

# EXTENOVATIONS

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F O R A L L O F E X T E N S I O N

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
DOCUMENTS

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## Soviet youths complete 4-H exchange at American Variety Theatre, environment workshop

Extension's 4-H program welcomed 20 young Soviets and three adult chaperones in August as the return visit to an exchange that sent a similar number of Minnesota 4-H members to the USSR in 1989. According to Dave Pace of the 4-H staff, the visitors are all members of the Pioneers, a youth organization that has had ties to Minnesota 4-H since a photo exchange between Minnesota 4-H and the Moscow Pioneer Palace was organized in 1987.

Half of the young Soviets participated alongside Hennepin County 4-H'ers in a play at the American Variety Theatre Company in north Minneapolis. The other young people attended a workshop on water quality and the environment near Alexandria. Both groups attended the Minnesota State Fair and stayed with Minnesota families to learn more about life in this country.

Connect US/USSR of Minneapolis assisted in making arrangements for the group as it assisted the previous photo exchange and the Minnesota

4-H'ers trip to the Soviet Union last summer. The Otto Bremer Foundation was a major contributor along with several other businesses and organizations.

The young people at the American Variety Theatre staged the production "Fables Here and Then." They performed both at the Variety Theatre and at the State Fair. U.S. and Soviet teens had about a week to cast, stage and choreograph the play. When not in rehearsal, the young people from both countries also participated in other Twin Cities area tours and special events. The staff who worked most directly with the teens were 4-H agents Jeri Ezaki, Roger Holmes and Bill Svendsgaard and American Variety Theatre staff Janelle Ranek, Stephanie Harmon, Bob Bannam, Gregory Graham and Steven Houtz.

Soviet teens who stayed in Douglas County participated in water quality projects including the Clean Lakes Project and the Christina Lake Restoration Project. They also were active



**Fables Here and Then** was the name of the musical production that the Soviet visitors and Minnesota 4-H members staged. They gave it here for an audience at the 4-H Building on the State Fairgrounds.

members of a Community Issues Forum held at the Douglas County Fair, according to Harlan Rosendahl, Douglas County 4-H agent and one of the adults who traveled to the USSR last summer with the exchange. ■

• Deedee Nagy

## National Weather Service honors Renville County, Morris station

Charting rainfall and high and low temperatures for more than a century have been part of the daily routine for the West Central Experiment Station staff at Morris and for Renville County officials, most recently those at the county extension office.

Those are among 15 Minnesota sites honored as part of the National Weather Service's centennial celebration recently for their longevity in gathering and reporting weather statistics.

Tom Booker, Renville County extension director and agriculture agent, accepted the award for his office's role in weather recordkeeping. Observers in that county began recording data in 1885. Booker has been the Olivia weather observer for about six years. Other staff in the Renville County Extension

Office took the readings beginning in 1980 when the local post office staff discontinued weather data collection.

Sam Evans, soil scientist at the West Central Experiment Station at Morris, accepted that site's award for recordkeeping dating back to 1885. Evans himself began recording climatic data in 1968. He is assisted on weekends by livestock maintenance crews at the Morris station.

Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota extension climatologist and a member of the observer awards committee, credits volunteers like Evans and Booker for great contributions to forecasting.

According to Seeley, research on climatic variability, "greenhouse warming" and acid rain

would not be possible without the National Weather Service's climatological network. He adds that among the many aspects of everyday life that have evolved out of an understanding of climatological data are the livestock weather safety and crop maturity indices; plant hardiness zones and crop insurance actuarial tables.

Seeley says, "Most of us are aware of sophisticated weather monitoring devices such as satellite and radar. It's less widely known that the lion's share of climate data gathered in the U.S. comes from volunteers. These weather enthusiasts embody the finest combination of volunteerism and environmentalism." ■

• Deedee Nagy



Hennepin County 4-H agent Bill Svendsgaard helped Soviet and Minnesota teens decorate souvenir shirts as part of their experience with the American Variety Theatre Company.



Taking a turn at the steering wheel of a boat on Lake Arrowwood was one of the enjoyable activities for Soviet teens involved in an environmental workshop in the Alexandria area.

Extension photos by Deedee Nagy and Sandra Becker

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# Extension teaches life skills to Scott County jail inmates

Scott County home economics agent Kay Louis knows something about captive audiences.

In her case, she has been teaching life management skills to inmates of the Scott County Jail Annex for several years, and she finds that many extension home economics and 4-H teaching materials are easily adapted to teach money management, family strengths, goal setting, communication and job seeking skills to the inmate population.

