

January 1, 1980, for 1979



Dear Former Agronomists at NDSU, and families,

I'm really starting this letter on Christmas evening, Dec. 25, but may not get it printed and mailed for a few days--hopefully yet in 1979. We wish you a happy and prosperous and peaceful 1980. I recall that my opening sentence of the 1979 letter mentioned some countries were in turmoil of various kinds in 1978-79 and we wished you peace. Now, this year the United States is involved in an unpleasant and unusual incident with Iran and we are hoping that it will be solved soon peacefully and without further harm to those involved.

1979 has been busy and the many duties expected of agronomists seem to increase as the years pass--perhaps some of us get slower also! We had many foreign visitors as usual including 9 visiting foreign Trade Teams and two large farmer tours from Argentina and Australia. Dr. Ebeltoft, although retired, helped organize the tours and served as guide for the busload each of visitors from Argentina and Australia. Among other visitors, Ing. Tavella from Uruguay spent about 3 weeks with us reviewing various research projects especially wheat breeding.

All of the faculty we lost in 1978 have been replaced with good professors who already are teaching, doing their research, and advising students. Dr. Rollin Sears came in May, 1979, to replace Dr. John Erickson in hard red winter wheat breeding so our faculty is at full force. In addition we have added 3 new Research Associates paid from special research grants. The addition of the Research Associate Postdoctorals expand the research but have resulted from faculty working long extra hours to write competitive grants in most cases. Although we obtained more offices in Walster in the move I described last year, the addition of new temporary faculty also has filled the offices with two people now in some of small offices.

Although Dr. Ebeltoft retired in September, 1978, he continued to work for us part time until Allan Mann could become available full time in June. We had a big retirement party for Dr. Ebeltoft in August which many attended and Dave and wife Hazel received many nice gifts. Also, many of you will remember Professor Len Sibbitt of Cereal Technology who retired July 1, 1979, at 70 years old. A nice party was had for Professor Sibbitt also, and he and wife have moved to San Diego, California, area. Many of you will be saddened to learn that Dean Hazen, who might have been on some of your examining committees, died quite suddenly and unexpectedly in early 1979. He had only recently become Director for the North Central Region of 13 states.

We have had some other staff changes too. Debbie Mueller and Margaret Slykerman both have married and left. Pamela Odegaard has replaced Debbie as Clerk Typist and Patricia Olson has filled another Clerk Typist vacancy. We now have only 5 clerical persons in the main office but probably they are the best combination of people we have had for a long time. With increased "paper work" each day or week we need a full time bookkeeper and plan to make that position our next objective in early 1980. Hal Fisher has replaced Russ Mathison as Technician with Dr. McMullen.

More recently, USDA technicians Merlin Lyon and Jane Piersall with Dr. Jerry Miller and Dr. Joppa, resp., have left and been replaced by Ray Albrecht and Margaret Hollenhorst as NDSU employees in the General Agreement with USDA.

Agronomy has produced 11 M. S. candidates and 8 Ph. D.'s since last year through the end of December, 1979. Ph. D.'s listed in Commencement program (not all attended) were...Tom Bybee, James Henson, Wayne Olson, Mario Salazar, Javier Salinas and Tom Wilson. Completing M. S. degrees by commencement time were Dale Aaberg, Michele Beguhn, Robert Benson, Ricardo Davila, Gillian Hennessy, William Niehaus, and James Stewart. Since Commencement to Dec. 31, 1979, David Chandler, Hosseinali Rubani, Seiichi Tsuji and Zeno Wicks III have completed Ph. D.'s and Duane Flom, Pat Fuerst, Vafa Kamali, Bruce Monson and Eke Onuoha have completed M. S. degrees.

As of this December, 1979, we have 56 graduate students registered on campus or pending completion of degrees as you see in the attached list. New students are foreign students Costa Josephides from Cyprus and Carlos Riede from Brasil. New native students and their most recent degree institution are Mark Anfirrud, NDSU, John Cranmer, Cornell Univ. NY, Diane Dancy, North Carolina State University, Kenric Johnson, Gustevus Adolphus and St. Cloud Univ., Minn., Lyndon Johnson, Concordia, Moorhead, John Jones, Univ. Minn. Morris, Frank Manthey, Purdue Univ., James Melzer, Colorado State Univ., Stephen Moore, Mississippi State Univ., and Adrian Moses, Univ. Illinois, Urbana.

