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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

NORTHWEST NEWS

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A Publication of the Northwest Research and Outreach Center

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NWES Name Changed To NWROC

If you've called the Northwest Experiment Station (NWES) in recent months, hopefully, you've been greeted with "Northwest Research and Outreach Center"! (NWROC)

Yes, we have a new name, as do the other four branch stations within the University of Minnesota system. This name change came about in 1999 as a result of a Board of Regent's action to change the name to more closely reflect what the Center's are doing. New metal signs, replacing our old familiar



New sign at SW edge of Center

redwood signs, have been placed on the southwest corner of the Center (next to the practice football field), on the corner of the lot next to the Ag Research Center and on the "mound" in the center of the parking lot.



Rusty Remick & Tim Danielson with new sign by ARC Building



New sign in the parking lot

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Feel free to visit or call the Center as we're still here to serve the public as we have for over 100 years.

Also, check out our web site: <http://nwes.umn.edu>.

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

Smith's Comments



It's been very busy at the Center again this summer, and so with Dr. Smith's permission, the editor is filling in for him. The following are some of the happenings at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center.

New Staff: Hala Toubia-Rahme has been hired as a small grains plant pathologist. Dr. Toubia-Rahme is originally from Lebanon and earned her MS and doctorate in France. She has been conducting post-doctoral research in barley pathology at NDSU. She is scheduled to join the staff about October 1.

Range Dedication: Two research ranges were dedicated at the annual Field Day held in July. Dr. Donald Rasmusson and Dr. Robert Busch, long-term barley and wheat breeders from the University of Minnesota were honored. A nice crowd was on hand to honor these dedicated researchers for their efforts to agronomic research in the State of Minnesota and to wish them well in their retirement.

Harvest: Harvest of the small grain crops was completed without any problems. Crop yields were well above average. Opening of sugarbeet fields began on August 30. Again, yields and sugar content were above average.

Weather: Unfortunately while others in the area are sinking in the mud, we can't buy a good rain! In June we had 5.72"; July - 3.21" and August - 1.38". Total precipitation at the Center from January 1 through August 31 is 14.39" compared to 19.61" for 1999. Average temperature for June was 62.4°; July 69.7°; and August 67.9°, compared to 65.1°; 70.3° and 66.8° for the same months in 1999. The last rainfall of over 0.5" occurred on July 5

Retirement: Yvonne Hanson, principal secretary, University of Minnesota Extension Service, retired on July 14. The staff wish Yvonne and her husband, Wayne, many happy years of retirement.

Website: The Center's website (<http://nwes.umn.edu>) has been updated - with more information and pictures. Click on "staff" and you'll see most of us, plus pictures of some happenings at Field Day.

Yvonne Hanson Named Employee of the Semester

Yvonne Hanson, Principal Secretary with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, was named Employee of the Semester at the spring Employee Recognition.

Yvonne has been employed in the Area Extension Office located at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center. She provided secretarial support to Marlin Johnson until he retired and more recently assisted Carlyle Holen.



Yvonne was nominated for this award by her colleagues for her conscientious work and her pleasant manner.

She was presented with a plaque and a balloon. Congratulations, Yvonne.

Anne Burke Named Employee of the Year

Anne Burke, Sr. Accounts Assistant, received the 14th Annual Employee of the Year Award.

Anne has been employed by the Northwest Research and Outreach Center since 1988. She spends 50% of her time paying bills and chasing down invoices and 50% time trying to make sure we are all safe and healthy as she is also the safety coordinator.

Anne was nominated for this award by her co-workers because of her knowledge of her job, and her friendliness and willingness to help her fellow employees.

The Employee of the Year Award was designed to promote and recognize excellence in job performance among Civil Service and Bargaining Unit personnel. Funds for this special award come from a President's Club donation designated specifically for this purpose. Congratulations Anne!



