

May 2000 LA-1992

# EXTENOVATIONS

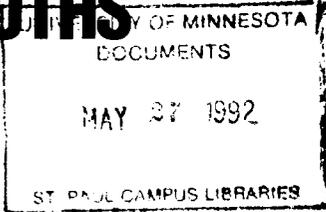
For All of Extension

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

Vol. 13, No. 2, May 1992

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## BORLAUG VISIT STRESSES AG RESEARCH, YOUTHS



DAVE HANSEN

Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug, a University of Minnesota graduate, made a whirlwind tour of the state in March, speaking to young people, U. of M. alumni and extension and agribusiness groups about the importance of agricultural research in feeding the world's hungry.

Borlaug, known as the leader of the Green Revolution, spoke to high school and college groups in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Crookston, Grand Rapids, Windom and Mankato. He urged young people to develop their talents and their scientific curiosity to help conquer world problems. Consider careers in agriculture and science, Borlaug urged, because those fields may hold keys to world peace. By solving problems of hunger, scientists can make the world more politically stable and peaceful, Borlaug said.

The 78-year-old Borlaug holds three degrees from the University of Minnesota. He has spent 47 years in Mexico serving as consultant to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center. When he accepted the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize, he said, "If you desire peace, cultivate justice, but also cultivate the land to produce bread -- otherwise there will be no peace."

Top: Borlaug met with many extension and experiment station staff and volunteers. Here he is shown with Blue Earth County Agent Mary Lou Ihrke, left, and Blue Earth County Extension Committee Member Barb Overlie.

Bottom: Students from Minneapolis North High School gathered around Norman Borlaug (center) after his speech.

In addition to student groups, Borlaug spoke to legislative committees, Agricultural Experiment Station staff, U. of M. alumni, MES staff and volunteers and news media in various communities across the state. He capped his five-day visit to the state with a talk to participants at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Deedee Nagy

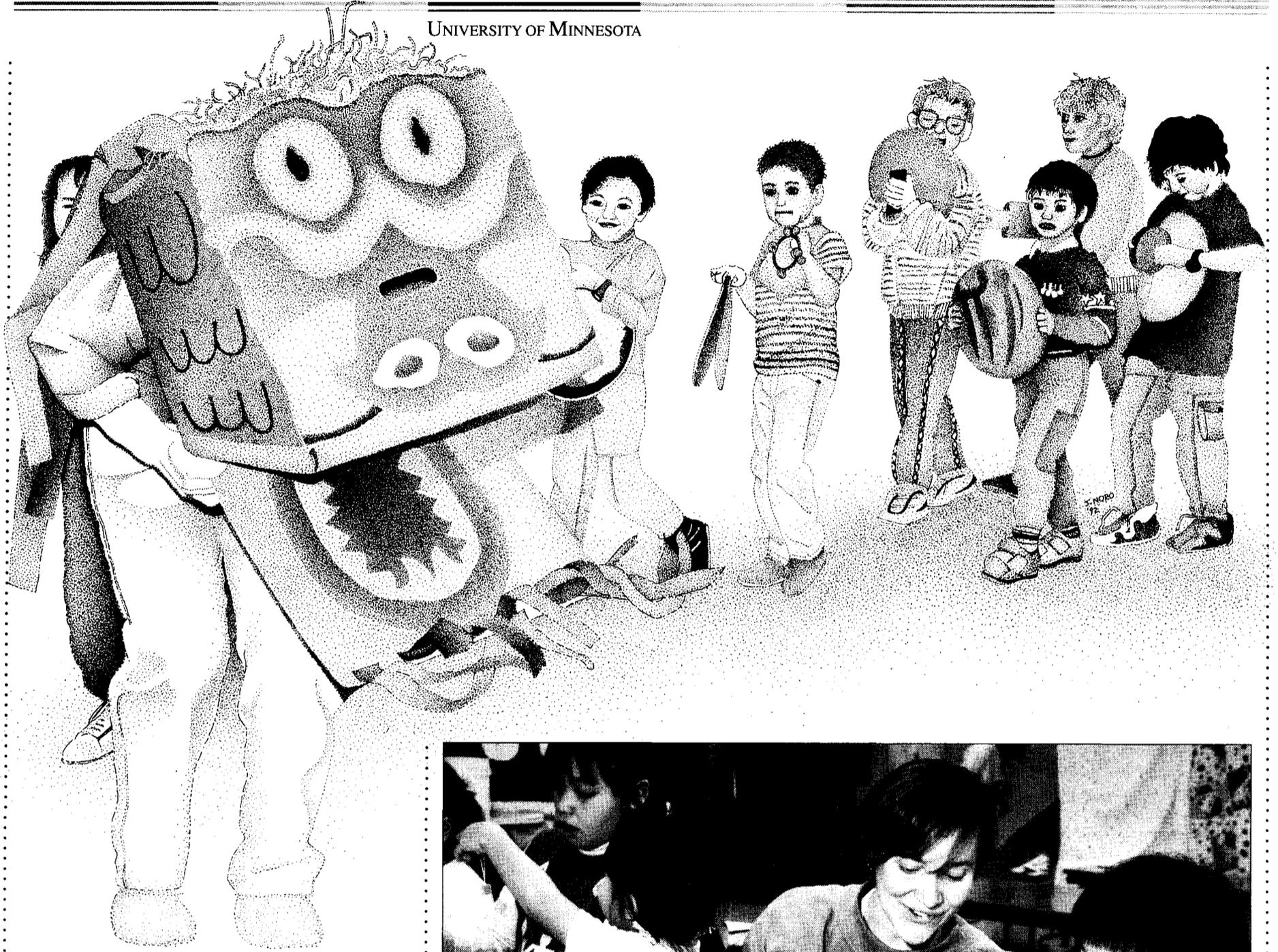
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A home-made dragon led a recent celebration of the Hmong new year in Winona County, coordinated by extension's Project FINE.



