

## NORTH DAKOTA Farm Research Bimonthly Bulletin

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## Guest Column



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Academic degrees in agriculture offer many rewarding and dynamic careers for youth, not only in farming and ranching but also in business, industry, education, research, graduate study, government service, military service, communications, conservation and recreation.

Agriculture is one of the oldest arts, but one of the newer sciences. It is the production of plants and animals useful to man. It also includes, to a variable extent, the preparation of these products for man's use and their distribution by marketing.

Much more than farming, agriculture is science at work for the well-being of the world. It includes business and industry furnishing supplies and equipment to producers, as well as the buying, selling and processing of crops and livestock which turn these products by mechanized magic into appealing packages on the store shelf. Amazing advancements in agricultural efficiency have made possible the production of more food and fiber for the world by fewer people than ever before.

Great opportunities exist for alert young people of integrity and ambition who have the capacity for hard work, for leadership and for acceptance of responsibility. Agriculture employs people in a broad range of positions from the day laborer to the college or corporation president. Many fields of agriculture are actively seeking recruits, both men and women, for jobs more often located in the city than on the farm. They are constantly asking for more college graduates to devote their energies to tasks which make the United States a worldwide symbol of abundance. Not all of the demands for graduates are being met.

There are now thousands of jobs in hundreds of occupations, many of them relatively unknown a few years ago. Graduates in agriculture have

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**On The Cover:** Dr. Armand Bauer inspects one of the experimental plots growing corn as a crop on reclaimed mine spoils. (Photo by Jim Berg).



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made successful careers locally, nationally and internationally.

Employment opportunities in agriculture are available in eight major areas as follows:

1. Farming and Ranching — production of bees, beef cattle, cotton, dairy cattle, flowers, fruits, grains, greenhouse crops, hay, nursery stock, sheep, swine, poultry, timber, tobacco, vegetables and other specialized crops.

2. Research — investigation into conservation methods, crops, equipment, ecology, forestry, livestock, soil, rural sociology, management, marketing, processing, production methods, health and recreation.

3. Education — teaching in extension services, high schools, colleges, farm organizations, government agencies, private industries and foreign countries.

4. Industry — dealing with the production or processing of farm equipment, fats and oils, feed, fertilizers, food, forest products, fuel, herbicides, machinery and pesticides.

5. Business — including banking, credit, insurance, grading, land appraisal, marketing, merchandising, packaging, public utilities, transportation, sales and warehousing.

6. Services — consulting and working with federal, foreign, state or local governments and

private enterprise on agricultural problems such as inspection and grading of farm products.

7. Communications — telling the agricultural story through newspapers and magazines, exhibits, motion pictures, photography, publications, public relations, advertising, radio and television.

8. Conservation and Recreation — management of forests, soil, water, wildlife, game preserves, golf courses, parks and playgrounds.

Recent B.S. graduates from the College of Agriculture at NDSU have found employment as follows:

	5-Year Summary 1972 to 1976 Inclusive	
	Number	Per cent
Farming & Ranching	396	44.1
Graduate Study	101	11.3
Government Service	67	7.5
Teaching	98	10.9
Business	171	19.0
Military Service	39	4.3
Extension Service	17	1.9
Miscellaneous	9	1.0
Total	898	100.0

In summary, employment opportunities in agriculture year-after-year have been consistently good since 1946 when the veterans of World War II returned to civilian life.