Church of the Brethren Postdocs Adam Dobrzanski, Eugeniusz Kolota and Marek Stuczynski from Poland have returned home and Jacek Kiec is here studying with Dr. Nalewaja. Another postdoc from Egypt will come soon to study with Dr. Nalewaja and associates in weed science. Also, Dr. T. R. Endo from Japan will come in March, 1980, to study with Dr. Maan in wheat cytogenetics.

New Postdoctorate Research Associates are Dr. Dan Parfitt attempting to develop sunflower tolerant or resistant to bird damage, Dr. Rodney Lym to expand research on control of leafy spurge, and most recently W. Larry Alexander to conduct further research with Dr. Cross on a technique to use aleurone pigment to predict corn performance via an easy, quick inexpensive method. Also, we have funding to support a Research Associate with Dr. Sandal in breeding of dry edible beans.

As usual, our students and faculty have presented many papers at ASA, CSSA, WSSA, and at the North Central Weed Control Conference. Dr. Messersmith continued as Editor of the NCWCC proceedings. Many papers, project proposals, etc. have been edited in the department this year. If you have completed an M.S. or Ph.D. and your thesis is or was publishable, have you prepared it for publication? If not, you should do so now, set a goal to prepare the paper in the next six months or sooner, and get it to us. You have an obligation to yourself, your advisor, and the department to prepare the research for publication or it does little good in the scientific community. The Agronomy Monograph "Sunflower Science and Technology" edited by Dr. Carter and published in November, 1978, is now nearly sold out and will be reprinted after correction of any known typographical errors or other minor changes.

NDSU is changing and enrollment increased again in 1979 to about 7800 students. We have about 150 undergraduate majors in Agronomy and Dr. Messersmith and Dr. Meyer have 38 majors each in Junior and Senior Seminar this Winter quarter. Many good jobs are available in Agronomy for all degree completion levels. Last year, you may recall, we converted Walster 217 from a graduate office back to a classroom and it along with 221 and 247 are used almost continuously for Agronomy and other classes. BISON football was moderately successful with new coach Don Morton, and an interesting team to watch, probably the best team in the conference at the end of the season, but by then they had lost a few close games.

The physical campus continues to change. Our office expansion and flexibility of 1978 did not last long as we added some Research Associates and now we are crowded again with a new USDA Weed Scientist to be "housed" with us by July 1, 1980. Dr. Bill Donald here in 1978 for a postdoc with Dr. Shimabukuro is returning from Colorado State Univ. The new addition to the NDSU library is mostly completed and partly occupied. The 12th ave. overpass is very convenient to many people and highly used. Dakota Drive has been constructed from 19th ave. to 12th ave. and an I-29 exit will be constructed at 19th ave. soon--not much Agronomy research land is affected. We got approval and funds for a start on a new greenhouse-headhouse building from our State Legislature, and the federal Congress is helping out with \$1.2 million to expand the construction. The new Music Building was approved and is at the top of building list but awaits a favorable General Fund balance before it can begin.

The 1979 crop year was another good one in North Dakota with about 3.5 million acres of sunflower. However, a strike at Duluth and plenty of sunflower seed in storage has depressed the sunflower price. Other grain prices are fair but durum wheat is better.

Agronomy has had many foreign visitors in 1979. We had 9 Wheat Trade Teams from present or potential wheat customers and two large groups of farmer visitors from Argentina and Australia. Ing. Tavella of the La Estanzuela Station, Uruguay, spent about 3 weeks here emphasizing wheat research and other topics. Dr. Messersmith was a weed science curriculum consultant in Uruguay for over a month in January-February. Dr. Foster visited the Philippines again in 1979 as barley breeder consultant with San Miguel Corporation.

Our faculty received some outstanding academic awards in 1978-79. Dr. Nalewaja was selected as the Second Fargo Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Professor (Dr. Maan was the first), Dr. Messersmith was the first faculty member of Agriculture to receive the Robert Odney all-University Teaching Award, Dr. Glenn Smith received the Blue Key Doctor of Service Award, and Dr. Carter received the Outstanding Educator Award from Alpha Zeta. Also, we received an Academic Excellence Award of \$7500 from the DuPont Corporation primarily for our weed control science program in research, teaching and extension. Also, Dr. Dexter was recently given the Sugarbeet Pioneer of the Year Award by Minn-Dak Co-op at Wahpeton. Dr. Mitich received a Distinguished Service Award from North Central Weed Control Conference for many years as Editor of Research Reports and Proceedings. An M.S. student, Duane Rathmann was third in recent speech contest of North Central Weed Control Conference. Our undergraduates did not place in the student contests at American Society of Agronomy this year.

