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STATION NEWS

Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station
211 Mumford Hall

January 13, 1989
Issue 1-89

NEW SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The College of Agriculture is launching a concerted effort to develop a more viable integrated program in sustainable agriculture. An ad hoc Sustainable Agriculture Program Steering Committee composed of teaching, research, and extension faculty has been appointed from nominations received from the departments to help develop the program. Harvey J. Schweitzer, Assistant Director of the AES, has been selected to provide College-level coordination for the program. Committee members are Peter Bloome, Cooperative Extension; Darin Eastburn, Plant Pathology; Dan Faulkner, Animal Sciences; Gerald Gast, 4-H/Youth; John Gerber, Horticulture; Eli Levine, Agricultural Entomology; Tim Marty, Forestry; Emerson Nafziger, Agronomy; Alvin Nelson, Food Science; Ann Reisner, Agricultural Communication & Education; Robert Reber, HRFS; Earl Russell, Agricultural Education; John Siemens, Agricultural Engineering; Michael Tumbleson, Veterinary Medicine.

The programs' objective is to develop sustainable agriculture production systems throughout the state that are environmentally sound, socially acceptable, and economically competitive.

The College has numerous research and educational efforts underway that are supportive of sustainable agriculture and this program will provide better coordination and give greater accessibility of information to the farming community. Efforts are underway to

stimulate development of new research and education programs and to assist faculty in obtaining project funding. The Committee also will develop a mailing list and informational materials such as news releases and a newsletter.

Referred to by many other names (alternative, integrated, low-input, etc.), sustainable agriculture is a concept whose time has come. While definitions and perceptions vary, the key elements include management strategies which help producers use the best information and technologies available to reduce costs of purchased inputs, protect the immediate and off-farm environment, provide a sustained level of production and profit in agriculture, and ensure consumers of an adequate and safe food supply. The challenges for research and education in these areas are tremendous.

LOW-INPUT/SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (LISA) CALL FOR PROPOSALS

LISA is a federal grants program entering its second year of funding. It is part of the Agricultural Productivity Act passed by Congress in 1985 which mandates scientific investigation to 1) enhance agricultural productivity, 2) maintain land productivity, 3) reduce soil erosion, and 4) conserve energy and natural resources. Proposal guidelines have been sent to all department heads, and deadline for submission of proposals to the Agricultural Experiment Station is **March 3, 1989**. Since the proposal must identify matching funds of the Department, the College must be involved at an early stage to assure the availability of the matching funds. Faculty preparing proposals are asked to send a one-page summary or

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proposal outline and a rough budget to H.J. Schweitzer in 213 Mumford Hall as soon as possible, and to contact him for further information.

Priority issues for LISA funding include developing economically competitive crop and livestock systems which: 1) reduce reliance on off-farm purchased inputs, especially synthetic chemical pesticides and fertilizers that may pose environmental or human health risks; 2) maintain or enhance soil productivity; 3) reduce soil erosion and loss of water and nutrients; and 4) minimize environmental contamination and health risks.

Other priority issues include programs to:

- Develop and evaluate strategies and materials for converting from high input to reduced input farming systems.
- Facilitate technology adoption relative to low-input/sustainable farming systems.
- Develop methodologies and capacity for scientifically valid on-farm experiments and test demonstrations.
- Monitor and characterize existing low-input farming systems and assess risks and opportunities by land resource area or other crop, soil, climate and social discriminators.
- Analyze effects of public policies (federal, state and local) on farmer incentives to adopt LISA methods.

Emphasis in the region will be on multi-disciplinary, multi-department or multi-university proposals. It appears that single investigator projects will have a difficult time being funded.

OTA CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, 1989-90

The OTA is seeking outstanding candidates from academia, business and industry, and the public sector, for its Congressional Fellowship Program. Fellows will be selected for a one-year appointment in Washington, D.C. beginning September 1989. Salary range is \$28,000 - \$48,000 per year. The program is open to individuals

who have demonstrated exceptional ability in such areas as the physical or biological sciences, engineering, law, economics, environmental and social sciences, and public policy. Applications and letters of reference must be postmarked by January 31, 1989. For additional information, contact your departmental office or the AES.

PROPOSAL DEADLINES

Information regarding the following proposals has been sent to the appropriate departments. Please check with your departmental office for additional information on these and other research grant programs.

