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# From the Director



**A. G. Hazen**

The January-February issue of North Dakota Farm Research traditionally carries an abbreviated financial statement of the most recent fiscal year, a listing of professional personnel arranged by subject matter departments and branch stations, and a listing of donors of gifts received during the previous calendar year. This issue includes these items.

A listing of the donors of gifts to the Agricultural Experiment Station is never complete, and we approach and ponder the listing each year with this concern. The list is not complete because it basically represents gifts of money, and in some instances significantly tangible goods such as equipment or real estate. What the list does not recognize is the multitude of donors who have given of their time, their talents, and often their personal possessions which reflect some unique interest or concern they have in improving the program in agriculture at NDSU.

An example of these kinds of donors would be those who have contributed gifts of insect specimens to become a part of the state reference collection. Acquisition of these specimens becomes of significance to both the research and teaching programs. During 1974 the Department of Entomology received donations of more than 3,500 specimens from 27 individuals. Many of the specimens are of direct value to the insect systematist in studies to compare and contrast indigenous species with those of other regions.

Of particular value this past year was receipt of the synoptic collection of 957 specimens of stored products insects donated by a former student, Dr. John E. Kvenberg, Food and Drug Administration. The Agricultural Research Service, USDA, continues to send specimens of injurious insects not known to occur in the United States so we can assist in maintaining surveillance for accidental introductions of these species during the conduct of insect surveys. Similarly, receipt of cereal leaf beetle, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, tussock moth and other insects of major importance elsewhere in the United States provides a

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**On The Cover:** Professor Richard Witz, Department of Agricultural Engineering, at right, shows Director Arlon Hazen the special fiberglass panels coated to resist wear that have been installed in place of the glass panels in the Agronomy greenhouse. These large panels cast diffused light and fewer shadows, resist hail damage and need less upkeep than glass. (Photo by J. J. Feight)



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BULK THIRD-CLASS

today's prices, flax is in the best competitive position in the NWC, NRRV, and NEC. Flax is least competitive in the SRRV, SEC, and NW regions. Given that farmers grow the most profitable crops and make decisions on current prices, we will see a substantial reduction in flax acreage. It should be noted that relative profitability of crops is one of several criteria farmers may use in their decision-making process.

Any statement regarding the most profitable crops based on current prices will certainly be invalid by the time farmers make their decisions as those prices will not persist. The data and charts presented in this paper can aid in estimating the impact of any given set of prices.

The procedure outlined above may be followed by farmers to select the most profitable crops as long as their own yields and production costs are used. Though the **Planning Guide** budgets are helpful in establishing general trends, they are not intended to represent any particular farm.

(From the Director . . . from page 2)

visual means for researchers to recognize and identify potentially noxious species that could accidentally be introduced to North Dakota. Additional specimens come from foreign lands as donations from former foreign graduate students.

Mr. Ross Mutchler, Mutchler Farms, Northwood, donated the loan of a three-acre strip of land beginning in 1970 to permit degradation studies and residual analyses of soil applications of the persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides.

To these dozens of donors who might be listed but are not, we offer our sincere gratitude and appreciation for their support of the program in agriculture at NDSU. Gifts which can be incorporated into the program and made useful in the research and teaching efforts also add a dimension of pride to the researcher and teacher as it is a very effective way of letting him know he is appreciated and respected.