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100 Years of Research

## Director's Column

H.R. Lund



Centennial celebrations for towns, churches, schools, states — and experiment stations — continue to flourish. The NDAES is no exception. We have declared the summer and early fall of 1990 as our recognition of 100 years of service to the people of North Dakota. All will culminate in a banquet and Ag Fair on September 7 and 8 at NDSU in Fargo. We hope you will join us for the celebration.

In preparation for the acknowledgement of publicly-funded research and the people that performed it, we have prepared and published three books. The first is **Five for the Land and Its People**, by Dr. Bill G. Reid, in which he fashioned readable portraits of C.B. Waldron, H.L. Bolley, E.F. Ladd, J.H. Shepperd, and L.R. Waldron.

The second book, **Our Purpose is to Serve: The First Century of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station**, by Dr. David Danbom, Department of History, North Dakota State University, describes the unique relationships of experiment station research to agriculture and the people of this state.

The third book will be entitled **In Her Own Name**, and depicts the reasons why women came to the frontier to claim land and prepare homesteads. All are worthy of study and reflection as we position ourselves for **Next Century Agriculture**.

Much is learned about the future if we take a moment to look back. For example, 100 years ago the nation was largely agrarian with a mostly rural population and a subsistence agriculture. Today, we are an urban society where less than 3 percent of the population are involved in agricultural production for a livelihood. What will the next century bring — a return to rural living? — a return to a more diversified agriculture? or — continued urbanization of the nation with large industrial food, feed, fiber, and fuel production units on the rural landscape?

Please read this issue with a mixture of nostalgia on the passing of the “good ol’” days and a feeling of renewed commitment and excitement for the future as we make it unfold!

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**On the Cover:** L.R. Waldron, an 1899 graduate of NDAC, became the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station's first plant breeder. It was said of him that his wheat breeding work would “pay for the whole cost of the College and Station...” The cover photo was taken by former experiment station editor John Burnham.



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