Animal Health Research Grant Program
(AES deadline 2-27-88)

Aquaculture Research Grant Program
(AES deadline 2-27-89)

Illinois Pork Producers Association
(AES deadline 1-23-89)

LISA 1989 (Low Input Sustainable Agriculture)
(AES deadline 3-15-89)

1989 CSRS Ground Water Quality Research
(AES deadline 2-27-89)

USDA Rangeland Research Special Grants
(AES deadline 1-30-89)

Resources for the Future (RFF) Small Grants Program
(AES deadline 2-17-89)

USDA/Competitive Grants:

5.0 Molecular & Cellular Mechanisms of Plant Growth
(AES deadline 1-12-89)

11.0 Insect Pest Science (2-3-89)

6.0 Genetic & Molecular Mechanism Controlling Plant Responses to Physical & Environmental Stresses
(2-3-89)

8.0 Animal Reproductive Research
(2-17-89)

9.0 Animal Molecular Biology & Brucellosis (2-17-89)

12.0 Alcohol Fuels Research (2-17-89)

3.0 Biological Nitrogen Fixation and Metabolism (2-24-89)

USDA/Competitive Grant Extension of Deadline: Proposals to be submitted under the Depletion of Stratospheric Ozone as Related to Crop Productivity program area have an extension of deadline and are to be in the AES office by April 1, 1989.

NIH RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

This award is a special five-year salary grant designed to enhance research capability of promising individuals in the formative stages of their careers. Contact the UI Research Services Office, 128 Observatory, for more complete information on this and other research and grant opportunities.

"SEARCH FOR LIFE" ROSE

The Station received a notice that the the "Search for Life" rose developed to commemorate the Smithsonian exhibit for the Centennial of the Hatch Act will not be available until the spring of 1990. If you have submitted an order form to Bunting Nurseries and wish to leave it on file, it will be filled and the roses shipped at the appropriate time for planting in the spring of 1990. If you have ordered and want a refund, the address is Bunting Nurseries, Inc., P.O. Box 270, Selbyville, DE 19975.

BUILDING UPDATE

Doug Bauling, Assistant to the Director of the AES and Planning Engineer for the College of Agriculture, provides us with the following information on building and remodeling projects in the College:

Plant and Animal Biotechnology Laboratory

All bids are in and acceptable on the PABL. There is a potential to include the Turner Hall tunnel. Campus remodeling funds are expected for the Bevier tunnel and elevator.

Agricultural Bioprocess Laboratory

Faculty and programs will begin moving into ABL on January 9.

Plant Sciences Laboratory

Occupancy of the new greenhouse is proceeding more slowly than anticipated. About 50% of the space is currently occupied.

Imported Swine Research Facility

Construction is completed on this facility and it is awaiting the arrival of the Chinese swine.

Animal Sciences Laboratory

Bids on this remodeling and addition exceeded the funds available and the committee is currently working to get the project revised to be completed within available funds.

National Soybean Research Laboratory

\$250,000 in planning funds for this project has been approved but not released, pending submission of the grant proposal which is due in Washington, D.C. on February 28. The planning committee is in the program definition phase and expects to complete this portion of the project by the end of January.

Relocation of Other Programs and Staff

College computer laboratories have been consolidated in the old Ornamental Horticulture Building. Located in this facility are John Terwilliger, director of College Computer Services, and Kate Maybury, supervisor of the Microcomputer Laboratory.

The Office of International Agriculture has relocated staff previously housed on the fourth floor of Mumford to the old Agricultural Engineering Building.

COLLEGE/FUND AWARDS BANQUET

Circle the evening of March 13 on your calendar. The College of Agriculture/Paul A. Funk Recognition Awards Banquet will be held on that date at 6:30 p.m. in the Illini Union Ballroom. You will receive information regarding tickets, speakers, etc., at a later date.

SRIB UPDATE

The following businesses are currently leasing space in the College's Sponsored Research Incubator Building:

Agritech Industries, Inc.
Consultox
Identity Preserved Grain Laboratory
Midwest Molecular Diagnostics
NAPINet

The SRIB needs a safe or heavy metal lockable cabinet and would like to know if there is one available in the College. If you have anything that fits this description and you no longer need it, please contact Ken Harris at 344-7742.

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