

Project to research calculators

Prices may be getting higher and the hole in your pocket may be getting bigger, but a UNL professor is designing a smaller pocket calculator to figure those spiraling costs.

Lex Akers, assistant professor of electrical engineering at UNL, has received a \$20,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for research which could lead to a smaller, more efficient, faster pocket calculator that will use less power.

Akers said the project plans are to design more efficient semiconductors—which are similar to transistor components—for computers and calculators.

The project is theoretical in its first stage, he said.

The first stage, lasting the 18-month life of the grant, involves mathematic and computer programming, Akers said.

Akers said the actual building of the smaller calculator will not be done in the first stage.

Results of the research will be published in scientific literature for use by industries, he said. This type of research is the first of its kind at UNL, Akers said.

The grant is one of 61 National Science Foundation initiation grants, which Akers said are given to professors who have received their Ph.Ds during the last two years. Akers earned his Ph.D. in 1975. Akers said he will apply for renewal of the grant after 18 months if the research is successful.

Club answers call of the wild

About 20 UNL Wildlife Club members will be working in the wild for the next few years on a project to prove wildlife can co-exist with an area of agriculture.

The club began cleaning and marking boundaries April 16 on more than 20 acres at the Mead Field Laboratory,

30 miles north of Lincoln, according to Wayne Chilcoat, publicity co-chairman of the club.

Chilcoat, a junior from Lincoln, said the acreage, adjacent to a flood control dam and a pond, was a World War II munition manufacturing garbage dump. The students have been moving large chunks of metal near a grove of elm and cedar trees and an alfalfa field to prepare for tree planting, he said.

Most of the trees will be provided for a small fee by the Natural Resources District and the State Games and Parks Commission, Chilcoat added.

"We want to show that these marginal lands (next to agriculture crops) are good to develop wildlife," Chilcoat said farmers used to leave areas along fences and shelter belts undisturbed and wildlife grew freely.

Farmers now are tearing out windbreaks and clearing brush areas because they get in the way of center pivot irrigation systems, he said.

The club hopes to make this a long-term project, Chilcoat said. The students will analyze vegetation and study area animals and how management affects the wildlife population.

"We feel that this will let students gain practical experience in wildlife management techniques for use in future jobs," he said.

Chilcoat said the idea evolved because he noticed other agriculture departments were doing research at Mead, he said, but there is a need for an undergraduate program.

The club works at Mead in the fall, Chilcoat said, checking that hunters sign-out, sign-in and record the number of pheasants caught on the university-owned land.

Butz to speak at Nebraska Center

Earl Butz, Secretary of Agriculture under the Ford administration, will visit East Campus May 5 and 6.

His visit is sponsored through the 1977 Distinguished Lectureship made possible by a Beatrice Foods Co. grant.

Each year the grant from Beatrice Foods Co. will deal with agricultural issues. Butz, dean emeritus at Purdue University and agricultural economics professor, will be the first in the lectureship, said Roy Arnold, chairman of the local arrangements committee.

Butz will have a news briefing Thursday afternoon and will tape "Agriscopes," an ETV program to be shown that night, Arnold said. After the taping, Butz will speak in international agriculture and food problems classes at UNL.

At 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Center Auditorium, Butz will give a major speech called "Agricultural Science: The Foundation for World Peace." His speech and a following reception are open to the public.

Butz will speak Friday to classes in the agricultural economics department and visit with students and staff members.

Gamma Sigma Delta, honor society of agriculture, will have an informal seminar for faculty members later Friday morning. Discussion will include agricultural issues, international trade and the United States' agricultural policy, Arnold said.

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