Pictured above are Larry Smith and Anne Burke

Svedarsky Receives The Wildlife Society's Minnesota Award

Dan Svedarsky, Wildlife Research Biologist at the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, recently received the prestigious Minnesota Award of the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society at the annual meeting in St. Cloud. The Wildlife Society is the organization of wildlife researchers, managers, and professors and the award recognizes "outstanding contributions to the profession of wildlife management in Minnesota." In announcing the award, Bill Berg, of the Chapter's Awards Committee noted, "Few natural resource professionals in Minnesota have done so much for both the resource and the profession. Equally as important, few have been so considerate of students and peers. 'Dr. Dan' is very deserving of our Chapter's 1999 Minnesota Award."

special focus on native grassland birds. He is co-director of the "Bird Conservation Area" project with Dr. Doug Johnson of the federal Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, North Dakota. This research is being carried out on prairie remnants of northwestern Minnesota and the Sheyenne National Grasslands in eastern North Dakota to test variables of prairie size and nature of adjacent habitat on habitat selection and reproductive success of prairie birds. They will commence year three of the study in the coming field season. He is principal investigator of a project entitled, "Integrated Prairie Management," recently funded by a \$350,000 LCMR (Legislative Commission on Minnesota's Resources) grant. This project involves evaluating effects

Study sites are distributed from Polk County in the north to Grant County in the south. Svedarsky is also evaluating the growing of an Echinacea, or purple coneflower, a valuable herbal plant native to dry prairie soils of the Great Plains. The plant has potential to be grown on droughty soils in western Minnesota as a hobby crop and perhaps to supplement income on a limited scale. The Echinacea project is being supported by the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.

"Dan's involvement in The Wildlife Society (TWS) is extensive and impressive," according to Berg. At the national level, Svedarsky is currently the North Central Section Representative to Council, and in 1995, served on the Technical Session Committee for the 61st North American Wildlife Conference. At the Section level, he was President of the North Central Section in 1991, served as its Secretary in 1983, and has either chaired or served on numerous committees. In the Minnesota Chapter, he is a former chair of both the Awards Committee and the Nominations and Elections Committee. Svedarsky is a very active member of the Minnesota Chapter, and often takes his UMC students to assist at various Wildlife Society functions where they have twice been recipients of the Chapter's Student Conservationist Award. "Dan is perhaps more active in the Minnesota Chapter than any other academic faculty member in the state," Berg said. "His most recent notable endeavor involving our Chapter is his serving as the Chair (and instigator) of the highly successful Dr. William H. Marshall Scholarship Development Fund which has established a \$12,000 endowment at the University's Itasca Biological Station to support summer session scholarships." William Marshall was a mentor of Svedarsky and a distinguished wildlife professor at the St. Paul campus of the University.



Dan Svedarsky and Bill Berg of the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Awards Committee.

Svedarsky also heads up the natural Resources Department at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) and is an adjunct professor at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks and North Dakota State University at Fargo where he co-advises graduate students working on his projects. His current research topic is prairie management with a

of prescribed burning and grazing as it affects forage values of prairie vegetation, prairie birds and the vegetation itself. Collaborators include: Dr. Greg Cuomo, grazing ecologist and head of the West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris, and Dr. Margaret Kuchenruether, plant ecologist at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

New Landmark at UMC

by Andrew Svec
Director of Communication, UMC

Over the summer a new landmark has appeared on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC). The Harris A. Peterson Centennial Park Gazebo stands just south of Bede Student Center on the northeast corner of the campus mall. The structure is 23 high, 28 feet in diameter and nine feet high to the ceiling.



A special marker inlaid in the base of the gazebo commemorates the U of M's Northwest School of Agriculture, UMC's predecessor from 1905 to 1968. During those years, 5,433 alumni passed through the NWSA. Many of those former "Aggies" have gone on to become regional professionals, agricultural and business leaders and community leaders.

The gazebo takes its name from Harris A. Peterson, a NWSA alum of the class of 1942, who generously donated \$50,000 toward the project. Peterson is the owner and CEO of Min-Dak Growers, Ltd. a world-wide supplier of mustard, buckwheat, and confection sunflower ingredients to the food industry. Minn-Dak Growers has its main office in Grand

Forks.

The gazebo will serve as the focal point of a planned centennial park and garden. The park and garden will renovate the northern edge of the UMC mall. Additional markers will eventually be added to the park and garden to recognize contributions of other UMC and NWSA alumni and to commemorate other events. Plans call for the centennial park concept to grow and evolve as the campus

nears the year 2005. In that year the University of Minnesota will celebrate 100 years of educational service at the site now known as UMC. This year, incidentally, is the University of Minnesota system's sesquicentennial (150) celebration.

Yoder Gazebos, Inc. built the gazebo in Arthur, Illinois. The company is owned by a group of Old Order Amish. The Amish choose not to use commercial electricity; the equipment they used in the construction of the gazebo was powered by hand and by stationary gas engines. The painstaking craftsmanship is actually part of the "art" of the project, and it seems an appropriate process for the centerpiece of a centennial park.

