

Governors to discuss ag.

Agriculture is the issue which the governors of the western states will be looking at in an April 16-19 conference. Dr. Chuck Logsdon attended the conference steering committee meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the end of February.

Topics under discussion will be increased agricultural production, export trade, land use planning and agricultural environmental issues.

Revegetation

The production of native plant seed for use in revegetation will be discussed by Dr. Bill Mitchell in a March 12-13 meeting with Alyeska, the Canadian Gas Arctic Group and possibly some other oil groups.

Agroborealis

Northern Printing in Anchorage has the bid for Agroborealis. Dr. Art Brundage hopes for an April issue.

CEA

The Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) project in Kenai presently is expected to be in full operation by May 1, Dr. Don Dinkel said. Lights were up in about one-third of the pilot plant and in one module by March 1.

The final design meeting for research is scheduled March 13. Dr. Gerald Carlson, the University's consultant on this project, will attend. He is from the Light and Plant Growth Laboratory, ARS, USDA, Beltsville. Also attending will be Dr. Eion Scott, the G.E. horticulturist, and other G.E. representatives.

Pesticide seminar

A seminar on pesticides and the regulations concerning their use on vegetable crops will be held March 12 at the Matanuska Community College, Palmer. Richard Stokes, Alaska Pesticide Program Supervisor, will discuss the regulations.

Horse nutrition

Dr. Art Brundage was scheduled to discuss horse nutrition as the guest speaker of the Palmer Pony Patrol on March 5.

Budget

The governor's budget contains a \$1.2 million allotment for capital improvements at IAS. If it is passed by the legislature it will appear as a bond issue before the voters.

Sparrow joins IAS

Stephen Sparrow, joined the Fairbanks staff February 1 as a senior research assistant. He will be working with Dr. Frank Wooding. Steve replaces Charles Knight who resigned last fall to take a position as manager of the East Central Kansas Experiment Field in Ottawa.

Steve comes to the University from Fort Collins, Colorado, where he recently completed his M.S. in agronomy with a specialization in soil microbiology at Colorado State University. He received his B.S. (1969) in soil science, North Carolina State, Raleigh.

Steve was born in Washington, North Carolina in 1947. He was accompanied to Alaska by his wife Ellen.

Brundage teaches 5th, 6th grades

A mini course surveying the dairy industry is being taught at Sherrod Elementary School, Palmer, by Dr. Art Brundage. Fifth and sixth grade pupils are enrolled in the class which began March 1 and will continue for a total of five Friday afternoons. Art plans tours of the Cow Palace at the Matanuska Farm, a private dairy and the milk plant in Anchorage.

Oil spill

Dr. Bill Mitchell and Dr. Jay McKendrick have been consulting with Alyeska recently concerning its contingency plan for the reclamation of oil spill sites.

Informal committee

An informal committee was formed January 28 to discuss how the University's renewable resource units could be coordinated to improve cooperation and understanding between research, public service and teaching. Participating units are: IAS, Cooperative Extension, Department of Land Resources and Agricultural Sciences, Forest-Soils Lab, Institute of Water Resources, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Institute of Arctic Environmental Engineering.

Dr. Don Dinkel presently is acting as IAS representative. Questions and comments may be directed to him.

Bill

A bill which would establish a state department of agriculture has been introduced in the legislature by Senator Jalmer Kerttula, Palmer.

Perkin-Elmer

A representative from Perkin-Elmer is scheduled to set up the gas chromatograph in Palmer, March 12. The next day he is expected in Kenai to put the atomic-absorption spectrophotometer into operation.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Frank and Barbara Corbin on the birth of a baby boy, Sean Stewart, Monday, February 25. Sean, the Corbin's first child, weighed 7 lb. 6 oz. Frank is a graduate student with Dr. Don Tomlin.

Soil testing

Lab technician George Mitchell is currently analyzing soil samples as a part of the joint IAS-extension service soil testing program. Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and pH are measured.

Drafting: Ag. degrees

An academic curriculum in agriculture is being drafted under the direction of Dr. Bonita Neiland, head of the Department of Land Resources and Agricultural Sciences. An associate degree and a minor would be instituted first with the B.S. being initiated as the program developed, according to the rudimentary draft. Options presently suggested are: plant science, animal science, agricultural economics, soil science and journalism.

Because of their proximity with Bonita at the main campus, IAS-Fairbanks and Cooperative Extension have participated in the rudimentary drafting. This rough draft is being sent to IAS-Palmer for input and discussion; Palmer also will be cooperating with Mat-Su Community College.

Bonita will meet with everyone to draft the final curriculum.

Ski odyssey

Pete Scorup and Al Mansfield began a 75-mile cross country ski trip Saturday, March 2. Their plan was to follow the Iditarod Trail from Skwentna to Knik via Susitna.