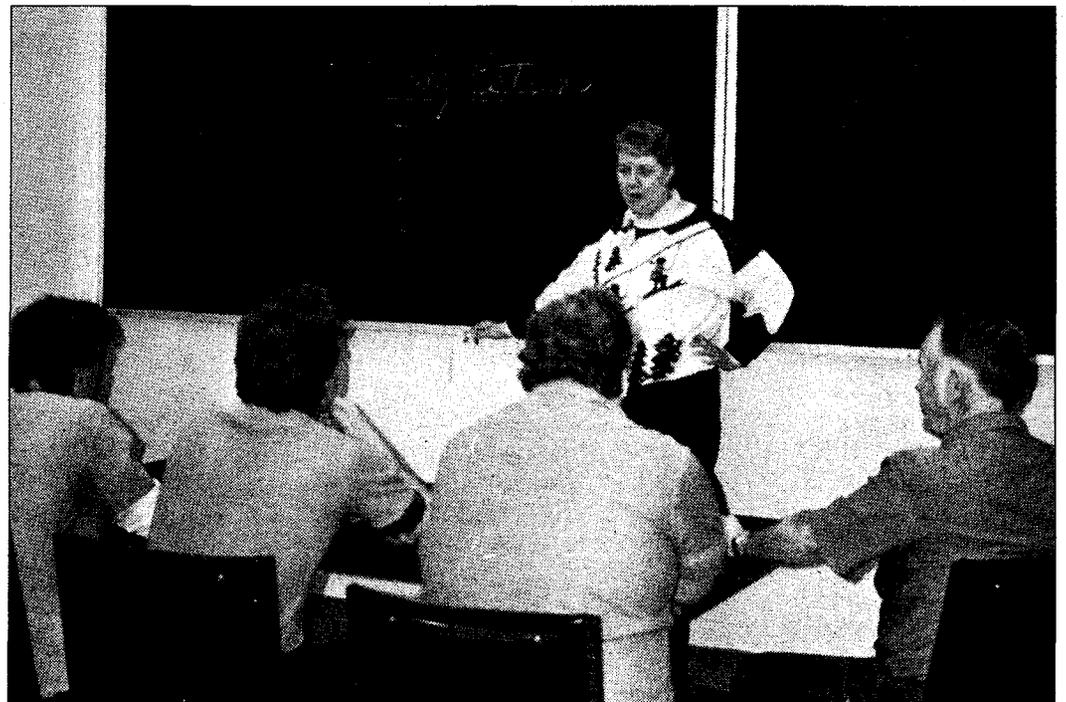
During the eight-week course about 20 inmates meet for one and one-half hours weekly with Louis, 4-H agent Betty McAndrews, Marianne Whiting of the MES Staff and Organizational Development unit or other community resource people. In each session, the leader encourages the inmates to tackle problems they have in managing their lives and pursuing goals.

Louis says that the jail, a minimum security facility, typically deals with men and women who have committed alcohol-related crimes and are sentenced for less than a year. Inmates agree to attend the sessions as a condition of their

sentence, but she has found that they accept the course content and give it high marks for its relevance to problems they have. In addition to the lecture and discussion session that Louis or a colleague leads, each inmate also must attend a group discussion each week and must complete some self-help or counseling requirements.

"The biggest difference I found in teaching at the jail annex was the higher proportion of men than I ever had in home economics programs (the facility houses both men and women) and the higher percentage of minorities," Louis said. "Beyond that, we're teaching many of the same skills that extension has always stressed — conflict management, career development, interpersonal communication, money management and decisionmaking."

During the course, which she offers three times each year, Louis often uses materials developed for Project Support and for the Tackling Tough Stuff 4-H program. Evaluations done by the inmates have been high. Comments have included "Everyone needs to learn this" "I look forward to each session" and "This class made me more



Extenovations courtesy of Scott County Extension Service

Kay Louis, Scott County home economics agent, teaches a life management skills course several times each year at the Scott County Jail Annex. Inmates hear lectures from Louis and others and participate in group discussions on goal setting, budgeting, communication and social acceptance.

aware that I can have control over my life."

