, NDSU developed corn inbreds, etc., continue to perform great in North Dakota and adjoining states. Also, USDA-NDSU developed sunflowers and sunflower hybrids perform well and occupy much of the sunflower acreage. Weeds continue to perform well in North Dakota, too, but our fine weed scientist group develops better weed control techniques with each passing year.

Our cooperative agreements with ARS, USDA, to conduct research to control wild oats, and the field pilot program on which Dr. Peter Fay works have been renewed, and we are making excellent progress in ways to control wild oats. Another grant to supplement our research in durum wheat breeding will begin January 1, 1976, and be provided by the North Dakota State Wheat Commission and three segments of the durum processing and marketing industry. The sugarbeet industry also has provided a grant to hire Research Assistant, Galen Schroeder.

We have a large number of new graduate students in 1975, partly due to outside grants supporting graduate students, and to several new foreign students coming to Agronomy, NDSU, with Fellowships provided by their home countries. Dr. Carter has been discussing cooperation with Mississippi State University in their seed production program in Brazil for several years and two graduate students came to NDSU this fall out of the Mississippi State program to study with Dr. Ebeltoft and others. We hope that our graduates in foreign countries will help outstanding young scientists to get fellowship support to come here to study. We believe we at NDSU can best help to improve world agriculture by training young scientists who can come here to learn better how to improve food crop performance, better control of weeds, etc., after they return to their home countries. New students this year are natives Joseph Aqua, Jeffrey Ault, Val Eylands, Jon Fisher, Danny Gigax, Will Harada, Mike Owsley, and Galen Schroeder (last is Research Assistant full time). New foreign students are Claudenei Andreoli and Ed Bolson from Brazil, Jesus Cedeño from Venezuela, Homayon Ghiasi from Iran, Domingo Luizzi from Uruguay, Mario Salazar and Javier Salinas from Mexico, and Tom Wilson from Canada.

Students completing graduate degrees last spring, 1975, are Sutin Sorowat, planning to farm near Jamestown with in-laws; Dr. LeRoy Spilde, superintendent of Agronomy Seed Farm, Casselton; Tom Teigen, farming near Hunter; Dr. Wayne Vian, Assistant Professor of Agronomy at University of Kentucky; Dr. Jerry Miller, Research Associate, Agronomy, NDSU; Steve Hudson, with American Cyanamid at Omaha, Nebraska; and Luis Garcia, who has returned to Spain to work as weed control scientist--Luis will conduct his Ph.D. thesis in Spain.

As usual we have had many foreign visitors in 1975 plus Wheat Trade Teams from at least Switzerland, EEC, Tunisia, Brazil and the Philippines. We hope that some of you will be among our "foreign" visitors in 1976. Please stop to visit as you may pass this way in your travels.

Our staff continues to travel with several faculty traveling to Obregon, Mexico, to care for and harvest wheat and barley nurseries. A winter flax nursery has been seeded in Arizona in 1975 for the first time and sponsored by the Flax Development Committee. Dr. Ebeltoft and Dr. Fick are culturing sunflowers in Florida this winter as in the past several winters. Dr. Ebeltoft also traveled to Oregon State University during the year to deliver his Ph.D. thesis and successfully pass his final exam--not bad for a "young fella" like Dave, and Dave deserves our congratulations!

Dr. and Mrs. Carter traveled to Bulgaria to see daughter Nancy, husband Eric and grandson Andrew in June and early July. Enroute we visited former students and friends--Juan Dominguez and wife and Dr. and Mrs. Wally Sackston in Spain, also parents of Luis and Rosa Garcia, and Marisa Granda--Marisa was married this summer and is now expecting a child, she writes; also in Spain we met a sister and brother of Marisa, Dr. Sanchez-Monge, and many others including Detroy Green of Iowa State, just arrived for a two-year hitch as soybean breeder; in France we visited with Dr. Pierre Grignac, durum breeder in southern France, and Claude Jouin, Mr. Macquet, Mr. Yvon, and others of the GAE seed company, several Embassy people, and many others of durum wheat industry in France--GAE has registered Wells and Lakota durum in France and we visited many of the people who came to NDSU with SYNPRODUR group a few years

ago; we traveled by train from Spain, France, Italy, Yugoslavia and on to Bulgaria--in Bulgaria Dr. Carter made a 4-day auto trip with Eric through the country and to visit Kosta Gotzov, our first Brethren Exchange Fellow, at the Wheat Institute, Tolbuhin, Bulgaria, not far from the Black Sea and the Danube River--crop production is well done in Bulgaria with wheat, corn, sunflowers, etc., observed; we flew back to Paris, then on to Cambridge, England, to visit Dr. Colin Law and family; from England we went via train and ship to The Netherlands, to Munich, Germany, to the Third International Barley Genetics Symposium (the latter the only official function for NDSU although most travel was Agronomy oriented); then back to Winnipeg and Fargo. Dr. Carter also attended two meetings as Crop Science Society Director to CAST, Council for Agricultural Science and Technology. This is a consortium of 15 scientific societies and many individual members to promote and explain agriculture to the public, Congress, etc. You should join as an individual member if you have not.