Karen Stettler, coordinator of Project FINE in Winona, leads a crafts project for Hmong children in a school's latchkey program.

## WINONA'S PROJECT FINE HELPS NEWCOMERS TO U.S.

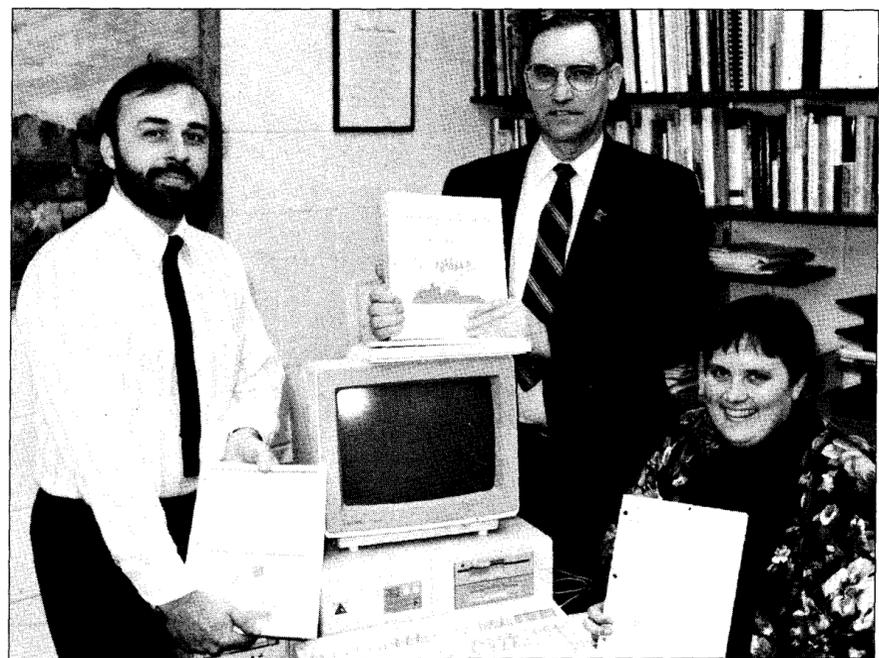
Hmong children in a Winona elementary school's latchkey program are among the newcomers to the U.S.A. being helped by Winona County's Project FINE (Focus on Integrating Newcomers into Education), according to Janet Beyer, Winona County MES agent.