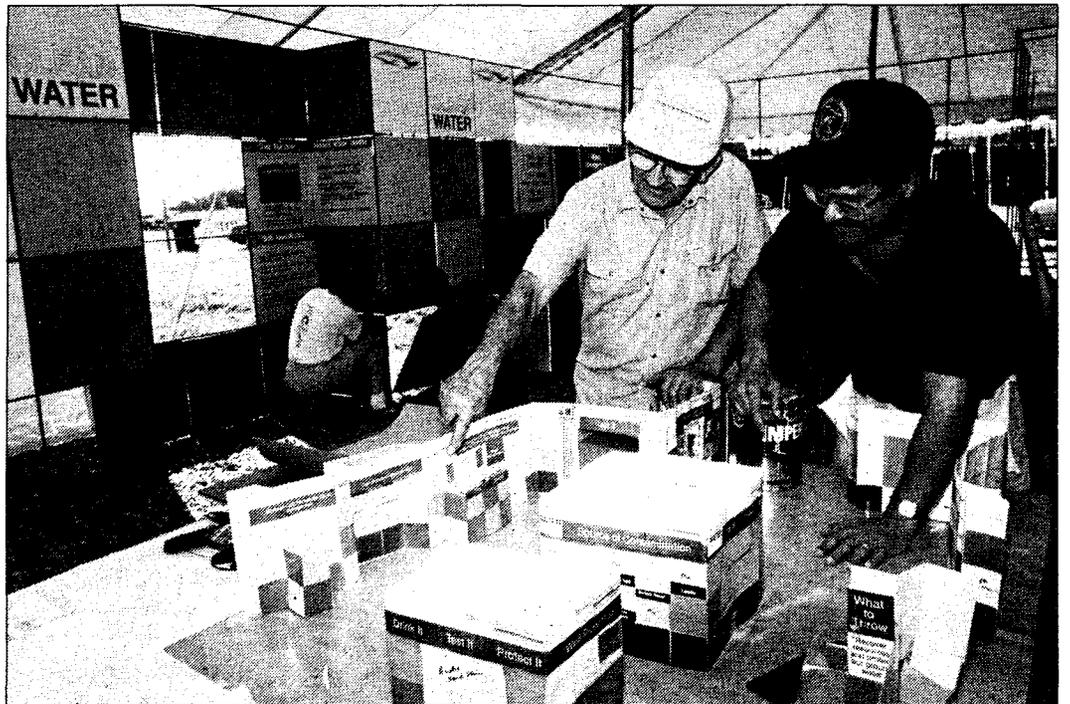
Louis says that the pleasant, dormitory feel to the jail annex, which was once a sanatorium for arthritis sufferers, adds to the relaxed atmosphere of the classes. "Many of these inmates have poor self-esteem and often they have little or no

contact with family members. Sessions like this help provide them with a support group to get their lives going in the right direction again," she adds. Most also attend classes to help them deal with their chemical dependency while jailed.

Although follow-up is often difficult once inmates are re-

leased, Louis hopes that the life management skills course has helped some former inmates turn their lives around. "They have to make changes on their own, and that isn't easy. But I like to think they're a little better prepared to make some decisions after completing this curriculum," Louis says. ■

• Deedee Nagy



Extenovations photos by Don Breneman

## Farmfest showcases MES water quality efforts

More than 50 county agents, campus faculty and support staff worked to produce, set up and staff the large exhibit tent that told Minnesota Extension Service's water quality story to Farmfest visitors in August. The three-day event, held near Austin, drew more than 7,000 people to the extension exhibit where they could learn more about water, the integrated pest management program, yard waste and composting and alternative agricultural crops. (Right photo) Joe Jovanovich, left, of the EDS staff and entomologist Bruce Giebink check the plans while setting up Extension's Farmfest exhibit, which filled a 40 by 80 foot tent and contained more than 400 separate display panels. (Upper left) Fred Bergsrud, left, water quality coordinator, and Tim Wagar, Farmfest exhibit chair and area crops and soils agent, adjust the sign outside the MES exhibit. (Lower left) Don Olson, program leader for agriculture, answers an Austin television station reporter's questions during Farmfest.

