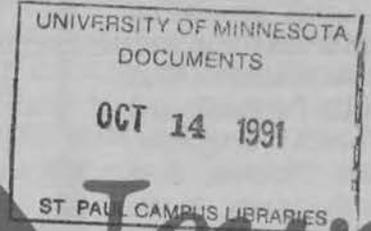


Agricultural News



Volume 3, Issue 7

September/October 1991

Animal science, vet medicine 'affiliation' helps animal agriculture

They haven't married or merged, but they have developed a closer and more formal relationship. After a period of courting, the Department of Animal Science and the College of Veterinary Medicine have connected in what administrators of both units call an "affiliation." One of the benefits should be a more unified approach to extension programming in food animal agriculture.

"We are seeking to enhance programmatic efforts in animal agriculture," says Richard Goodrich, head of the Department of Animal Science. "We want to improve the quality of research, teaching and extension programs by fully utilizing technical abilities of faculty in the two units."

Goodrich says he and David Thawley, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, had discussions for two to three years about finding ways for their units to work together more closely. "About a year ago, we came to this understanding of an affiliation, not a merger," Goodrich adds. Officially, the affiliation took effect July 1.

Goodrich expects the affiliation to result in "a true linkage of extension programs" in animal agriculture. This may mean a single coordinator



The new affiliation means more unified extension programs for Minnesota's food animal agriculture industry. Photo by Don Breneman

for the extension programs, although that plan has not been finalized.

John Fetrow, the new head of the Department of Clinical and Population Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine, says the affiliation is "unique in the United States, and long overdue."

"For them (Animal Science) to be affiliated with the college and for

them to bring their expertise into Veterinary Medicine is a wonderful thing," adds Fetrow. "We're very happy to have that collaboration in place."

Fetrow predicts the affiliation will have a major impact on extension. "Extension will find that veterinary practitioners will be much more their collaborators, and much more their

Continued on page 2

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Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

Agent Profile

Agent specialization is alive and well in the cluster of Blue Earth, Faribault and Waseca counties. **Kent Thiesse**, Blue Earth county, is the specialized farm management and marketing agent.

"All agents in our cluster have worked hard to do both interdisciplinary and agriculture programs across county lines," he says. Dave Werner, Waseca County, is the specialized livestock agent and Cindy Arnevik, Faribault County, is the crops and livestock agent.

"Farmers get lots of rules and details on government farm programs, but there can be a void of solid information on management implications. Extension has an important role in helping families interpret the financial aspects of whether to participate in the programs," he says.

"...a specialty in government farming programs..."

He's developed a mini-specialty in government farm programs and writes a monthly column in *THE LAND* magazine on the topic.

Thiesse develops printed materials and worksheets on financial and farm business management. He's done cash rental programs for farm-



Kent Thiesse introduces speakers at the Farmfest '91 "Town Meeting on Rural Issues," attended by 450 people. Speakers included Senators Wellstone and Durenberger; Congressmen Penny, Weber and Ramstad; Lee Swenson, National Farmer's Union president; Al Christopherson, Minnesota Farm Bureau president; Richard Jones, dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Agriculture; and Elton Redalen, Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture.

ers and landlords and organized public policy forums. For the past three years he's organized the ag issues forums at Farmfest.

He believes in using the news media to help deliver information and educational programs. "The news media are very important in terms of letting people know what we do and for getting timely educational information out in a short period of time.

"Rather than always responding to calls from the media, I try to build rapport so the news media view the county extension office as one of their key contacts on a variety of issues," he says.

Thiesse has a degree in animal science from the University of Minnesota. He's working on a master of education degree in agricultural education.

He's been with the Extension Service for 16 years—in Swift and Rock Counties before he moved to Blue Earth County 5 years ago.

Jack Sperbeck

Affiliation/Cont. from p. 1

clientele, than in the past," he says. "Those in the veterinary profession will be both allies in service to animal industries and clients for the kind of information that extension has to offer."

The affiliation is also intended to minimize duplication of teaching efforts. "Faculty from the two units will work together to teach food animal production courses," says Goodrich. "Animal science faculty members will teach physiology courses for vet med students. There is the possibility of joint degree programs between animal science and veterinary medicine, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. A student might take a program of courses that would lead to both a bachelor's degree in animal science and a DVM (doctor of veterinary medicine)."

"... shortage of large animal veterinarians..."

There has also been discussion of joint recruitment of students interested in animal agriculture. A goal would be to increase the number of students in vet med with an interest in food producing animals. Goodrich says there is a shortage of large animal veterinarians across the country.

