



NORTH DAKOTA
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From the Director

A. G. HAZEN



Today, when a college diploma has become a ticket to the unemployment office for thousands of young graduates, a degree in agriculture has never been worth more.

The job market in non-agricultural areas plummeted to a 20-year low this spring. *Time* magazine commented: "The situation is bad and seems to be getting worse." While it might seem almost immodest to point it out, on agricultural campuses the situation is good and getting better. Last spring, placement officers had to scramble to find enough qualified graduates to satisfy potential employers. An average of slightly more than one and a half jobs were available for every student with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, according to a survey of 14 of the largest colleges of agriculture.

Nationally, agribusiness creates the strongest demand for graduates in agriculture, with farming ranked second. In North Dakota, farming and ranching have accounted for an average of over 40 per cent of our agricultural graduates in the last five years. The college-educated farmer or rancher is no longer a rarity, and the increasing number of graduates who return to farms and ranches probably accounts for the agribusiness graduates' bullish market.

The Russian wheat deal in 1972 suddenly focused national attention on agriculture, and agricultural graduates have been more in demand ever since. Food production, the concern about energy, the environment, our natural resources — all are issues that touch the heart and pulse of the world today — and every one of them is a province of our colleges of agriculture.

Farming as a way of life also has become attractive to today's graduates. Nationally, young people are finding it less desirable to live in a city.

Enrollment figures for our college of Agriculture tend to follow the national trend. This year's enrollment will top all previous figures at 1,086. The previous high was 1,022 in the winter of 1969-70, when World War II babies reached college age.

One midwestern agricultural writer summed up the opportunities in agriculture this way: "Today's aggie seems to have it all; the personal satisfaction of becoming part of the backbone of this nation, the hope of the world, the respect and even envy of his peers, and the enthusiastic pursuit by employers."

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On The Cover: Bicentennial seems like an appropriate year to give Justin Morrill Hall, the College of Agriculture building on the campus, a "facelift-ing". This same name graces the entrance of several agriculture colleges across the nation, in honor of the U.S. senator from Vermont who was the principal author of the Congressional act in 1862 that started the land-grant college system. More than a half-century of agriculture students have passed through these doors since the 1922 construction. (Photo by Jim Berg).

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BULK THIRD-CLASS

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