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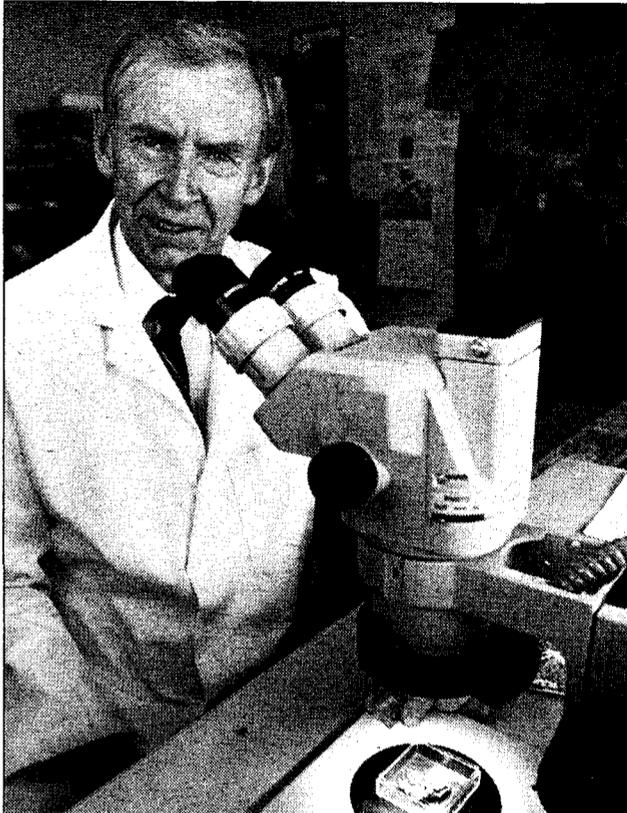
## Munter brings touch of Sherlock Holmes to soil testing

It's a neat, busy office, 135 Crops Research. Bob Munter is on the phone giving directions to a caller on how to find the St. Paul Campus and then, his office. It's headquarters of the University of Minnesota Soil Testing and Research Analytical Laboratories. He's its administrator.

Until Munter rifles through some small boxes containing plastic envelopes with pebbles, sand and vegetation, and mentions calls from police, sheriff and FBI, one would never guess his work sometimes helps to solve murders.

"About once a year we are called on to do this type thing. We have been helpful," he says modestly. Probably his most memorable case was ten years ago: the kidnapping of Mrs. Mary Stauffer and her 8-year-old daughter in suburban St. Paul. Authorities sought the burial place of 6-year-old Jason Wilkman, who was killed when he witnessed the kidnapping in a wooded area of a park. (The Stauffers escaped seven weeks after their capture. The family does missionary work in the Philippines.)

Authorities took soil samples from the wheel wells of the abandoned kidnap vehicle and asked Munter's help. Analyses indicated a wet site. Some 1500 seeds representing 29 species turned up in a little over 300 grams of soil recovered from the vehicle. Because no



Extenovations photo by Don Breneman

Bob Munter, administrator of the soil testing laboratory on campus, sometimes assists police by tracing soil samples from vehicles and shoes to sites where crimes may have been committed.

rain had fallen for weeks before or on the day of the kidnapping, Munter deduced the sandy soils would not have stuck to the car unless it had been driven through a wet site—either a construction site or a wildlife area. This pinpointed the Anoka County Carlos Avery Wildlife Area

"We gave the information to the FBI. The sheriff said without our involvement the kidnapper (Ming Sen Shiue later tried and

convicted of murder and kidnapping) might not have led them to the site where the young boy was buried," Munter says.

This year Munter has analyzed soil on the wheels of Kate Hebert's car. She is the Lakeville mother who disappeared in June after dropping off her 6-year-old daughter at her ex-husband's so he could baby-sit while she attended a counseling session. Munter

found very fine white sand from a very wet site. He has put together a profile of the sought-after site, providing investigators with site characteristics and maps of suspect areas. Authorities have brought him soil-encrusted shoes and shovels to look over for possible leads in the case, which is still unsolved.

Forensic pedology (pedology, the science that deals with the study of soils) is what Munter calls these forays. He does these after hours and on weekends; the University only bills the law enforcement agencies for materials. He visits with geologists and other soil scientists as they share knowledge trying to unravel meaning from samples. He says he depends "on what is seen through the microscope, eyeball and fingers."

Munter's expertise is trying to determine locations where soil could have come from. That information can prove useful in matching a suspect with the site of a crime. He also has been called in on cases involving vandalism of golf courses. Armed with a soil science degree in 1959 from the University, Munter spent a valuable five years with the Soil Conservation Service soil survey mapping and classifying soils in Minnesota. After graduate work and his master's degree, he returned to campus 27 years ago to start a research analytical lab supported by the Minnesota Experiment Station.