Each unit will continue with the same budgeting process as in the past. This means CVM budgets will go through Health Sciences and Animal Science budgets will go through the College of Agriculture. Each unit will also retain its own tenure and promotion process for faculty.

The affiliation does mean that faculty members in each unit are being offered adjunct appointments in the other unit. Many faculty members in each unit have already requested adjunct ap-

Continued on page 3

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Agents receive awards at NACAA meeting

Four Minnesota extension agents were honored at the recognition banquet of the recent National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) meeting in Peoria, Ill.

Honored with the Distinguished Service Awards were **Neil Broadwater**, Winona County; and **Vern Oraskovich**, Carver County.

Dennis Schrock, Olmsted County, received an Achievement Award. Achievement Award nominees must have worked less than 10 years with the Extension Service.

Warren Sifferath, Dakota County, was reelected to his second one-year term as national secretary of the organization. Congratulations to the award winners and agents who attended the conference!

Ken Pazdernik, Norman County, is president of the Minnesota agent association.

Jack Sperbeck

Affiliation/Cont. from p. 2

pointments, according to Goodrich. A faculty member in one unit with an adjunct appointment would have some committee responsibilities with full voting rights in the other unit.

The chair of the Veterinary Medicine Faculty Council now serves as a full member of the Animal Science Faculty Consultative Committee, and the head of Animal Science serves as a full member of the Veterinary Medicine Administrative Council.

"These activities are designed to get our faculties closer together so that they know each other better, and to facilitate teaching, research and extension activities," says Goodrich. "We have worked together in the past, but this enhances the working together."

Joseph Kurtz

Planning Quality Extension Programs

Applying "Citizen Politics" Concepts in Program Planning

In this issue I'd like to share some concepts from the "Citizen Politics Institute" recently sponsored by Project Public Life, a Kellogg Foundation funded program at the Humphrey Institute. I participated in the institute as a member of a team of 20 MES state and county faculty considering how to apply citizen politics concepts in Extension program development and delivery.

Politics is about power—"politicians" are generally perceived to be people who know or have learned how to use power, sometimes but not always in ethical ways. Politics is also associated with "public" and "public versus private." The core concept of citizen politics is the definition of "public."

Public is both a place ("the public sector"), as well as the practice of people acting together to solve a shared problem. The idea of public space is one of public "environments," places beyond family or group or geographic community in which we encounter other people of diverse backgrounds and engage in public action on an issue of mutual concern.

Another notion about public versus private is that they are not either/or; there is always a mixture of public and private in any setting. Usually the mix is more of one and less of the other, depending on the setting. Part of the task of operating in the public world is figuring out where you are in terms of public versus private. Citizen politics would make the public partners in the operation of the Minnesota Extension Service. Thus citizens would gain authority, ownership, and the ability to create their world as part of the process of determining what is needed in educational approaches to changing their lives, their businesses, and their communities.

"**Community**" in citizen politics means a body of individuals who share a common interest and perhaps other factors such as a location, characteristics, histories, policies, social, economic and political interests, or professional interests as well. So, a community can be a group of farmers who produce the same crop, a Native American tribe, or a group of agronomists or agricultural engineers, as well as a body of individuals who happen to live in the same geographic location. You can belong to several "communities" at the same time, depending on your interests and affiliations.

In order for citizen politics to work, it must begin in the communities where people work, or live, or associate with other people because of a shared self-interest. Shared self-interest defines all communities, regardless of type. It is identified and formed in communities and reflects interactions with others who are part of the same community of interest. People's interests broaden in communities through social interaction, so self-interest is not "selfish" interest, the concern of one individual or that of a small part of the total group trying to impose their interest on the rest of the members.

Diversity of interests is also a key concept in citizen politics. We tend to think of diversity in terms of cultural or ethnic diversity but in citizen politics it is a much broader idea. Diversity in a global sense includes racial, cultural, ethnic, gender, political, religious, and all other kinds of diversity. Diversity is about power, power that resides

Continued on page 4

Planning Quality Extension Programs /Continued

Applying "Citizen Politics" Concepts in Program Planning Continued from page 3

in all members of a community, rather than in only a few people. It is about complex public power exchanges between people and groups who are fundamentally very different.

Applying diversity to Extension program development would mean that we would share knowledge (which is one kind of power) with the people with whom we work. We would bring our knowledge and expertise to agricultural "communities" and learn about members' problems by allowing them to share their experiences. This approach is "transformational," rather than "transactional" where we act as the experts and assume we possess all power and knowledge. Changing our approach would require us to acknowledge that experience is knowledge on a par with that acquired in higher education.