Once construction on the gazebo

was finished in Illinois, the building was marked, disassembled, and shipped to Crookston. A group of workers from the company arrived in Crookston in early June with the parts that would become the gazebo, and they reassembled it on site on the UMC Campus. The Amish don't own or drive motor vehicles, so a Mennonite friend brought the construction crew in his extended cab truck.

One of the key players in the gazebo project has been John Zak, who works in UMC's Media Service Department. Zak was inspired by the construction of a gazebo in nearby Thief River Falls for that city's centennial back in 1995. Yoder Gazebo also worked with that project. "It seemed like a nice way to work toward our own centennial at UMC", says Zak. "It is an interesting twist that UMC, a campus recognized nationally for its use of technology in education, would contract a company that uses little modern technology to create its high quality products. But part of the concept of the entire centennial park is to mark the past and look toward the future."

Plans call for the area from Bede Ballroom to the gazebo, garden and park to become a focal pint for concerts, performances, receptions and other gatherings on campus.



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Happenings



Pictured above is the old water tower, a landmark at the Campus for many years, that was removed earlier this spring. As it lay on the ground, it resembled a large bug!

Pictured below is small grains specialist, Jochum Wiersma, (center), and four Russian visitors and a University of Minnesota guide and interpreter.



Many changes are occurring on the Campus including this new parking lot west of Robertson Hall and Kiehle Auditorium



Pictured to the left are Dr. Don Rasmusson and Dr. Bob Busch. Research ranges were named for them at the Range Dedication held during Field Day in July. Don and Bob were honored for their long-time research with barley and wheat breeding for the University of Minnesota and for their contributions to producers in the State and especially northwestern Minnesota.

Dairy Calf Research Involves Feeding Field Peas to Dairy Calves.

By George Marx, Dairy Scientist

Dry field peas were included at 40% of the grain starter ration for both preweaned and weaned calves. During a five-week period, a total of 34 preweaned Holstein dairy calves and 32 weaned calves were evaluated in an experimental ration with the use of a similar amount of barley in the control conventional ration. The balance of the ration consisted of corn, soybean meal, molasses, minerals and vitamins balanced to 18% crude protein. The grain starter ration was fed free choice to baby calves and limited to four pounds daily to each calf for the weaned calves.

Newborn baby calves were fed colostrum for three days, subsequently given 10 pounds of milk divided between two daily feedings until weaned at five weeks. These calves were housed in an insulated and ventilated warm barn in individual steel pens four feet by five feet in area. Water was available free choice with automatic waterers in every pen. Weaned calves were fed in group pens with free choice water, alfalfa haylage and the specific grain ration.

Data collected included feed intake, feed weighback, feed efficiencies, body weights and health information. Statistical Analysis Systems (SAS) software was used to analyze the data to determine significant differences between the ration treatments.

The average daily body weight gain for the calves fed milk and grain starter containing field peas was 0.76 lb and control calves

was 0.77 lb. Weaned calves fed the experimental starter gained 1.51 lb daily and those on the control gained 1.48 lb daily. Average daily starter intakes for the preweaned calves fed the field peas was 1.20 and control calves was 1.17 lb of dry matter. Forage (alfalfa haylage) fed to appetite to the weaned calves was similar for both treatment groups as was the feed-to-gain ratios (feed efficiency).

In summary, coarse ground dry field peas were found to be an excellent feed source in dairy calf grain starter rations at 40% of the ration components. Statistical analysis determined that calf weight gains and grain starter intakes did not differ statistically ($P < 0.05$) between the two treatment calf groups. Health problems including scour

days were not a factor in this study. Palatability and acceptance was satisfactory for both the weaned and preweaned calves. Therefore, if the economics of purchasing field peas has an advantage or is comparative to other sources of protein and energy feeds, peas can be substituted in calf grain rations.

Since peas are adapted for growing in our northern climate and yields of the modern varieties are more competitive with other grain values, along with the higher protein content of field peas (25%) one might want to consider their use by livestock. Also, in many cases, cull peas, downgrades and weather damaged peas can be purchased very reasonably for incorporation into feed rations.



Yvonne Hanson retired on July 14 after 30 years of service to the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Pictured with Yvonne (right) on her last day of work are (left) Patti Malme, Anne Burke and Janet Solheim.

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Northwest News
Patti Malme, Editor

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