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Director's Column



H. Roald Lund

The readers of this column will have detected that one of the unchanging aspects of the land-grant university concept in this nation is the continued high level of cooperation that exists between the federal and state levels of our government. A situation unique in this world!

Recall that this cooperation has its roots in the Morrill Act of 1862, the Hatch Act of 1887 and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. The federal laws are constantly reinforced with new legislation by Congress and supplemented by legislation in the states. Writers in this column have stressed repeatedly the importance of preserving this unique relationship. We are encouraged to note that there appears to be an affirmation of the philosophy of formula funding in the upcoming federal fiscal year. Dependable and continuing funding of agricultural research, teaching and extension now is the keystone to adequate food for us all in the decade ahead.

As we move into a new biennium we note cooperation at a local level that is and will be important to the North Dakota citizen and taxpayer. For example, several departments in the Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Science and Mathematics have joined with the U.S. Department of Interior in developing a multifaceted approach to control of blackbird depredation in sunflowers. This effort could lead to a blackbird-resistant sunflower variety and a greater knowledge about the pesky bird itself.

For the first time in the history of North Dakota the Agricultural Experiment Station includes research from the College of Home Economics funded specifically by the legislature. We expect this effort to grow and to reap dividends for the rural and urban dweller alike, especially as we search for ways to enhance the processing and utilization of North Dakota grown products and improve the quality of life in the home.

It is no surprise to read in this publication descriptions of new improved crop varieties. Through the years "the dynamic duo" - United States Department of Agriculture and North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station - has produced an expected stream of new crop varieties. I am personally very proud of this ongoing relationship and productivity of the persons associated with it.

In recent months the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service have formalized

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On the cover: Robert Nowatzki, superintendent of the Langdon Branch Station, and Dr. James Quick, NDSU durum breeder, inspect a field of the newly released Vic durum at the Langdon station. (See article on page 7.) Vic is named for the late Victor Sturlagson, former superintendent at Langdon. Photo by Dan Ruud



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