We now act in terms of "service politics," that is we create educational programs and deliver services to targeted publics—agricultural producers, agribusiness people, rural, suburban, and urban residents wanting horticultural information, and others. The strength of this approach is that knowledge or information is important—we believe we have the research and the knowledge to solve the problems that need solving. The weakness inherent in this approach is that it views citizens as clients, rather than partners in the action. Consequently, the flow of information, i.e., power, is one way, from provider to client. We deny the self-interest critical to the practice of citizen politics.

Another consequence is that diversity is viewed as problematic, rather than as a strength. We tend to "romanticize" diversity because we see only our own interpretation of the self-interest of others. In the absence of public debate about the role of Extension in addressing societal problems or in making significant decisions about program priorities, organizational accountability to the broader public is lacking.

Experience with citizen politics in other service institutions has revealed how we might go about changing our approach to developing and delivering programs. Five strategic steps are indicated. (1) Identify leaders within the organization who have a broad vision of their work, can name their self-interests, and create a collective, common purpose. (2) Establish public problem solving practices, including developing skills for building collective agendas, negotiating roles, and evaluating work accomplished. (3) Integrate citizen participation in program development, delivery, and evaluation strategies. (4) Develop lateral (rather than hierarchical) power relationships in problem solving and decision making. (5) Identify the organization's broad public role by linking mission with sharing self-interest so the organization operates in a larger public arena.



Marilyn Grantham
Program Leader, Agriculture

STAFF UPDATE

Bruce Christensen was appointed county extension agent, agriculture for Houston County on March 16, 1991. Bruce has had several years of extension experience with the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service prior to coming to Minnesota. He received a B.S. in Agriculture-Soil Science and Plant Science from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and completed the M.S.-Agronomy program at the University of Illinois in 1989.

On April 1, 1991, **David Whiting** began his duties as county extension agent, agriculture/horticulture in Ramsey County. In 1975 he earned his B.S. degree in Plant Science from Utah State University and in 1977 he completed his M.S. in Horticulture at Washington State University. David has had prior extension experience in Utah and Idaho.

David Resch has been county extension agent, agriculture in Scott County since May 1, 1991. His most recent work experiences have been in banking in Minnesota. His educational background includes a B.S. in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota in 1973.

Judy Johnston and Lee Sorenson are serving as temporary replacement agents in Big Stone County while John Cunningham is on leave. Judy has served as interim county extension agent in Stevens County and holds a B.S. degree from Penn State in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. Lee has served as Ag Fellow for Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine counties. His education includes B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics from NDSU.

Also serving as a temporary replacement agent is **Dean Pederson** in Redwood County. Dean holds a B.S. in Agricultural Educa-
Continued on page 5

Attend the national direct marketing conference

"I encourage all of you working with direct marketing to seriously consider attending the conference," says Elton Redalen, Minnesota commissioner of agriculture.

The seventh annual National Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show is scheduled for the St. Paul Radisson Hotel, St. Paul Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 1992. Extension Services and Departments of Agriculture in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North and South Dakota are hosting the conference.

Part of the program is designed for extension and state department of agriculture people.

A pre-conference tour, scheduled Jan. 27-30, will stop at several farm markets in Minnesota and Wisconsin. A highlight will be a visit to the Liberty Carton facility in Golden Valley, Minn. Liberty Carton is a family owned packaging operation that's equipped to design and produce samples of gift boxes in a matter of minutes—while customers watch.

For more information, contact Don Olson at 612/625-9292.

New Staff/cont.from p. 2

tion and Ag Extension from NDSU, and has had prior Minnesota Extension Service experience.

On June 16, 1991, **Jeff Stanislawski** was appointed county extension agent, agriculture for Rock County. Jeff has extension experience in Cass County, North Dakota. He received a B.S degree in Agricultural Education and Ag Extension from NDSU.

History brings work ethic to Estonians



Alvo Aavik (right) being interviewed for Agricultural News by editor Jack Sperbeck. Photo by Don Breneman

Economic hardships in the Soviet Union will probably "get worse before they get better" for three to five years, says a Minnesota Agricultural Student Trainee (MAST) student from Estonia.

As part of the MAST program, Aivo Aavik worked on the Ken and Mavis Engellant grain and livestock farm in Montana from November, 1990 through this summer. His home country, Estonia has one-eighth the land area of Montana and a population of 1.9 million people.

