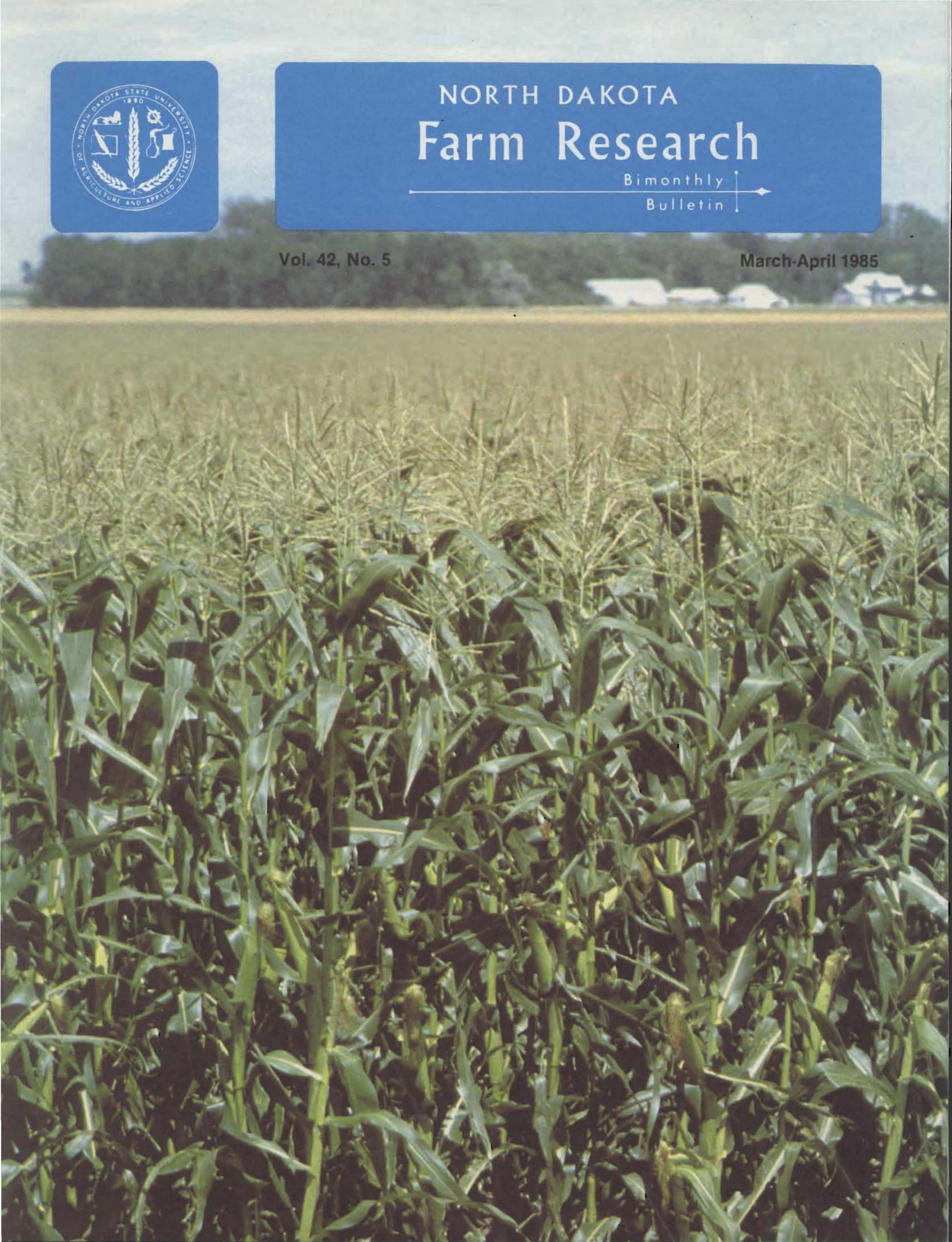
NORTH DAKOTA
Farm Research
Bimonthly Bulletin

Vol. 42, No. 5 March-April 1985



Director's Column

H. Roald Lund
Director

"To feed a hungry world" has been the hallmark of agriculture since the beginning of international agriculture. It is paradoxical that in an abundance of food in many parts of the world, there is also hunger. How can this be? There are no clear answers.

Efficiency of production of food and fiber useful to man and animals is a noble mission and goal, and for all practical purposes, achieved beyond the wildest expectations of the agriculturalists in this century. However, to make a living in those countries in which there is surplus capacity to produce food, we need to look beyond efficiency and take a new look at the concept of "profit." How to return profit to agriculture becomes the new watchword for research in agriculture. Somehow efficiency and profit escape a common definition in a world-wide agriculture where ultimately a commodity will be sold for a price at some level.

The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station is calling upon researchers to look across disciplines and commodity boundaries to conceive new ways to lower the per unit costs of production. Relatively inexpensive energy early on this century and boundless belief that "science in a bottle" would solve all ills led us to dangerous conclusions about the word "efficiency."

Research on reduced forms of tillage, biological control of pests, and new insights on the plant-soil-air continuum coupled with a working partnership in economics is needed. Consider where we would be today in North Dakota crop production if in the 1950s we would have searched for and found a fungicide to kill stem and leaf rust rather than breed resistant hard red spring and durum wheat varieties. Imagine the costs per acre to protect the crop in this manner.

We have made the proper decisions in the past to provide a bountiful food supply and we will do it again.

In This Issue

On the Cover: Corn is becoming a more important crop in North Dakota, and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station carries on a strong program in corn breeding. This issue contains reports on new lines of corn developed at NDSU. Photo by Jim Berg.

Correction: The volume number on the January-February issue of **North Dakota Farm Research** is incorrect. The correct number is Volume 42, Number 4. We apologize for any inconvenience this error has caused.

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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 58105
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Fargo, North Dakota 58105
Publication

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Permit No. G269