

Nebraska Plan saving energy

Nebraska businessmen may have saved as much as \$800,000 in energy costs during the past two years with the help of University of Nebraska-Lincoln engineering students.

The students have been working in the Nebraska Plan for Energy Conservation, begun in the summer of 1975 to help businessmen and industry use their energy dollars more efficiently.

According to the program director, Dr. John Lagerstrom, director of the engineering extension division, the program is the first of its kind. The Federal Energy Administration has since begun promoting similar programs across the nation, Dr. Lagerstrom said, and those plans have been officially dubbed "The Nebraska Plan".

During the first summer, six UNL engineering students worked in the program. Last summer the staff was expanded to 11, and this year 13 students are working.

The students are stationed at cities across the state, inspecting local businesses and submitting reports to businessmen suggesting ways they can save energy.

This summer the student inspectors are working in Omaha, Lincoln, Norfolk, Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney and North Platte.

About 400 businesses have been inspected so far, Lagerstrom said. 100 were inspected the first year, 200 last summer and about 100 so far this year.

"Without upsetting the competitiveness of the businesses, we have recommended savings of an average of 21

per cent of their energy bills," Lagerstrom said.

That has totaled \$800,000, he estimated. Last summer the students interviewed about half of those businessmen inspected during the first year and found a 90 per cent compliance rate, Lagerstrom said.

Where there was no compliance, it was usually because a large capital investment was required, he said.

Lagerstrom estimated that the student reports to the businessmen are saving about 20 times what the reports cost to prepare.

He also reported that the plan is more effective this year than in the past. He attributed that to the experience passed on from previous students to this year's crew.

Lagerstrom also helped develop the Nebraska Energy Conservation Plan, a master energy plan released by the State Energy Office Monday.

Although the students made no direct contribution to that plan, Lagerstrom said, "The experiences of these students made it much clearer what was needed."

Chancellor to take office

The newly appointed chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha will take office on July 1.

Dr. Neal A. Vanselow, 44, was selected by a search committee which gave a list of recommended candidates to the Board of Regents, which made the final choice last March.

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., Vanselow received his M.D. from the University of Michigan, where he received his first faculty appointment in 1963 as an instructor in medicine.

Vanselow has been the dean of the College of Medicine at the University of Arizona in Tucson since 1974.

Former ag deputy to speak next Wednesday

Clayton Yeutter, former assistant secretary of agriculture in the Richard Nixon administration, will speak next Wednesday in the Nebraska Union.

Yeutter's speech on "World Food Problems" is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the Union Ballroom.

Yeutter is a Nebraska native. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska in 1952. In 1963 he received a J.D. degree from the University of Nebraska Law School, and in 1966 got his Ph.D. from Nebraska.

He has held four jobs in the federal government since leaving Nebraska in 1970.

He was a Deputy Special Trade Representative under former President Gerald Ford. Under President Nixon he served in two posts as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and was the Administrator of the Consumer and Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Yeutter's appearance is sponsored jointly by the Convocations Committee, Samuel Avery Lecture Fund and UNL Summer Sessions.

SUMMER NEBRASKAN

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