The multi faceted program is coordinated by the Winona County Extension Service and funded by a grant from the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. It promotes understanding between established residents and newcomers from other cultures, primarily Asian and Hispanic immigrants. Hmong immigrants first moved to Winona County about eight years ago to farm. Since then, a number of

Hispanic immigrants have moved to nearby Lewiston for work in a turkey processing plant.

According to Beyer, Project FINE matches mentors from Winona County 4-H and other young people with children of newly arrived immigrant families. The FINE volunteers help the children and their families adjust to schools and community activities. Other Project FINE activities include parent support groups, cultural awareness celebrations and cultural diversity training for teachers, social workers, law enforcement personnel and others.

*Evelyn Anderson*



Preparing for and promoting the heavily attended income tax short course is a year-round duty for EDS staff, from left, Mark Stenzel, Curt Norenberg and Judy Sunvold of the Extension Special Programs unit. This year, courses will be held in nine cities throughout late October and November.

# FOR 50 YEARS, TAX PREPARERS HAVE LOOKED TO EXTENSION FOR EDUCATION

You might think of April as tax month, but for Curt Norenberg, Mark Stenzel and Judy Sunvold of the Extension Special Programs unit in Educational Development System, tax time means November. That's the month when they travel the state with teams of instructors putting on as many as ten Minnesota Farm and Individual Income Tax short courses, which annually attract about 2,000 tax preparers from around the state.

1992 marks the fiftieth year that Extension Special Programs has conducted the seminars, which are a cooperative project of MES, the Internal Revenue Service and the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Participants include tax preparers, accountants, farm management consultants, educators, lawyers and real estate and insurance professionals. Norenberg says attendance has held steady at about 2,000 persons for several years. The audience increases when major tax laws change at the state or federal level, he adds.

He says that nearly half of all tax preparation professionals in the state attend the short course, and some 90 percent of farm (Schedule F) returns are completed by short course participants. "Clearly, these income tax courses provide information that has a direct effect on Minnesotans," Norenberg says. "Nearly half of the tax professionals who attend say that it is the only in-service training they attend each year. This yearly course brings them up to date on changes in the law so it's important to the accuracy of many people's tax returns."

In 1991, the course was held in St. Paul, Marshall, Willmar, Duluth, Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, Rochester, Mankato, St. Cloud and Bloomington.

Instructors included MES area farm management specialists Perry Fales, Dary Talley, Erlin Weness and Lorin Westman along with staff from the IRS, the state revenue department and tax consultants.

For Norenberg, Stenzel and Sunvold, work on the tax course goes on nearly all year. Each April and August, Norenberg and Stenzel travel to the University of Illinois to work with colleagues and editors to plan and produce the 600-plus page manual that all participants receive. Follow-up audio teleconferences with the editors are scheduled throughout the year. Another book given to everyone at the course includes copies of all overhead transparencies used by the course instructors. In the fall, Norenberg and Stenzel work with the instructors at "dress rehearsals" to perfect their presentations and audiovisual support. Because of the high quality of the instruction, participants can receive 16 hours of credit from Extension Special Programs for continuing education, which are accepted by their professional associations.

Sunvold handles the mailing of some 9,000 promotional flyers as well as registration and room and food arrangements with the hotels. She also works with commercial exhibitors who maintain booths at the course. Stenzel handles the computerized summary of the short course evaluations.

This year, the income tax course will be held in nine cities. The schedule is St. Paul, Oct. 30-31; Marshall, Nov. 4-5; Willmar, Nov. 5-6; Grand Rapids, Nov. 10-11; Detroit Lakes, Nov. 11-12; St. Cloud, Nov. 12-13; Mankato, Nov. 17-18; Rochester, Nov. 18-19; and Bloomington, Nov. 23-24.

