



NORTH DAKOTA
Farm Research

Bimonthly

Bulletin

Vol. 34, No. 4

March-April, 1977



Guest Column

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Chairman

Department of Agronomy



Food and shelter are two basic needs for people and other animals. North Dakota is a FOOD PRODUCER in a big way. Our 40,000 farms and 150,000 on-farm people produce enough food to feed about 18 to 20 million other Americans, or 70 million people at the food intake level in some of the countries where our export grain is shipped and consumed. This level of production means that each North Dakota on-farm person produces enough food for 133 other Americans.

North Dakota ranks second among the states in producing wheat for bread. Much of our hard red spring wheat from North Dakota is blended with lower quality wheats in the United States and around the world to make a better loaf of bread. We produce durum wheat for pasta or macaroni, spaghetti, etc., oats for oatmeal, sugar-beets for sugar, potatoes for human consumption in many forms, sunflower for cooking oil and snack food and malting barley for malt foods and beverages. Our farmers also produce lots of beef, pork, lamb, dairy, poultry and other livestock products for the food shelf.

North Dakota has a Wheat Commission, beef producers and breed associations, Crop Improvement associations and various commodity and farm organizations. But farmers and agriculturists here and in other states do not "toot their own horn" long enough or loud enough about the importance of the farmer and all agriculturists as FOOD PRODUCERS for themselves and the rest of society. We should not say "I'm just a farmer, or an agriculturist," but "I'M A FARMER" or "AN AGRICULTURIST" and responsible for the food on the grocery shelf that consumers take so much for granted as they choose the food to take home for themselves and their families.

Rural America now is a small minority as compared to urban America. Probably about 4 or 5 per cent of actual on-the-farm producers feed the rest of society, but one-fourth or more Americans

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On The Cover: Dr. Richard Froberg, wheat breeder, transplants the pollen from the male anther to the female stigma in a cross that may possibly result in a new and improved variety for North Dakota producers. (Photo by Jim Berg).

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A BIMONTHLY progress report published by the
**Agricultural Experiment Station,
North Dakota State University of
Agriculture and Applied Science**
Fargo, North Dakota 58102

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