Clayton Haugse concluded a 36-year career as a faculty member in animal and range sciences, serving as department chair since 1977, with his retirement on June 30. Actually, Haugse, a native of Sentinel Butte, remained at NDSU since he enrolled as a freshman in 1949, except for two years in the army and a year doing graduate work at Iowa State University.

He became a faculty member in 1956 after returning from military service and completed his M.S. degree in 1958.

There were six faculty members in animal husbandry when Haugse joined the staff. Mergers with the poultry and dairy departments in the 1960s and addition of range science in 1985 has created the Department of Animal and Range Sciences, with a faculty of 25.

For years, one of Haugse’s major responsibilities was statistical analysis for the department. He also provided early leadership to the university in computer use. He was one of three faculty, along with Thor Hertsgaard in agricultural economics and Don Peterson, director of the computer center, sent to Minneapolis to learn to run the university’s original IBM 1620 computer.

Haugse has seen his department’s research focus change over the years. Departmental research was once almost entirely applied; today the mix is closer to 70 percent basic and 30 percent applied.

While researchers continue to do applied research to help answer producer questions, Haugse says the shift from applied to basic research was necessary. “To develop technologies the livestock industry needs—and will need in the future—answers must first come from basic research,” he says.

Public issues have also changed, including the current emphasis on animal welfare, which Haugse says has had positive influences on livestock production. “Industry has benefited from working with animal welfare organizations,” he says. “We had to go back and rethink some management programs. Producers are concerned about the welfare of their animals. It is to their benefit to take care of them the best they can.”

During his career Haugse has been heavily involved with organizations and committees and has received a number of awards and recognitions, including Alpha Zeta outstanding educator, Milk Producers of North Dakota merit award, North Dakota Lamb and Wool Growers certificate of achievement, and the FFA honorary state farmer award.
Before I officially bid adieu to this institution and to colleagues and constituents with whom I have interacted and served for over 35 years, it seems appropriate for me to make a few final comments.

Please recall that at the time I was evolving a decision as to whether I would join the faculty of this university, the institution was under AAUP sanctions. Needless to say, I was duly warned about joining an institution which had been targeted in this manner, especially since I was just commencing my professional career. Fortunately, the doomsday warnings never materialized. I was also fascinated by the logo that appeared on all correspondence emanating from this institution during the negotiation process. "Buy Dakota Maid Flour" appeared on all pieces of correspondence. I thought this institution must have had a good sideline business going for it. Obviously, I was not aware at that time of the active role this state had and continues to have in the milling and banking industries.

I have never lived in a state where referrals of legislative actions are as rampant as in this state and are almost as predictable as the biennial sessions of the state legislature. Long range planning under these circumstances can be fairly tenuous if one ventures to project more than two to three years at a time.

The 35 years in which I have had the opportunity to teach, conduct entomological research and to administer the activities of the Department of Entomology have provided me numerous challenges as well as significant satisfaction in meeting the needs of citizens of this state as well as those of my colleagues. I have also had real pleasure in achieving some of my own personal goals.

There is no question that in the past decade I have derived tremendous satisfaction from the recognition several of the department’s faculty and graduate students have received for their attainment of excellence in the conduct of their research, teaching and extension activities. Major awards given by this university, College of Agriculture and Experiment Station and the Entomological Society of America have been received by these personnel. These colleagues not only have brought significant honor to themselves, but also to the Department.

The science of entomology has undergone tremendous change during the 35 years I have been on the firing line. For example, the post World War II era brought euphoria and promise to many that the miracle insecticide of WWII, DDT, was to be the cure all for all major insect pests. That era of broad spectrum, fairly cheap, long persisting chemicals resulted in their widespread use worldwide.

My, but times have changed! The attributes of these chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides 30 to 40 years ago are now their Achilles heels. With protection of the environment, food and water of current preeminent concern, our increasingly chemophobic society is demanding the use of fewer and fewer chemicals. Entomology faces a major challenge in providing a means of protecting our food, fiber, shelter and ourselves from noxious and nuisance/vector insects in a manner that will respect the demand for use of fewer chemicals, be economically feasible and environmentally friendly. Integrated pest management, pheromones, biotechnology, sustainable and alternative agriculture, biorations all are terms in common use today that weren’t even conceived 35 years ago.

There is no question that the mold that provided me the background to meet the entomological challenges of the 1950s and beyond has had to change in order that my successors can meet current day challenges.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues, administrators and the vast numbers of North Dakota citizens on whom I called for cooperative research efforts for making my active career as productive and pleasant as it was.

In my introductory course in entomology, I learned that insects metamorphose as they complete the various stages of their life cycle. And it is very apparent the science of entomology has markedly metamorphosed during the past 35 year. And this teacher, researcher and administrator will now metamorphose from his active academic entomological activity to that of virtual non-activity. Je suis finis.