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Craig Anderson/Daily Nebraskan

Sidewalk evangelist Brother Jim cleans his Bible after being hit in the face with a pie.

Agricultural assistance to poor countries hurts U.S. wheat exports

By Gene Gentrup

UNL's efforts to help foreign countries improve their grain production is hurting U.S. wheat exports, a Nebraska Wheat Board member said.

Vic Haas, chairman of the wheat board, said Tuesday that as UNL research projects increase a foreign country's grain production, U.S. farmers lose an equal amount in exports.

"It's happening in India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia," Haas said. "At one time these countries were poor, underdeveloped nations, so the United States spent some of our tax dollars and sent agronomists, researchers and others to help countries bolster their economies. Now they're not only self-sufficient, but they're competing against our export markets. It just doesn't make any sense."

Although Haas said UNL's international programs have been a concern for some time, the issue heated up in late March when a \$19.2 million contract was signed between the Mid-America International Agricultural Consortium and the government of Morocco to spend five years improving the country's wheat and barley production. The contract was an extension of an earlier \$4 million-plus contract signed between the two organizations five years ago.

The consortium is made up of Iowa State, Kansas State, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma State universities. UNL is the team leader for the project.

The wheat board's work is financed by a mandatory checkoff program in which producers contrib-

ute three-fourths of one cent for every bushel of wheat sold. The board then allocates part of its budget — \$62,000 in fiscal year 1984 — to UNL for wheat research projects.

The Nebraska Wheat Board met with Robert Kleis, dean and director of international programs at UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Roy Arnold, vice chancellor for the agriculture institute, at a two-day meeting last month.

Haas said the two men tried to "shame or belittle us," into signing some of the proposed 19 contracts discussed earlier in the day.

"I felt they were trying to get us in a good mood by serving us a fancy dinner and creating a very friendly atmosphere, so we would sign the contracts," Haas said.

Kleis said the contracts are justified. The agreements are in the best interest of the United States because they help maintain political stability, and it also is a moral issue, he said.

Arnold said the U.S. government thinks Morocco is in a strategic location, and if the country is to maintain a stable economy, it must maintain agricultural stability.

"The development of agriculture is the forerunner of greater economic development," Arnold said.

Arnold said only low income countries are qualified for aid and none of these countries will become self-sufficient.

Haas said Arnold is wrong because many countries already have started competing with the U.S. export market after being classified "poor and underdeveloped countries."

"Maybe Morocco will never become self-sufficient, but Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and India already have," he said. "They're even competing against our markets."

"The job of the Nebraska Wheat Board is to promote and project wheat industry in Nebraska," Haas said. "We're doing our job and we are in opposition to letting UNL increase agriculture in foreign countries."



David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

The crowd closes in on Brother Jim as he preaches Wednesday near Broyhill Fountain.

Gourmet coffee perks consumers' interest

By Chris Welsch

The addition of gourmet coffee and espresso in the Nebraska Union Bakery has increased coffee sales, and many students are drinking the more expensive brew, said Carole Penas, assistant manager of food service production at the Nebraska Union.

"It's been going very well... students are receptive to the idea," she said.

The bakery offers two types of specialty coffee every day. They include Chocolate Menthe, Colombian Supremo, Kenya AA, French Roast and Amaretto. The gourmet coffees are fresh ground and brewed and cost 45 cents for one plastic cup full. The bakery has a pitcher of half and half sitting on the counter for those who use it.

The large copper and brass machine in the window of the bakery makes espresso and cappuccino,

which costs 75 cents.

Espresso, favored by European coffee drinkers, is made by forcing steam through fine grounds in a fine metal filter. The flavor is stronger, but it does not contain any more caffeine, said Fred Fisher, a representative of the Coffee Development Group. Cappuccino is espresso with half and half added.

CDG, a coffee growers' promotional group, provides the espresso machine, the grinders and brewers to the bakers free, as long as it continues to use gourmet coffee, he said. The equipment is worth about \$2,000, Penas said.

Penas said representatives of the CDG will come to campus in the fall for another promotion and free-coffee giveaway to draw attention to the new coffees and machine.

Fisher came to the Nebraska Union April 5. He gave away some free coffee, passed out literature and buttons and extolled the virtues of gourmet coffee.

The future to the coffee industry lies in the drinking habits of 18-to-30 year-olds, he said. Gourmet coffees may cost more, but the flavor will lure young people, who often choose soft drinks, back to coffee.

Three students interviewed in the Nebraska Union Wednesday said they liked the gourmet coffee.

Steve Reeves, a junior geology major, said he prefers the gourmet coffee because of its strength. He said he has tried the French Roast.

"I liked it. I like strong coffee," he said.

Brad Tell, a senior history major, was trying his first cup of Colombian Supremo.

"It tastes a lot better than the stuff they serve in the Harvest Room," he said.

Tell said a similar size cup costs 30 cents in the Harvest Room. The 15 extra cents is worth it for the better flavor, he said.

Chris Hugly, a junior English major, said the coffee was good and strong, but not strong enough.

"I like espresso," she said.

Thursday

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