

# Flowerday accepts management position

By Jeff Obrecht

Every semester for more than a decade, Albert "Dale" Flowerday has introduced students to the world of agriculture education.

However, next spring, a new professor will greet that 9 a.m. class.

After receiving three degrees at UNL and spending 27 years on the staff, Flowerday resigned early this month to accept a position as agronomy manager with Pioneer Hi-Bred International.

"I'll miss the students," Flowerday said. "They are inspirational, challenging and always different."

Flowerday is well known on East Campus for his friendly, personal approach with students and for telling jokes in class, students say.

"I try to create an informal, relaxed atmosphere and make it fun for the student," he said. "A student is more likely to learn and retain in a favorable environment than a distasteful one. I like to bring in relevant examples and relate the familiar with the unfamiliar."

Robert Olson advised Flowerday as a graduate student working on his master's and doctorate programs. Olson said he thinks Flowerday missed his calling.

"With the dynamic personality and gift for spontaneous wit that he possesses, Olson said, "He should have been a Bob Hope."

Raised on a farm northeast of Seward, Flowerday began his undergraduate work at UNL with aspirations of becoming a vocational agriculture teacher.

"In high school I had a very good 'voc ag' instructor who encouraged me to come to college," Flowerday said. "His name was V.G. Morford and he was my hero."

Flowerday received his bachelor's degree from UNL in 1950 and received a fellowship for his master's program. The Korean conflict was underway, and "under pressure from Uncle Sam, I finished my master's in one year," Flowerday said.

After a two-year hitch in the army, he returned to UNL and completed his doctorate program in 1956. He had several positions at UNL before accepting a post in Colombia, South America as deputy director of the NU mission there. Flowerday said living in Columbia was a good experience.

"It was a cultural shock coming home," he said. "People down there worry about where their next meal is coming from. People here were concerned about whether their son was going to play little league or if their daughter was going to be a cheerleader."

Flowerday returned to UNL in 1969. He started his most recent position of agronomy professor in 1973, with a split appointment — 80 percent teaching and 20 percent research.

In a 10 year period, Flowerday said, the percentage of students in his class with non-farm backgrounds has increased from 5 to 30 percent, which has made teaching tougher. He said he believes he has been successful because grades didn't seem to differ between rural and urban students.

"The decline in the number of family farms showed up this fall with fewer students," he said. "There are just not as many people out there on the farm."

Flowerday leaves the university with a deep concern for resources that support agriculture and the direction that agriculture will take in the future.

Until government agricultural policies settle on long-range goals, piecemeal farm programs will continue to get us in trouble, he said.

"The biggest challenge facing Nebraska agriculture is the adequate management of soil and water resources so we can have a sustained agricultural future," Flowerday said.



Staff photo by Jeff Obrecht  
Albert "Dale" Flowerday

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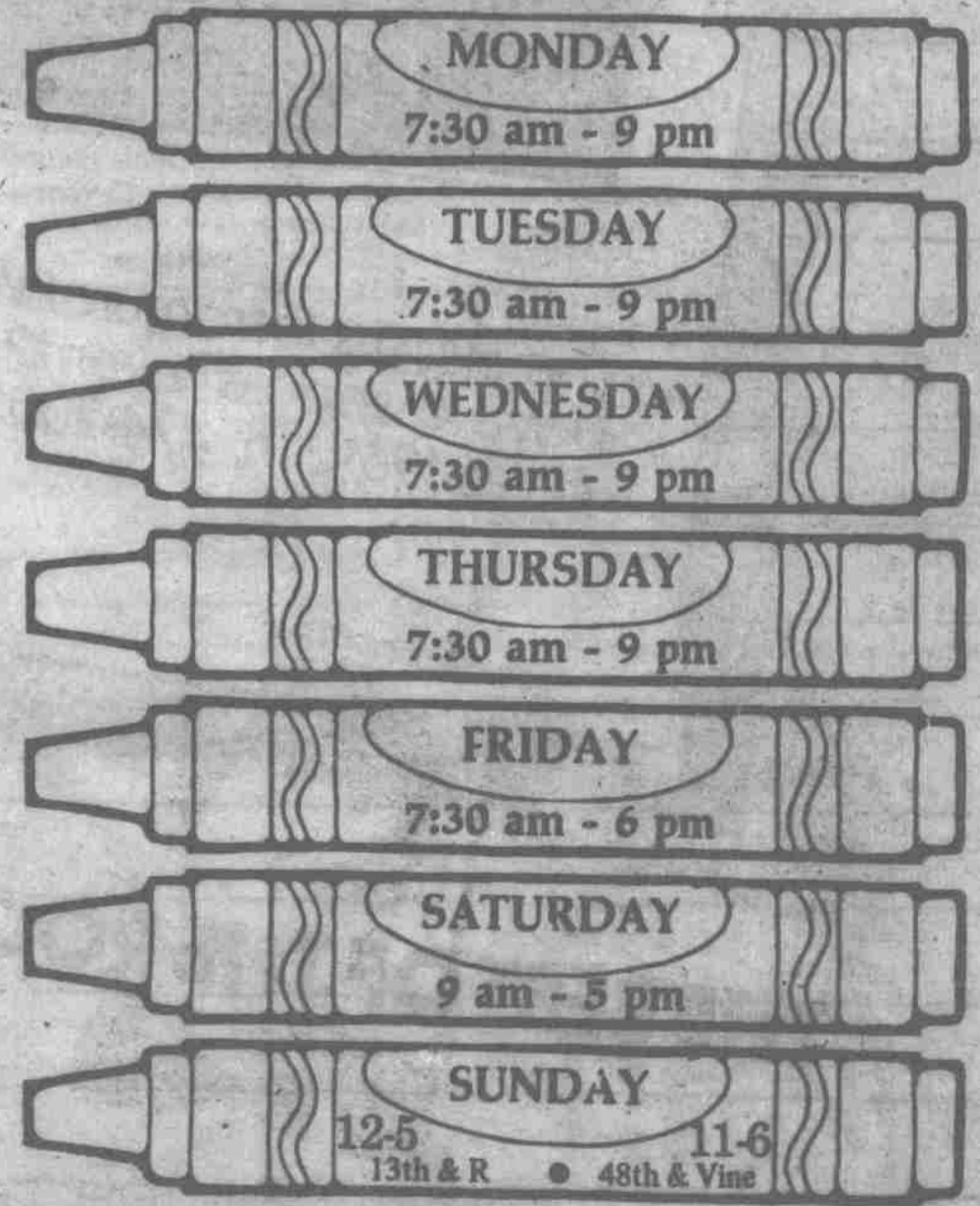
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