Five years ago when Jon Grava retired from the Minnesota Extension Service Soil Testing laboratory, the labs combined and Munter directs both with a staff of about 20 full and part-time employees. The labs work for researchers on campus, county agents, farmers, florists, lawn and garden businesses, state agencies such as the Pollution Control Agency and for nonprofit groups. The research lab does both plant and water analysis. Last year 22,000 samples passed through the research lab and 19,000 through the extension soil testing area, Munter says.

Two years ago Munter gave a paper at the Midwest Association of Forensic Scientists. "There is so much potential for soils people to help," he says, hoping to encourage others to become involved and to let police know there is expertise available. "Actually I don't have the time required for this work unless it's a serious crime (murder) and someone missing. Then it gets to be a moral obligation," Munter says.

Yes, he enjoys reading a good mystery novel. If he had time he might write his own some day. Until then he has a Sherlock Holmes-type cap, given to him by a friend, to help set the mood for some of his detective work. ■

• Mary Kay O'Hearn

## Carver County Day at Landscape Arboretum draws 1,500 participants

How do you create a greater awareness among county residents of the resources that the University offers to local residents? If you are in Carver County, which includes the beautiful and informative Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, a good way is to attract county residents to that site for a variety of activities and demonstrations.

It was that reasoning that brought about Carver County Day at the Arboretum in July. With the theme "The U for You in Carver County," the day included 4-H demonstrations throughout the Arboretum grounds, Master Gardener mini-clinics, displays on extension programs, tours, question and answer sessions with University faculty and elected officials, and workshops on composting and other seasonal topics.

Financed by a \$1,000 innovative grant through the Director's

Office, the day's activities attracted more than 1,500 people to the Arboretum. Participants could also take tours of the nearby Research Farm and relax over ice cream donated by the Carver County American Dairy Association.

Carver County agents Nancy Lenhart and Vern Oraskovich summarized the day's success. "This collaborative effort demonstrates the potential we have when we begin to look at alternative ways of serving our clientele rather than working independently. While it is difficult to do a formal evaluation of a program such as this, judging by individual comments from participants, we will plan for another Carver County Day." ■

• Deedee Nagy



Extenovations photos courtesy of Carver County Extension

Carver County agent Doug Courneya answered a question from a participant at Carver County Day at the University Landscape Arboretum in July. More than 1,500 persons enjoyed free admission to the arboretum and a variety of activities on the grounds.

# Agriculture, Home Economics work together to cut applicators' pesticide exposure

Many of life's risks are hard to avoid. One risk extension's agriculture and home economics program areas are working together to minimize is applicators' exposure to pesticides. It's an integrated educational program. Wearing protective clothing and taking care in handling pesticides are equally important ways to make the work safer.

Health effects of pesticides became major questions when the groundwater issue hit.

When there were concerns about pesticides being in drinking water, even at low levels, and affecting families—this gets into the whole area of pesticides handling, according to Wanda Olson and Dean Herzfeld. Olson is housing technology specialist and Herzfeld is agriculturist with Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT).

What began as each individual's common sense approach to handling pesticides is now backed up with research. "Research has existed since 1976 and it dealt with protective clothing for cotton workers," says Olson. She surveyed Minnesota corn growers in 1984 to learn about applicators techniques, protective clothing and equipment and their family laundry habits after clothing had been worn by pesticide applicators.

At about the same time, extension plant pathologist and PAT coordinator Dick Meronuck, and textiles and clothing specialist Sherri Gahrng discussed the need for the PAT program to include information on protective clothing. The campus-based faculty members agreed that there needed to be a family approach to pesticide safety education. "We needed clothing expertise to help us handle this aspect of PAT," Meronuck remarks.

It all came together in 1989 in a program initiated for applicators and their families called, Protect The Applicator: Reduce The Risk. Olson, Gahrng and Herzfeld wrote an accompanying publication, "Buying and Wearing Protective Clothing for Applying Pesticides" (HE-FO-3877-C) now in its second printing totaling 45,000 copies. (In its next printing it has been approved as a North Central Regional publication which means it will be made available to extension in 12 states.) In 1989-90 the protective clothing training, together with PAT, has reached some 15,000 people in 50 Minnesota counties.

Displays and demonstrations have been featured at experiment station field days, Farmfest, county fairs and the State Fair.



Extenovations photo by Mary Kay O'Hearn

Campus-based faculty who served as members of the team teaching about protective clothing and laundry handling for pesticide applicators are, from left, Dean Herzfeld, Sherri Gahrng, Wanda Olson and Dick Meronuck. Masks, gloves and proper clothing to cover the entire body are among the things stressed in this program, which has included close cooperation between the agriculture and home economics program areas.