Deedee Nagy

## Extenovations Annual Report wins award

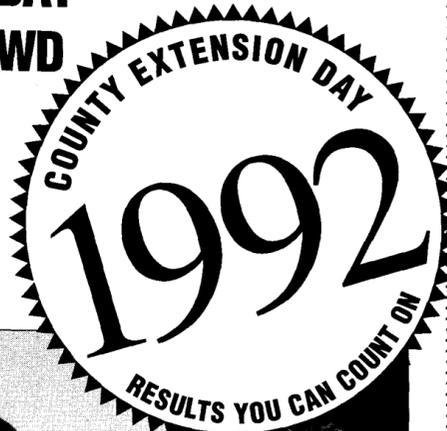
The 1991 MES annual report issue of Extenovations, published in October, has received two awards for design and content from Agricultural Communicators in Education (ACE). It was cited as best in its category of one- and two-color publications and also as the Outstanding Achievement winner for all publications entered in the ACE critique and awards contest.

The Outstanding Achievement Award recognized the 1991 annual report issue of Extenovations as the best of more than 130 publications entered in the contest, according to Extenovations editor Deedee Nagy. The judges cited it for its "sophisticated typographic format coupled with superb photos handled imaginatively and powerfully." The awards will be presented at the annual ACE meeting to be held in Washington, D.C., in June. The ACE contest also cited Janet Macy, extension communicator with the Family Social Science Department, for her radio program (first place) and Dave Hansen, extension communicator with EDS, for Minnesota Science (third place).

Contributors to the annual report issue, in addition to Nagy, were Judy Keena, graphics consultant; Tara Christopherson, designer; Don Breneman, photo editor; and writers, Jack Sperbeck, Phyllis Jenks, Evelyn Anderson, Joe Kurtz, Donna Rae Scheffert, Sonya Gambrel and Richard Sherman.

## COUNTY EXTENSION DAY DRAWS LARGE CROWD

One of the biggest crowds ever to attend a County Extension Day, about 430 people, spent March 20 learning more about extension programs and the results that are making a difference to Minnesotans. The day of speakers, panel presentations, videos and exhibits followed the theme "Results You Can Count On." Chair of this year's event was Sandra Becker, EDS video producer. The preceding evening was Farm Family Recognition Night, which brought 58 outstanding farm families from across the state to the St. Paul campus in recognition of their contributions to agriculture. Photos by Don Breneman.



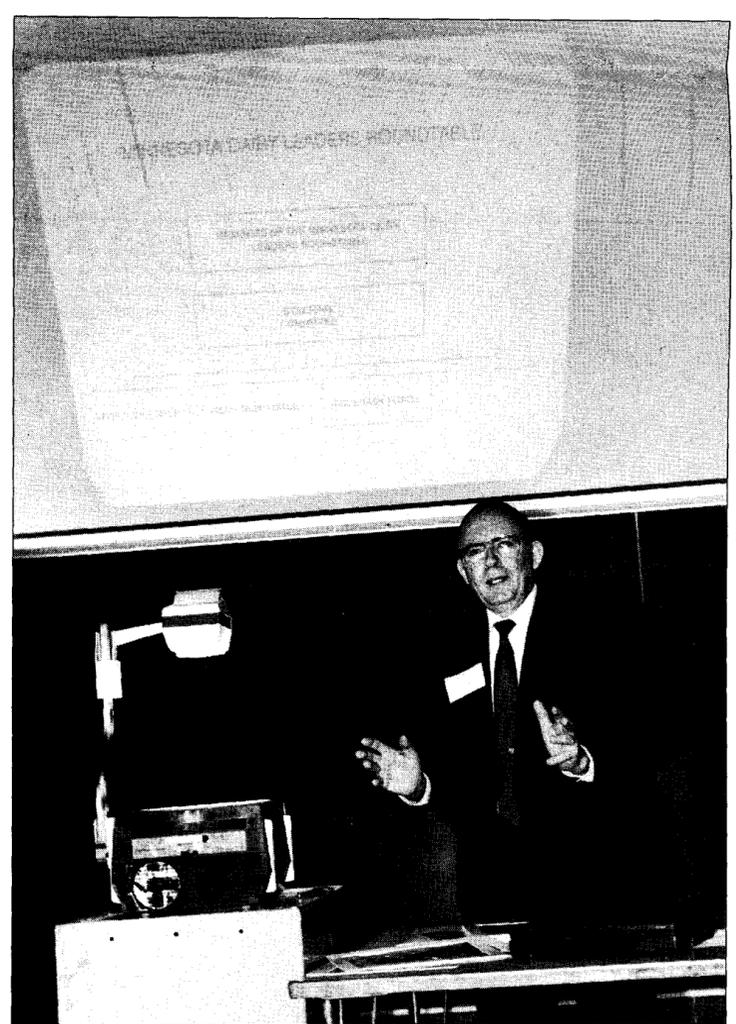
From left, Fay McLain and Tina Tscetu, EFNEP staffers, and Paula Nelson, Dakota County Public Health Department staff member presented information on EFNEP's impact on low income families in the state. County Extension Day participants could choose from among speakers and panels representing all of MES's initiative programs.