Indexing

A little straw flower, Gamphrena, has been seeded by Harold Stephan for use in the potato indexing program. This program is part of Dr. Chuck Logsdon's Crop Improvement Association work.

Gamphrena will be inoculated from potato tubers in about two months. If a virus is present in the tuber inoculation it will produce lesions on the flower plant.

Chuck presently has five virus-free potato varieties. Indexed seed is used to produce foundation seed.

Warbles

At a recent meeting, Dr. Richard Washburn discussed some of the experiences and problems encountered with the treatment of reindeer at Nome for warbles (*Oedamagena tarandi* L.). IAS, SCS and the Division of Agriculture attended.

RDC

The Rural Development Council will meet in Juneau, March 12 and 13.

Salad vegetable market

Bill Workman and Charlie Marsh conducted an examination of the salad vegetable market, Anchorage and Kenai Peninsula, as a part of the CEA project.

To retire...

Ed Liebenthal, extension agent in Homer, plans to retire on June 30.

Unique map

The scale, accuracy and cost of production of a unique computer print-out vegetation map is generating excitement in Dr. Jay McKendrick's ERTS project. The experimental map at a scale of 1:18,801 (3.37"=1 mi.) is 80-95 per cent accurate and cost only five mills per acre to produce. Jay thinks that such maps can be made still cheaper.

The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest west of Fairbanks lies in the center of the map which covers an area 18.1 by 25.1 miles. Identified on the map are: deciduous forest, commercial cottonwood, commercial spruce, spruce/birch and scrub, tall shrub, clear water and clouds, cloud shadows, clearings.

Jay also has some new digital color prints that show more detail than any other ERTS imagery he's seen.

Homer headway

The first phase of the building contract and a land clearing contract for 127 hours of "cat" work have been completed at the Homer site. The finished construction includes a house, barn, shop, equipment storage, fire hall and covered bunker silo. The moving of a 24-foot by 52-foot structure from the FAA site has initiated the second phase of the building contract. There will be offices in this building.

Aniak

Grains, forage grasses and vegetables will be grown this season at Aniak on the middle Kuskokwim according to Dr. Frank Wooding's current plans. Dr. Don Dinkel is involved in the vegetable aspect of the project.

Dave Hassinger, extension agent on site at Aniak, is cooperating.

Frank will mail seeds and instructions. He hopes to make a couple of trips to Aniak this summer.

Frank had a similar plot last year at Red Devil, 110 miles up river from Aniak.

Ag. development

A study presenting a rather comprehensive overall development approach to agriculture in Alaska has been completed by Dr. Wayne Burton. Included are proposed programs for the implementation of policy.

Perennials seeded

Lura Ginzton, Fairbanks, and Harold Stephan, Palmer, have seeded the perennial flowers in their respective greenhouses.

Snowplowing

Snow at the Matanuska-Susitna Community College is being plowed this winter by Waldo Erickson and crew. The community college is located near the Matanuska Farm.

I.B.P. meeting

Dr. Jay McKendrick is attending the International Biological Program (IBP) meeting in Seattle, March 6-10.

MWPS membership discontinued

IAS and the Cooperative Extension Service are discontinuing membership in the Midwest Plan Service (MWPS). Lee Allen has been a representative on the MWPS committee since 1958. An extension representative was also on the committee.

The extension service is in the process of joining the Western Regional Agricultural Engineering Service (WRAES), a relatively new organization.

The plan service has provided IAS with form building plan materials. Lee said the MWPS has had a lot of use from people in the community.

Trade research

Trade between Alaska and Washington state, especially that in agricultural commodities, is the focus of a new NC-122 research project. Dr. Wayne Thomas and Charlie Marsh met recently in Pullman, Washington with Washington State University cooperators to discuss the first phases of the 3-year study. Dr. Horace Drury attended the meeting as administrative advisor to the technical committee.

C. Logsdon Jr. to participate in project

Charles Logsdon Jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Logsdon, will be gathering some of the data in the Alaska-Washington trade research project. He will participate in the project as a part of his master's degree program at Washington State University, Pullman.

Tissue analysis

George Mitchell is doing tissue analysis in a pilot project being conducted with one Palmer area grower. The program is geared to determine which elements should be analyzed and the amount of time involved. It is hoped that this pilot venture will lead to a more complete program in fertility management.

Minilab

Dr. Frank Wooding is accumulating equipment for a minilab as quickly as the post office will allow. Pending the arrival of the Vanrock counter tops (cement and asbestos), the lab will go into operation (hopefully by April). "Mini" is tucked into a small room off the main lab area. This "isolated" location is desirable for the soil microbiological and growth chamber studies to be conducted by Steve Sparrow.