Other achievements were release of Len hard red spring wheat named after Len Sibbitt, retired Cereal Technologist, and Vic durum wheat, named after Vic Sturlaugson, former superintendent of the Langdon Station. Also, Dr. Cross was successful to secure a grant in corn genetics in the USDA competitive grant system.

Many of you have commented in your letters or cards about our Christmas party and Agronomy fall picnic. The party was Dec. 8 at the Bowler with about 125 attending--many more students attended than usual partly because they were still here with NDSU in session. Dr. Williams was MC and a very good and clever slide show program was presented with Barry Nagle in charge for the students. The fall picnic at Oak Grove was attended by about 150 people with Dr. Cross supplying usual Illinois Super Sweet corn. We send our best wishes to those NDSU Agronomy alumni who get together in Mexico City at Holiday time.

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. 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 Fort Collins and recent North Central Weed Control Conference, Milwaukee were outstanding as usual. 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.

We hope that you had a Merry Christmas or other holiday season, and will have a happy, healthful and successful 1980. 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! We would much appreciate photos of you and your family. And, please stop to visit us as you pass nearby. If we do not have your current, correct address, please supply to us, and of address changes as occur.

Sincerely,

*J. F. Carter*  
J. F. Carter  
Professor and Chairman

Continued from page 8

AGRONOMY FACULTY, 1979

J. F. Carter, Professor and Chairman  
 W. Larry Alexander, Research Associate, Corn Genetics  
 W. S. Ball, Extension, Crops  
 R. E. Barker, Adjunct. Prof., Forage Crop Genetics (USDA, Mandan)  
 D. R. Berglund, Extension, Crops  
 L. G. Campbell, Research Geneticist, Sugarbeet (USDA)  
 D. F. Cole, Adjunct. Prof., Sugarbeet Physiologist (USDA)  
 H. Z. Cross, Assoc. Prof., Corn Breeding  
 E. L. Dechard, Assoc. Prof., Crop Physiology  
 A. G. Dexter, Assoc. Prof., Extension, Weed Science, Sugarbeets  
 - - - - - , Research Associate, Weed Physiology  
 D. C. Ebeltoft, Professor Emeritus, Retired  
 A. E. Foster, Professor, Barley Breeding  
 J. D. Franckowiak, Assoc. Prof., Barley Breeding  
 R. C. Froberg, Professor, Wheat Breeding  
 J. J. Hammond, Professor, Flax Breeding  
 - - - - - , Adjunct Prof., Plant Physiologist (USDA)  
 L. R. Joppa, Adjunct Prof., Res. Geneticist, Durum Genetics (USDA)  
 K. D. Kofoid, Ass't Prof., Wheat Genetics  
 K. A. Lucken, Professor, Hybrid Wheat  
 H. R. Lund, Professor, Director, Experiment Station  
 Lym, Rodney G., Research Associate, Weed Science  
 S. S. Maan, Professor, Wheat Cytogenetics  
 H. A. Mann, Instructor, Seedstocks  
 M. S. McMullen, Ass't Prof., Oat Breeding  
 C. G. Messersmith, Assoc. Prof., Weed Science  
 D. W. Meyer, Assoc. Prof., Forage Crops  
 J. F. Miller, Research Geneticist, Adj. Prof., Flax and Sunflower Breeding (USDA)  
 S. D. Miller, Ass't Prof., Weed Science  
 L. W. Mitich, Professor, Extension, Weed Science  
 J. D. Nalawaja, Professor, Weed Science  
 Parfitt, Dan E., Research Associate, Sunflower Breeding  
 J. S. Quich, Professor, Durum Wheat Breeding  
 W. W. Roath, Adjunct Professor, Research Geneticist, Sunflower (USDA)  
 P. C. Sandal, Professor, Forage Crop Breeding  
 A. B. Schooler, Professor, Barley Cytogenetics  
 A. A. Schneider, Assoc. Prof., Speciality Crops  
 R. G. Sears, Asst. Prof., HRW Wheat Breeding  
 R. H. Shimabukuro, Adjunct Prof., Plant Physiologist (USDA)  
 G. S. Smith, Professor Emeritus, retired  
 D. A. Whitel, Prof., Soybean Genetics  
 N. D. Williams, Adjunct Professor, Wheat Genetics (USDA)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS IN AGRONOMY:

