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# 1977 and BEYOND

by K.A. Gilles  
Vice President for Agriculture

The year of contrast — 1977 was too cold, too dry, too hot, too wet, with too much snow and ice, too many power outages, and too low market prices. Yet, in many respects, it was a remarkable year with many notable remembrances.

The 45th Legislative Assembly provided funding for continued operation of the Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service with modest increases in reclamation research and the first new positions in Extension in nearly a decade. These will provide area agronomists and an extension veterinarian to assist in crop and livestock production. Likewise, the legislature authorized a committee to obtain options for a new livestock research station. While no final decisions have been reached on this new venture, substantial activity has occurred.

The 44th Legislative Assembly provided for a new Agricultural Science Building which was completed and occupied in December of 1977 by the Departments of Animal Science and Entomology. Indeed, this is a most welcome building for agricultural research and extension programs. The modern laboratories will provide an opportunity to improve research results as well as a better opportunity to bring the professional staff of these departments in close proximity rather than have them scattered in several buildings across the campus.

Because agricultural production has become increasingly complex, research and extension activities, likewise, recognize this increasing complexity. During recent years, team approaches have been made in an attempt to provide better solutions to the numerous technical problems confronting the agricultural community. These research teams are selected to represent the broad spectrum of scientific and technical expertise which can best be applied to problems. An expansion of the team approach has been occurring in recent years and will continue to occur as we look to the future. Teams of agrono-

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**Table 2. State and National Goals for Agricultural Research showing funding support for each in Fiscal Year 1977.**

GOAL	TITLE	1977	
		Funds	%
1	Insure a stable and productive agriculture for the future through wise management of the nation's natural resources (RPA's 100-112).	\$1,651,843	18.9
2	Protect forests, crops and livestock from insects, diseases and other hazards (RPA's 201-213)	1,721,504	19.7
3	Produce an adequate supply of agricultural products (RPA's 301-318).	3,553,342	40.6
4	Expand the demand for agricultural products by developing new and improved products with better quality (RPA's 401-409).	771,631	8.8
5	Improve efficiency in the marketing system (RPA's 501-511).	237,389	2.7
6	Expand export markets (RPA 601).	35,440	.4
7	Improve the health, nutrition and well-being of the American Consumer (RPA's 701-708).	97,551	1.1
8	Assist rural Americans to improve their levels of living (RPA's 801-808).	25,449	.3
9	Promote community improvement, including development of beauty, recreation, environment, economic opportunity and public services (RPA's 901-908).	485,917	5.6
TOTAL National Goals		\$8,580,066	98.1
Physical Plant Improvements		135,461	1.6
Not Classified		26,972	.3
GRAND TOTAL		\$8,742,499	100.0

The Research Problem Areas are the basis for this research program analysis. The 98 RPA's were established by a joint federal-state task force in 1966 in order to develop a computerized information management and retrieval system known as CRIS (Current Research Information System). The RPA's can be aggregated into the goals as shown in Table 3. Major program or budget changes develop from careful study of the RPA's. There is a continuing evaluation and reassignment of research funds within the RPA's important to North Dakota. Elsewhere

**Continued from Page 2**

mists, chemists, economists, soils specialists, animal scientists and range management specialists have been working on the problems of spoilbank reclamation, grass and beef production, irrigation and pest management, to cite but a few examples. I believe it is terribly important to recognize this type of thrust for the future, particularly because increasingly we are confronted with a preponderance of government regulations for which research and extension specialists must endeavor to find facts and solutions pertinent to farming and ranching activities of North Dakota.

In a sense, this issue of Farm Research presents a brief overview of some of the events which transpired in 1977. It highlights many of the agricultural programs at your land-grant university, NDSU.

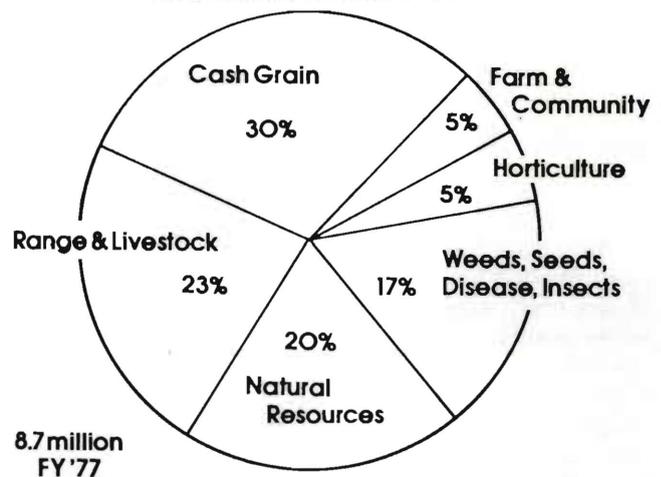
As we look to the future, it becomes increasingly

in this publication are lists of projects completed, current, and started in FY 77.

This computerized information system may be both a bane and a blessing since it will allow detailed scrutiny of the research program by persons interested in how well their favorite enterprise is faring in comparison to others in the total program. CRIS has a three-dimensional capability in addition to RPA, i.e. COMMODITY, ACTIVITY and SCIENCE. The "yardstick" most commonly asked for is the COMMODITY classification. Figure 4 presents a compilation of the many resources benefited by the agricultural research program in the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Annual detailed analyses of the research program are regularly presented to the research managers, review boards, and advisory groups of all types.

The reader is encouraged to read this publication with the thought that this is your North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Is the Station doing the research you believe should be done? We solicit your input to assure that we are getting the most public research benefit from the resources available.

**Figure 4. Current research effort on a commodity basis for Fiscal Year 1977.**



apparent that the need for and quality of research at the highest level of available competence remains a primary goal for the Agricultural Experiment Station. Likewise, for the Cooperative Extension Service, the major goal remains to provide timely information interpreted for local use. The objective of the entire program is to promote a sound and prosperous agriculture and rural life for the people in North Dakota. As you peruse the publications that are available from the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station, we trust that you will become acutely aware of the many contributions that are being made for the farmers, ranchers and homemakers. Information imparted in these publications hopefully will be used by individuals to improve their agricultural, personal, and professional capabilities.

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