Seeds, seeds, seeds

There are well over 2000 different accessions of seed in the new seed storage room, Palmer, according to a recent inventory. Dr. Bill Mitchell said there is more than one lot of seed for many of the accessions.

Visiting outside

Rosco Taylor will be visiting his parents in South Dakota for two weeks during March.

Dr. Winston Laughlin has been in Michigan and Wisconsin. He was to attend his son's graduation.

Food prices

Charlie Marsh reports increased interest in the food price survey because of pipeline activity. Expansion of the survey to include some of the other villages which will be affected is being considered. Charlie said that the possible expansion depends on funding support.

Swine research SPF policy

With the arrival of the pigs, the Swine Research Building has been closed to all but the herdsmen, veterinarian and research personnel. Even these people must change clothes and boots, and go through a disinfectant foot-bath before entering the animal area. The pigs came from an accredited Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) herd and appear to be disease- and parasite-free. If we can maintain these conditions in our pig research, we will avoid a lot of problems.

-D.C. Tomlin

60 stumps

Waldo Erickson spent a week in Homer recently helping Don Brainard clear land. Waldo removed about 60 stumps by an undisclosed means.

Snowchip

Snowchip, a potato variety suitable both for the fresh market and for making high-quality potato chips, has been bred and selected in Palmer by the Agricultural Research Service. Dr. Curtis Dearborn has limited quantities of Snowchip seed available for increase this season. The new variety should be commercially available in 1975.

Buzz outside

Dr. "Buzz" Klebesadel attended an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) research leaders meeting in Fargo, North Dakota, February 28-March 1. Dr. Claude H. Schmidt, director for the Dakotas-Alaska area, called the meeting. Buzz also attended a March 7-8 meeting on forage management and physiology, NCR-31, in Brookings, South Dakota.

Advisory committee

The advisory committee to aid in the development of the Homer Red Meat Research Center met in December. Members are Larry Farnan, Leo Rhode, Milton Lewis, Charles Rainwater, Milton Turkington and Gene Jenn.

Cruise

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martin, soils dept., Palmer, are on a South Pacific cruise. They will return May 3.

Sympathy extended

Sympathy is extended to Dr. Chuck Logsdon on the decease of his father in Denver, Colorado.

Shelves up

Bruce Walker and John Wiese have put up shelves in all of the IAS offices in the new building.

ERTS and planning

"The Use of ERTS in Planning" is the topic that Dr. Jay McKendrick is scheduled to discuss at the March 12 meeting of a Principles of Planning class at Anchorage Community College. Van Ness, planner for the Greater Anchorage Area Borough, instructs the course.

Kodiak

A storage building erected at the Kodiak site in November still needs some paint. The surplus structure measures 28 feet by 128 feet. It is hoped also to build a fence at the Kodiak location.

Pigs arrive

Four Duroc pigs, three gilts and a boar, arrived at the Fairbanks Farm on Feb. 5. They are the initial stock for Dr. Don Tomlin's swine management and nutrition studies.

New Fairbanks office suite

The Fairbanks office moved November 1 into the recently constructed Resources Building next to the Geophysical Institute on the west ridge campus. The IAS suite is located on the west end of the third floor (top level). Other offices in the building are: Department of Land Resources and Agricultural Science, U.S.G.S., Mineral Industry Research Laboratory, U.S. Bureau of Mines and Institute of Water Resources.

The entry of the IAS suite opens into a gold-carpeted reception area where Janice and Marilyn have their desks. This continues into a spacious lab, presently undeveloped. The director's office, eight single offices, a mini lab and two other small rooms open into the central lab area. A graduate students' office lies off the reception room. A future cold storage and an undeveloped darkroom are entered from the hallway.

A pegboard of bulletins hangs in the hall next to the entry doors. Windows are in all but two of the offices and in the hallway outside the suite. There is only one light switch per floor. Some of the hallway lights have been darkened to conserve energy.

Soil temperatures

Soil temperatures at the 10 ft. depth in Palmer are 33°F, fallow, and 34°F, turf. The soil is frozen deeper this year than anytime since measurements were begun in 1962. We will have Fairbanks' soil temperatures next letter. (Palmer temp. correct as of March 1)

Haul to start

Gene Carlson and crew soon will start hauling pieces of a surplus building from the Matanuska Farm to Fairbanks. Gene wants to transport the materials before spring road restrictions take effect.

Hawk to Moscow

Art Hawk, SCS work unit conservationist, has been transferred from Homer to Moscow, Idaho. A replacement has not yet been named.

ERTS and
Planning

Kodak

Sign Office

New Fairbanks
Office Suite

Sell Temporarily

How to Start

How to Measure