Roy Johnston, Durum Wheat Breeding  
 Galen Schroeder, Weed Control, Sugarbeet  
 Carol Somody, Weed Control

SECRETARIES, 1979

Janet Matzek, Secretary III  
 Eileen Buringrud, Secretary II  
 Virginia Levenson, Secretary I, Ext.  
 Elaine Dobrinz, Secretary I  
 Patricia Olson, Clerk Typist I  
 Pamela Odegaard, Clerk Typist I

RETIRED

L. A. Jensen  
 T. E. Stoa  
 C. M. Swallers  
 W. Wiidakas  
 D. C. Ebeltoft  
 G. S. Smith

AGRONOMY GRADUATE MAJORS, FALL QUARTER, 1979

Sufi Ahmed - ATD, Bangladesh  
 Mark Anfinrud - GRA  
 John Cramer - GRA  
 Diane Dancy - GRA  
 Juan Dominguez - Self support, Spain  
 Harouna Dosso - AFGRAD, Ivory Coast  
 Patrick Duhigg - GRA  
 Soliman El-Sebai - Self support, Libya  
 Richard Evans - GRA  
 Hal Fisher - Self support  
 Luis Garcia - Self support, Spain  
 Greg Gillespie - GRA  
 Homayon Ghiasi - Self support, Iran  
 Arron Guenzi - GRA  
 Will Harada - Self support  
 Frederick Holbrook - Self support  
 Margaret Hollenhorst - Self support  
 Burton Johnson - Self support  
 Kenric Johnson - GRA  
 Lyndon Johnson - GRA  
 Roy Johnston - Self support  
 John Jones - GRA  
 Costa Josephides - FAO, Cyprus  
 Vafa Kanali - Self support, Iran  
 William Laskar - GRA  
 Robert Law - GRA  
 Roy Luedtke - GRA  
 John Lukach - Self support  
 Joan Lish - GRA  
 H. Allan Mann - Self support  
 Frank Manthey - GRA  
 James Melzer - GRA  
 Stephen Moore - self support  
 Frank Moser - GRA  
 Adrian Moses - GRA  
 Barry Nagle - GRA  
 Ben Nelson - GRA  
 William Niehaus - GRA  
 Alfonso Palafox - CONACYT, Mexico  
 Ghazanfar Rashid - IIE, Pakistan  
 Dennis Rasmussen - Self support  
 Duane Rathmann - Self support  
 James Retzinger, Jr. - GRA  
 Carlos Riede - IAPAR, Brasil  
 Hossein Sayfikiar - Self support, Iran  
 Galen Schroeder - Self support  
 Carol Somody - Self support  
 Barbara Stolz - GRA  
 Charles The - AFGRAD, Cameroon  
 Arlo Thompson - GRA  
 Jean Tonye - AFGRAD, Cameroon  
 Les Wright - Self support  
 Pauline Zekeng - AFGRAD, Cameroon

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS, 1979

Jacek Kiec, NDSU/CB, Poland

TECHNICIANS AND OTHER CLASSIFIED, 1979

Ray Albrecht, Sunflower-Flax  
 Robert Baumann, HRS Wheat  
 Kay Carlson, wheat cytogenetics  
 Eldien Edinger, durum wheat, USDA  
 James Faller, HRS wheat  
 Roger Genoch, barley  
 Joan Gordon, wheat cytogenetics  
 Harold Hickel, durum wheat  
 Margaret Hollenhorst, durum genetics  
 Burton Johnson, crop production  
 Gerald Johnson, HRW wheat  
 James Liedahl, hybrid wheat  
 Lyle Lindberg, flax-soybeans  
 Carl Madsen, HRS wheat  
 Hal Fisher, oat breeding  
 Wayne Norby, forage crops  
 Dennis Rasmussen, sugarbeet weed control  
 Dale Rehder, sunflower, USDA  
 Ronald Roach, weed control  
 Arlen Schmidt, durum wheat, USDA  
 Merle Skunberg, barley  
 Curtis Thompson, weed control  
 Duane Wanner, corn breeding  
 Garrett VanWatermulen, Motor Vehicle Mech. I