



Don Priebe, Chairman

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Department of Agricultural Education conducts the program to prepare certified Vocational Agriculture teachers in North Dakota. Functions of the Department also include in-service education, graduate programs, special projects such as curriculum development, in-service education, research and service. In carrying out these functions the Department also works closely with the North Dakota State Board of Vocational Education.

Two current staff members of the Department of Agricultural Education, Don Priebe and Lawrence Helt, completed their undergraduate studies at North Dakota State University (then North Dakota Agricultural College) while Arlon Hazen was serving as Assistant Director of the Experiment Station in 1955 and 1956. The Department was also the Office of the State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture until 1969, when the North Dakota State Board for Vocational Education completed consolidation of staff offices in Bismarck.

In July of 1969 Don Priebe was appointed chairman of the Department of Agricultural Education. He then worked with Shubel Owen, who had served at North Dakota State University since 1938. Professor Owen had received the Doctor of Service and Faculty Lectureship Awards in 1968.

Undergraduate teacher education grew considerably both in number of students and graduates since 1969. The number of undergraduate advisees has increased to approximately 125 with the number of graduates certified to teach varying from approximately 25 to 34 annually.

During the same period of time the Vocational Agriculture program in North Dakota was experiencing

rapid growth, providing excellent job opportunities for graduates. There has been a shortage of Vocational Agriculture teachers on a national basis.

During the early 1970's the Farm Business Management Education program for adults was launched in North Dakota. This effort, an integral part of Vocational Agriculture in the state, was launched with joint efforts between the North Dakota State Board for Vocational Education, local schools, and the Department of Agricultural Education. Department efforts included both in-service and pre-service preparation of teachers as well as a project designed to develop a record keeping and analysis system. This project was carried out in cooperation with the North Dakota State Board for Vocational Education. Since that time the department has had continued involvement in program development and teacher preparation.

Graduate program activity has increased markedly in the past two to three years. While some graduate students are on campus during the school year, most are Vocational Agriculture teachers progressing toward their goals through summer offerings and other shorter sessions. In-service workshops are provided for teachers through the Department of Agricultural Education and other cooperating departments. A graduate minor in Vocational Education has been developed and is offered jointly with Home Economics Education.

Major remodeling of the office complex of the Department was completed in 1975. This provided a much more functional office arrangement plus a well-equipped study center for students. A classroom became available

to the department and was remodeled in 1977. The improvement of facilities was accompanied by purchase of equipment designed to provide a modern and efficient setting for teacher preparation.

Professor Owen retired in June of 1975 and was subsequently named Professor Emeritus. Vernon Luft joined the staff on July 1, 1975.

Recent years have been marked by continued development of the pre-service teacher preparation program. Several courses have been added to meet the changing needs. An Early Experience program has been implemented to provide students with actual school experience early in their college careers. A Supervision of Student Teaching course has been developed for supervising teachers and a manual has been developed for student teachers and their supervising teachers. Micro-teaching with video-tape has been incorporated as an integral part of the teacher preparation program.

An option to prepare persons for Cooperative Extension Service positions is being developed. An internship with a County Agricultural Extension Agent is an integral part of this program.

Various research and development projects have been carried out in the department. Several of these,

including curriculum development efforts, have been cooperative ventures with the North Dakota State Board for Vocational Education.

A formal research program through the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station has recently been initiated during the tenure of Director Hazen. A Graduate Research Assistantship was added and a project to determine agricultural manpower needs in North Dakota has been approved and funded. This project, currently in progress, is designed to develop methodology and to determine the employment needs in various agricultural occupations in the state. These data will be useful for planning and designing educational programs for potential workers in these occupations.

The scope and variety of activities in the Department of Agricultural Education indicated a critical need for more professional staff. An added position was authorized in 1977 and on August 15 of that year Lawrence Helt joined the Department staff.

The Department of Agricultural Education has experienced steady growth and development during the tenure of Dean and Director Arlon G. Hazen. The support of the Office of the Dean and Director has been instrumental in this growth and development.

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Second, we recognized early in our self-government the huge dividends to be derived from relatively modest investments in education and research. This has been particularly true for agriculture, and one of the most unique aspects of this success has been the land-grant system of agricultural teaching, research and extension. This system, beginning in 1862, has been a classic example of a genuine federal-state cooperative undertaking.

Third, private industry directly related to agriculture has flourished under our capitalistic and competitive free enterprise system.

And fourth, the individuals who have owned and operated farms and ranches have maintained an intense loyalty to their unique way of life, utilizing the natural resources of land, water and air to produce the essential food and fiber for all our people and many in foreign lands as well. Each of these basic "parts" of agriculture was dependent upon and essential to the other three in achieving the current level of success.

When North Dakota became a state in 1889 its constitution provided for the land-grant agricultural college at Fargo. The first legislative session in 1890 appropriated funds and entered into the federal-state partnership with the federal government to establish and maintain an agricultural experiment station. Immediately after passage of the Smith-Lever Act by the Congress in 1914, North Dakota incorporated its existing system of taking research findings to the people into the new federal-state Cooperative Extension Service. North Dakota has been a leader in agriculture since statehood. This is as it should be.

It has been my personal privilege to have been associated with the land-grant research and teaching portion of agriculture in North Dakota for 33 continuous years, beginning in 1946 at the Williston Branch Station

of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Since 1956, and for one-fourth of its 88 years of existence, I have served as the Dean, College of Agriculture and the Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University. In these capacities and as an "outsider" from Oklahoma, it has been a highly rewarding experience to have had an active part in the agriculture of North Dakota.

The people of North Dakota, through their state and federal legislative representatives, have provided the financial resources to continually improve the program of agricultural research and education at North Dakota State University. This support has been a wise investment, and some of the examples of results of this investment for the past score of years are summarized in this issue of your *Farm Research*. These examples have been prepared by the various research scientists at our seven branch stations throughout the state and the main station at Fargo in recognition of this being the last issue of *Farm Research* which will carry my name as the Director of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to express both my pride and appreciation. I am proud to have been designated for these years to be the administrator for these scientists, faculty, and other employees of the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station. I am most appreciative of the splendid support and friendships accorded me during these years from a large number of North Dakotans, including farmers, ranchers, students, legislators, businessmen, professionals, and most of all, the highly competent and loyal colleagues employed in the College of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Cooperative Extension Service, North Dakota State University.

May the success of our "agricultural system" continue indefinitely, and those who would seek to decrease or destroy its potential for the future fail miserably!