Estonia, which recently declared its independence from the Soviet Union, was an independent country from 1918 to 1939. Although economic times are tough in his country, Aavik says Estonia is "better off than Russia."

"During the 20 years of independence Estonia people learned how to work. That wasn't true in Russia," he says.

Aavik was born on a Soviet collective farm in 1961. He often talked with his grandparents about the "independence years" before Estonia was annexed by the Soviet Union in

1939. Unfortunately, his grandfather died earlier this year while Aivo was in the United States.

He's fluent in four languages—Estonian, English, Russian and German and knows some Swedish and Finnish. Aavik learned Russian while serving with the Red army in the mid-80's.

This is his first trip outside of the Soviet Union, and he's elated with the MAST program. "Independence means we now have opportunities for travel, but very little money is available," he says.

He's now taking classes in computers, agribusiness, shop metal work and public speaking on the University's St. Paul Campus. He's slated to return to Estonia in November, when he'll resume his old job as an agronomist and field supervisor on a collective farm.

The MAST program is administered through the Agriculture Program Area of the Minnesota Extension Service. About 170 students from 30 countries participate yearly.

Jack Sperbeck



Campus Profile

The globalization of agriculture is a trend that has been gaining momentum in the '90s, and it's a trend **Brent Woodward** is very comfortable with.

Woodward joined the state Minnesota Extension Service faculty last March to work in the beef cattle area. His career is just beginning, but he has already worked in Japan and Germany and traveled in 14 other European countries, Canada and Costa Rica.

Woodward did his undergraduate academic work at Oklahoma State University, receiving a B.S. degree in animal science in 1983. During the summers of 1981 and 1983, he and two other OSU students spent six-week sessions as instructors at a "cowboy school" in Japan. The school was sponsored by a Tokyo food company.

"We taught roping and riding skills to approximately 2,000 Japanese children, ages 9-15, each summer," he says. "We would work with a group of children for four days; then they would have a roping and riding contest that one of us would judge."

The OSU students wore western clothes, hats and boots and were regarded as famous cowboys by the Japanese children. "I've never been in such demand," says Woodward. "We would sign 50-80 autographs a day and pose for pictures. The Japanese company paid our expenses and treated us like royalty. It was a fantastic experience. The Japanese are very nice people."

During a year in Germany in 1986-87, Woodward spent two months at a language institute learning to speak German and one month living with a German family. He then spent nine months doing genetic research at an animal husbandry research institute.



"American television, movies and some American tourists often give a negative impression of the U.S. to Europeans," he says. "We all get blamed for it."

As a beef cattle specialist, Woodward's area of greatest emphasis is IRM, or Integrated Resource Management. IRM involves a whole-farm approach to increasing the profitability of cow-calf operations. A team of consultants works with the producer to analyze records and identify problems to work on. The team might include such people as a county extension agent, veterinarian, feed supplier, lender and ASCS representative. The producer makes the final decisions on what changes to make and how to manage the operation.

IRM is a national program in which national and state producer organizations are involved. It has already been implemented in several states. Woodward has the responsibility of coordinating IRM activities in Minnesota.

Woodward is working this fall to set up four or more IRM demonstration farms around the state. A state IRM team will work with these farms. He hopes that after a couple of years, more farms will get into the program and county teams will be formed to work with these farms. The state IRM team would then serve as a resource for the county teams.

Woodward has additional extension responsibilities in cow-calf breeding and genetics. His research involves using a large-capacity com-

puter to analyze large amounts of genetic data, such as the data available from breed associations.

Born in Texas, Woodward lived four years in Iowa before moving to Oklahoma, and has traveled in 47 states. His M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are from Cornell University in New York.

Woodward is presently keeping his hand in the international arena by working with foreign graduate students in animal science. "One of the things I would like to do in the future," he says, "is to establish a cooperative project with another country."

Joseph Kurtz

Dairy Initiative program starts

Some county meetings for the dairy initiative program are starting, but others will begin after fall harvest.

"It would be hard to get some of our top dairy farmers out to meetings until harvest is over," says Harmon Wilts, Kandiyohi County, one of 11 agents taking area responsibility for the program.

Objectives for the first meetings include organizing a local county network of ag leaders such as lenders, veterinarians and top dairy farmers. "These county core groups are the key to making the program work," Wilts says.

He's using two demonstration farms, and is excited about the possibilities. "Demonstration farms are where we can do the most effective teaching," he says.

Jack Sperbeck