"Questions at PAT training always come around to the health effects," Herzfeld says. Each year there are conversations among farmers wondering if the little seasonal bugs—the dizziness, the nausea, the not-feeling-quite-right—could be related to chemical exposure.

"People are more aware of the hazards," says Diana Martenson, formerly of Traverse County who helped with Prairie Cluster training. One farmer told of being hospitalized because he became very ill after entering a field following aerial spraying. Ken Nichols of Traverse designed PAT training

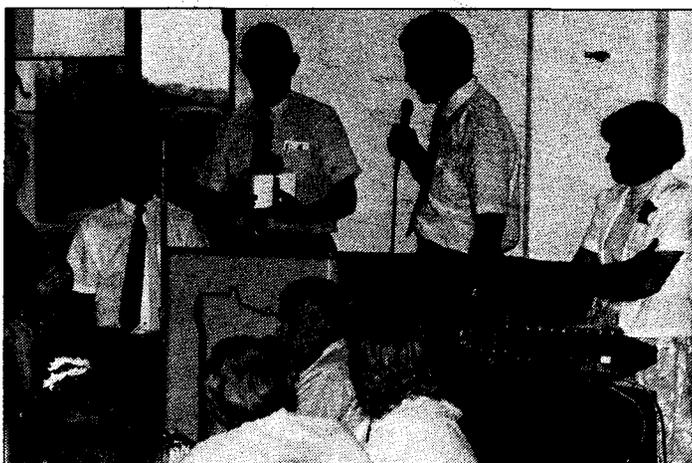
for the cluster (Traverse, Grant, Pope, Douglas and Stevens counties). More than 250 applicators were certified.

Kathy Brandt, Nobles County, did the integrated program with the agricultural agents for the cluster combining Lincoln, Lyon, Pipestone, Murray, Rock and Nobles. Newspapers, farm magazines, radio spots were alerted to build awareness that protective clothing is an important part of chemical application. She discussed pesticide poisoning, selection and laundering of protective clothing.

In Faribault County, Cindy Arnevik mentions that PAT training was held in February and March and protective training for families (spouses and youth) was held separately. "Getting bean bar riders to wear long sleeves" she feels is an accomplishment. Making youth aware of protective clothing at ages 10 and 11 can set a lifelong pattern. "They may be working with products 70-80 years," she remarks. Janene Baedke, home economics agent, team taught with Arnevik, the agricultural agent.

One objection to protective clothing is that they can be hot wearing in summer. To those objections, Terry Nennich, agent in Clearwater County, says, "Spraying should be done during the cooler part of the day; not all jobs are perfect and you've got to protect yourself." He conducted training with Bonita Thompson, home economics agent. In subsequent sessions he hopes more time can be devoted to the protective clothing aspects she presents. ■

• Mary Kay O'Hearn



Extenovations photo by Dave Hansen

## Advisory Committee salutes Director Borich

August 23 was "Pat Borich Day" by proclamation of Governor Rudy Perpich and the Citizens Advisory Committee hosted a program at the State Fair to honor Borich. Along with an engraved pewter mug, the committee presented him with a plaque proclaiming the day in his honor. Here, Borich opens the committee's gift while past chairs of the committee look on. They are, from left, Joyce Bohlen of LeSueur County, Chuck Stranberg of Kandiyohi County, John Ihlenfeld of Steele County and Gail Skare of Beltrami County, 1990 Citizens Advisory Committee chair. Also present at the program were University Vice President Gene Allen and Regents Charles Casey, Elton Kuderer and Mary Page.



Extenovations photo courtesy of Joe Fox

## Hasselmo visits Goodhue, Wabasha counties

University President Nils Hasselmo visited the extension offices in Goodhue and Wabasha counties this summer to meet staff and learn about activities and outreach education going on in these regions. Hasselmo visited with Goodhue County farmer Dale Anderson at his home near Vasa. Above, Hasselmo learned a bit about livestock handling and enjoyed joking with the Anderson's two young sons, Brad, with his back to the camera, and Todd, while the boys' mother, Jeanette, looked on. A picnic dinner at a Red Wing area farm concluded the day for Hasselmo and Regent Charles Casey, who also made the visit. About 80 people attended the picnic, which featured Goodhue County-grown products such as pork, sweet corn, dairy products and fruit cobbler for dessert. Hasselmo and Casey met with the Wabasha County extension staff for several hours on the same swing through southeastern Minnesota.