

Research equipment needed

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nalled by mice," he said. "They are no good for lab analysis after that." Grain moths are also a problem in the seed lab, he said, and the lab is too small.

"The lab could be three times the size and still would be crowded."

Kneip, who works closely with professors, said he feels the College of Agriculture's faculty are of high quality and are its biggest strengths. Kneip said that losing faculty to other colleges or companies is the school's biggest downfall.

"If we can keep quality people here, we can work around the lack of equipment and facility shortages — but you've got to have the people first," he said.

Brian Kindscher, a senior agricultural business major, said that he also thinks professors leaving is a problem. Currently, professors can work with students on a one-to-one basis. Also, he said, classes on East Campus are not overcrowded as they are in the business college.

Ellington said the College of Agriculture has strong points that overshadow the setbacks the budget cuts caused.

Nearly 170 faculty members work as researchers, instructors or extension specialists, he said. The instructors get firsthand experience in research and many also work with extension agents from other counties.

While faculty look for opportunities elsewhere, students are doing the same, said College of Agriculture Dean Ted Hartung.

Last semester, only 1,317 students enrolled in the College of Agriculture compared with its peak of 1,889 students in the 1980-81 school year.

One reason for the decrease is that many people who are concerned about the stress of the farm economy think there are few career opportunities in agriculture, he said. Although jobs dealing with crop and animal production have decreased, as business and managing jobs have increased.

"Only a small number return to the ranch," Hartung said.

He said there is a "shortfall in selected areas" of agriculture where good career opportunities exist. Classes such as agricultural business, marketing, economics and international affairs, and biotechnology are being emphasized. This training should enhance the farm economy, he said. The college's four-year program offers 14 majors and three pre-professional programs. The School of Technical Agriculture at Curtis offers five two-year programs in technical agriculture. The school, an extension of the College of Agriculture, may be cut in the budget. It is designed to

"There are experiments that you simply can't do due to the lack of equipment or money."

—Kneip

provide a two-year certificate in areas of technical studies. Programs include production agriculture, mechanized agriculture, business agriculture, horticulture and veterinary technology.

These two-year programs are not offered at the College of Agriculture, so many of the students may have to attend technical colleges if the Curtis school is eliminated, Omtvedt said.

No other technical college in Nebraska carries a program for veterinary technology, he said, so Nebraska students may have to attend school in Kansas.

One area of development in the College of Agriculture is an increased

use of computer systems. Approximately 60 percent of the classes on East Campus use computers in their classroom assignments. Micro-computers and Ag Net are two systems used.

Also, Ag 2001, a project created by the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, has set goals to improve Nebraska's economy and quality of life by the turn of the century. Some of the goals of the program include fund raising to develop conservation programs. Outstanding scholars funds and a Faculty for the Future fund, which gives grants to junior and intermediate level instructors to upgrade their teaching skills.

Two new major buildings also are being constructed on East Campus in a new \$19 million animal-science building, and an \$11 million food-science building.



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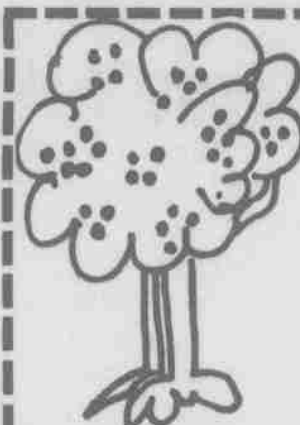


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