

A NEW DIRECTION:

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in county workshops in close association with other interested people.

"It's too bad we don't see the benefits of students working and learning in more realistic settings," Evans said. It would give the student a chance to apply what he has spent his time learning.

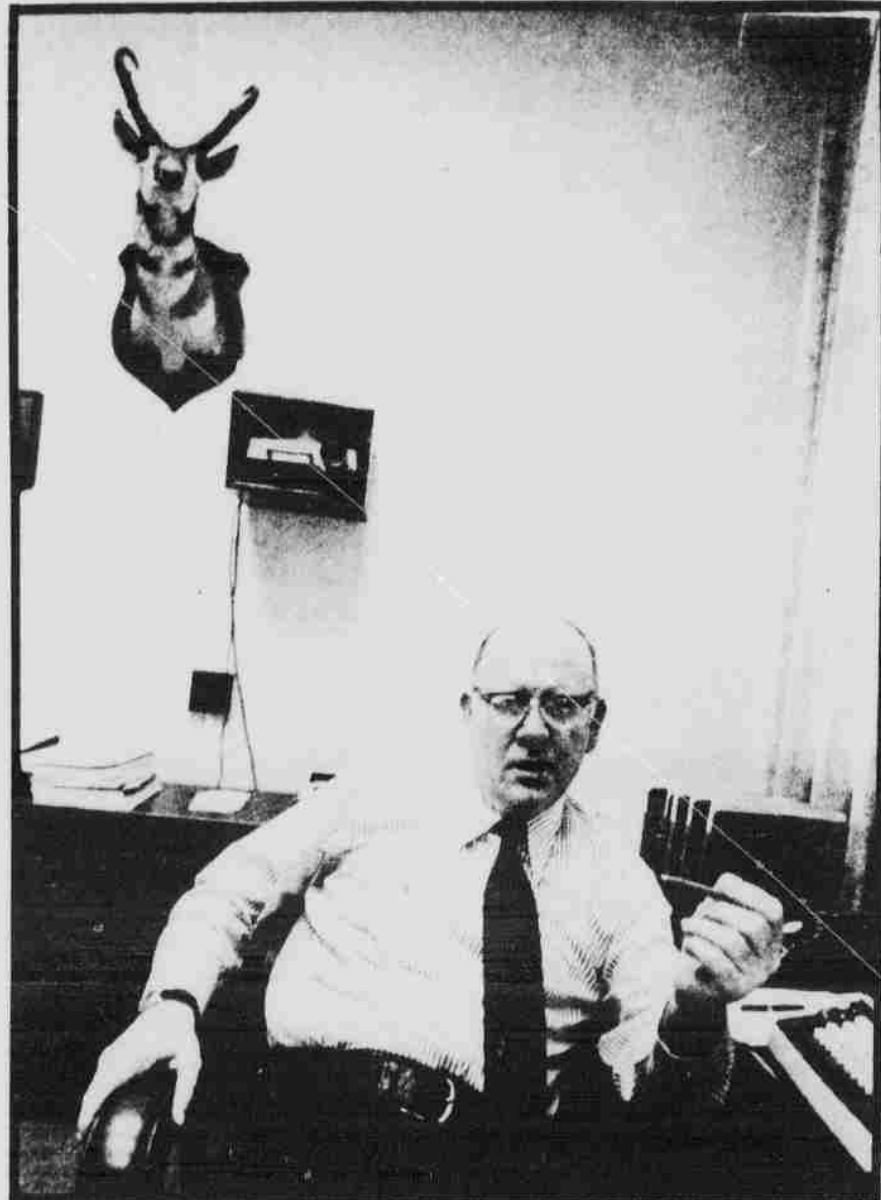
He said Nebraska Opportunities for Volunteers in Action (NOVA) is the type of program in which students can apply their knowledge in low income and poverty areas.

"This should be applied to many other fields of study besides poverty," he said.

Under the provisions of the Hatch Act, which established agricultural experiment stations, funds may not be used for research and education when an agriculture experiment station employee teaches a course where credit is given, Ottoson said.

However, students would be able to receive credit for courses in which research has been done on an experiment station project, he explained. Having departments from city campus get involved in various projects would be good, but so far there has been no effort to recruit help, he said.

One of the problems that Evans found in community education was that farmers generally lack the motivation needed to get involved in the learning and



John Adams

Photos by Ted Kirk and Gail Folda

decision-making process in the community.

"Bushels are easy to measure and the farm operator has a clear economic motive. We as educators have not yet learned how to build motivation in people to learn about social change that is so vital to the educational process," he said.

However, Evans said, there would be many benefits to the re-orientation of the education thrust:

-Students would be able to work in the field applying what they have been learning in class. They would also be getting more than just a grade out of the work they do.

-Emphasis of research would be on regional needs of Nebraska and the great plains.

-The gap between outstate Nebraska and the University could be closed. Each regards the other with a bit of contempt which would be lost if they worked together on state and community problems

-Higher budgets would be easier to get if the state saw what the University was doing in this area and there was less opposition to appropriations.

Evans said the need for community education will last as long as "we continue to generate knowledge that citizens need in community affairs."



Howard Ottoson