Chuck Schwartau, right, Wabasha County agent, listens to EDS staff member Bob Rubinyi explain the CD-ROM information storage and retrieval system that was displayed at County Extension Day.



Clorasteen Wilson, Hennepin County EFNEP staff person, looks over a display in the lobby of the Earle Brown Center during County Extension Day.



Ed Frederick, assistant to the Community Resources program leader, was part of a panel providing information about the Dairy Initiatives program and its impact on state dairying.

## BRIEFLY

DALE HICKS, extension agronomist, received the Robert E. Wagner Award for Efficient Agriculture from the American Society of Agronomy for "substantially increasing profitability and production efficiency for corn and soybean producers."

ERV OELKE, extension agronomist, was named a fellow of the Crop Science Society of America, "the highest honor bestowed a member." Only three-tenths of a percent of the more than 5,000 members are elected each year. Oelke was cited for education and research activities related to small grains production and wild rice development.

MIKE SCHMITT, extension soil scientist, received the CIBA-GEIGY Award in Agronomy from the American Society of Agronomy for outstanding performance in teaching or service to county agents, fertilizer dealers, crop consultants and agency personnel.

TAIWANESE EXTENSION staff members spent two days on the St. Paul campus in February learning how MES uses communication technologies. The group spent time in EDS learning about distance delivery from Larry Coyle; about the EXTEND system from Bill Bomash and about CD-ROM from Bob Rubinyi. They also met with the Agricultural Education staff and visited the Dakota County Extension office to view their satellite downlink facilities and to observe how county offices are using various new technologies. Curt Norenberg of EDS hosted the group of four Taiwanese, one of whom, Bosco Lee, received his doctorate in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota in 1974 and was a teaching assistant for Norenberg from 1970 through 1974.

MES CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE met in April and installed Brenda Rossman, Olmsted County, as the group's 1992-1993 chair. Carolyn Lee, Swift County, was voted the 1993 chair-elect. Larry Larson, Mower County, completed his year as chair and was among the group of 12 members who "graduated" from the committee. In addition to Larson, the committee members completing their service were Lansin Hamilton, Crow Wing County; Henry Hanka, St. Louis County; Keith Jacob and Leoung Khi, Ramsey County; Dave Kjome, Olmsted County; Milo Kubasch, McLeod County; Wally Lutz, Chippewa County; Kevin Otto, Wright County; Claudia Parliament and Ellie Webster, Hennepin County; and Lucille Weiss, Red Lake County.

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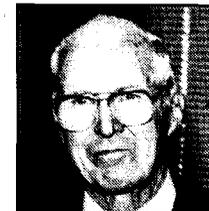
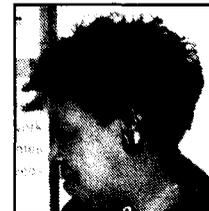


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