Dr. Mitich also made a significant trip in 1975 to southern Africa including Rhodesia and South Africa, related to an international meeting of those interested in succulent plants--cacti, Euphorbia, etc. Dr. Mitich visited Dr. Ian and Mrs. Edwards while in Rhodesia.

Dr. Alan Dexter attended the International Sugarbeet Weed Control Conference in Paris, France, which is held every five years, and visited a sugarbeet research center and a research institute for plant protection in Vienna, Austria, also.

Many of you have commented in your letters or cards about our Christmas party and Agronomy fall picnic. The party was December 17 at the Hi-Ten on one of our colder nights so far--we have had a very dry and mild winter to date. Dr. Dexter was MC, Christiaan Mulder narrated for the students and Mrs. Munoz sang in Spanish with guitar to about 114 attending. We had good attendance at the fall picnic, too, with Dr. Cross providing the usual Illinois Supersweet corn.

The Bison football team did not do so great this fall but they were interesting and the conference is getting tougher--and we have a new coach, and good luck to him! Agronomy has achieved many things in teaching, research and extension in 1975. We have released a new short durum wheat called Cando after the town, a hard red winter wheat named Roughrider, and shared in release of Culbert flax with Minnesota, South Dakota and USDA. Clarence Swallers was honored for his work on sunflowers for many years by the North Dakota Agricultural Association. We produced about a 200-page combined departmental annual report first in 1975 reporting the numerous activities of all faculty in research, teaching and extension for the 1974 year. We published a lot of research in scientific journals in 1975 but many of you should yet complete your thesis summarization for publication--write if you need help on this end.

As the time passes rapidly, the research production and teaching results of our fine, mostly young, staff and their students increase in quantity and quality, earning the recognition of other agronomists and weed scientists here and around the world. (We had 50 graduate students in Fall, 1975, and more undergraduates than ever before.) I sincerely believe we have made a very good impression on all our native and foreign

visitors in the past year, especially those coming to NDSU for the first time. The reception and reaction to scientific papers from our staff and students at the ASA meetings in Knoxville and recent North Central Weed Control Conference in Milwaukee were outstanding as usual. Three of our faculty received outstanding paper awards in the ASA, Chicago, meetings of 1974, and student Wayne Olson presented the winning paper at the 1975 NCWCC in Milwaukee. Probably 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 crop and weed conferences everywhere, accept and give courteous attention to visitors, or are tested by critics here at home. In 1975, I met many people who know about our outstanding research. Dr. Nalewaja was invited to present a key paper on weed control as related to energy use at the 1975 annual North Central Weed Control Conference.

We hope that you had a Merry Christmas or other holiday season, and will have a happy, healthful and successful 1976. Let us hear from you and of your achievements, changed addresses, recent photos, etc. Many of you sent cards recently, some with photos; please keep the photos coming! And, please stop to visit us as you pass nearby.

Sincerely,

J. F. Carter

J. F. Carter

Professor and Chairman

AGRONOMY FACULTY, 1975-76

J. F. Carter, Professor and Chairman
 M. K. Anderson, Assoc. Prof., Barley Breeding
 Reed E. Barker, Adjunct Prof., Forage Crop Genetics (USDA, Mandan)
 R. H. Busch, Assoc. Prof., Wheat Genetics
 D. F. Cole, Adjunct Professor, Sugarbeet Physiologist (USDA)
 H. Z. Cross, Ass't. Prof., Corn Breeding
 E. L. Deckard, Ass't. Prof., Crop Physiology
 A. G. Dexter, Assoc. Prof., Extension, Weed Science, Sugarbeets
 D. C. Ebeltoft, Professor, Seedstocks
 J. R. Erickson, Assoc. Prof., HRW Wheat Breeding
 P. K. Fay, Research Associate, Weed Science
 G. N. Fick, Adjunct Prof., Sunflower Geneticist (USDA)
 A. E. Foster, Professor, Barley Breeding
 R. C. Frohberg, Professor, Wheat Breeding
 J. J. Hammond, Assoc. Prof., Flax Breeding
 R. H. Hodgson, Adjunct Prof., Plant Physiologist (USDA)
 L. R. Joppa, Adjunct Prof., Durum Genetics (USDA)
 K. A. Lucken, Professor, Hybrid Wheat
 H. R. Lund, Professor, Assoc. Director, Experiment Station
 S. S. Maan, Professor, Hybrid Wheat
 C. G. Messersmith, Assoc. Prof., Weed Science
 D. W. Meyer, Ass't. Prof., Forage Crops
 J. F. Miller, Research Associate, Durum Wheat Breeding
 S. D. Miller, Ass't. Professor, Weed Science
 L. W. Mitich, Professor, Extension, Weed Science
 J. D. Nalewaja, Professor, Weed Science
 J. S. Quick, Assoc. Prof., Durum Wheat Breeding
 P. C. Sandal, Professor, Forage Crop Breeding
 A. B. Schooler, Professor, Barley Cytogenetics
 A. A. Schneiter, Ass't. Professor, Specialty Crops
 R. H. Shimabukuro, Adjunct Prof., Plant Physiologist (USDA)
 G. S. Smith, Professor, Wheat Breeding
 T. E. Thompson, Adjunct Prof., Research Geneticist (USDA)
 D. A. Whited, Assoc. Prof., Soybean Genetics

AGRONOMY FACULTY, 1975-76

H. D. Wilkins, Assoc. Prof., Extension, Crops
 N. D. Williams, Adjunct Professor, Wheat Genetics (USDA)

Retired:

L. A. Jensen
 T. E. Stoa
 C. M. Swallers
 W. Wiidakas

TECHNICIANS, 1975-76

Kay Carlson, wheat cytogenetics
 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
 Robert Baumann, HRS wheat
 Dale Rehder, sunflowers, USDA
 Allen Schmidt, durum wheat, USDA
 Merle Skunberg, barley
 Garrett VanWatermulen, misc. crops
 Gordon Auwarter, weed control
 Ronald Roach, weed control
 Reed Tinkham, sugarbeet weed control
 Larry Lewis, flax genetics, USDA
 Darrel Heins, crop production
 Russell Mathison, oat breeding
 Bruce West, corn breeding

SECRETARIES, 1975-76

Janet Matzek, Secretary III
 Virginia Levenson, Secretary I, Ext.
 Mary Duerr, Secretary I
 Donna Kilen, Clerk Typist I
 Elaine Dobrinz, one-half time, Clerk Typist
 Ilene Trittin, Clerk Typist I
 Susan Ulwelling, Clerk Typist I

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS, 1975-76

Edward Szelezniak: support is Agronomy and Church of Brethren Scientist Exchange
 Program working with Dr. Nalewaja.
 Ryszard Gorecki: support is Agronomy and Church of Brethren Scientist Exchange
 Program working with Dr. Nalewaja.

**AGRONOMY GRADUATE MAJORS, 1975-76

Andreoli, Claudenei - MSU, Brazil
 Aqua, Joseph - GRA
 Ault, Jeffrey - self support
 Auwarter, Gordon - self support
 Bernhardson, Ed - self support
 Boerboom, Marvin - GRA
 Bolson, Eder Luiz - MSU, Brazil
 Bybee, Thomas - GRA
 Caroline, Joseph - self support
 Cedeño, Jesus - self support, Venezuela
 Cregan, Perry - GRA
 Deghais, Mahmoud - AAI, Tunisia
 Eylands, Val - self support
 Fisher, Jon - GRA
 Fisher, Loren - GRA
 Garcia, Luis - IRI, Spain
 Ghiasi, Homayon - self support, Iran
 Gigax, Danny - GRA
 Harada, Will - GRA
 Henson, James - GRA
 Holbrook, Frederick - GRA
 Knudson, Joel - self support
 Luizzi, Domingo - AID, Uruguay
 Lukach, John - GRA

Mann, H. Allen - self support
 Marquis, Louis - GRA
 Miller, Dennis - self support
 Mulder, Christiaan - GRA, South Africa
 Munoz, Dorance - ICETEX, Colombia
 Nowatzki, Robert - self support
 Olson, Wayne - GRA
 Owsley, C. Mike - GRA
 Panjsheri, Mohammad - AID, Afghanistan
 Rashid, Ghazanfar - IIE, Pakistan
 Rubani, Hosseinali - self support, Iran
 Salazar, Mario - CONACYT, Mexico
 Salinas, Javier - CONACYT, Mexico
 Sam, Reuben - self support, India
 Sasakuma, Tetsuo - DFJ, Japan
 Schmidt, Herb - self support
 Schroeder, Galen - Res. Ass't.
 Schultz, Gary - GRA
 Vigil, Rudolph - GRA
 Ward, Roger - GRA
 Wicks, Zeno, III - GRA
 Wilson, Tom - GRA, Canada
 Wright, Leslie - GRA

**Native unless foreign student indicated; ICETEX = Ministry of Education and Colombian Institute of Agriculture; AID = Agency for International Development; CONACYT = Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia Mexico; MSU = Mississippi State Univ. Seed Program; GRA = Graduate Research Assistant; DFJ = D. F. Jones Fellow; CB = Church of Brethren Cooperation; AAI = African American Institute; IRI = IRI Research Institute.