



Frolik

Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Frolik

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He said it took most of the first century to build the reputation that IANR has today but that enrollment is still a problem for the college.

Today, because there are not enough people to fill professional agriculture jobs, the industry is having to employ people it normally wouldn't, Frolik said.

However, employment in the industry almost 60 years ago was in peril, Frolik said as he recalled the years he went to school.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in 1930 and his master's in 1932, both from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Frolik looked for an assistantship to advance his degree but couldn't find one.

"I thought things were kinda tough when we were getting out in 1930, but they got much worse in '32," he said. "I didn't even apply for a job because there weren't any jobs to apply for."

Unable to pursue his doctorate and frustrated with his first job offer of \$35 a month at a seed factory, he hung onto an extended part-time job at the UNL agronomy department while taking additional classes.

Frolik finally found work as an emergency extension assistant in Nemaha County when Roosevelt passed the Agriculture Adjustment Act.

The bulk of his job dealt with educating farmers about cutback programs in grain and cattle production in return for government payments.

After one year in the face of job uncertainty, he took the security of a permanent job at Banker's Life Insurance Company of Nebraska in Omaha. He worked in the farm loan department servicing loans "that were still alive" and managing farms that had been foreclosed.

Although the nature of his work was grim and the job didn't pay as well as the previous one, he stuck with it because "it was a permanent job. That was the main thing."

In 1936, he began his career at UNL with a job as an extension agronomist. After he received his doctorate in '48, he taught advanced genetics and plant cytogenetics.

In '52, he accepted the chairmanship of the agronomy department and taught as a professor of agronomy. Within three years, he became associate director of the Agriculture Experiment Station.

"I believe that was probably the best administrative job I ever had. I like research and working with faculty on research projects; it's very rewarding."

Beginning in 1960, he wore his biggest administrative hat as dean of the College of Agriculture, now called IANR.

In 1973, he retired at age 64 and was given the title professor emeritus of agronomy.

But after 37 years with UNL, Frolik continued to work, in part "for financial security or improvement" and in part because of his restlessness.

"I enjoyed working so much that I

couldn't stand the idea of not working," he said.

Without missing a beat, he accepted a job in Iran as the leader of a team to develop and activate a revised national agriculture research program in Tehran.

For the next 13 years, Frolik made 30 such trips to more than 20 countries while working for the U.S. Agriculture, State and Interior departments, the Agency for International Development, UNL and other universities.

Frolik was already 10 years into the research for the book when he made his last trip abroad in 1986.

"I couldn't quite shake loose (from foreign assignments); it's a little hard once you get well-known. People want you to work, and people you worked with want you to do some more work."

Frolik admitted it doesn't take much to twist his arm into doing what he loves so much.

police REPORT

Beginning midnight Friday, Sept. 21

5:44 p.m. -- Top of convertible car cut, 17th and R streets, \$350.
11:47 p.m. -- Fire, Sandoz Residence Hall, \$150.

Beginning midnight Saturday, Sept. 22.

1:49 a.m. -- Bicycle taken from hallway, Cather Residence Hall, \$175.
12:09 p.m. -- Possible harassment reported.
4:20 p.m. -- Compact discs and telephone taken, Harper Residence Hall, \$87.
4:21 p.m. -- Bicycle wheel taken, Abel Residence Hall bicycle rack, \$50.

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"Today I use Macintosh to help me run my own management consulting firm. When I give a presentation, I can see in people's faces that they're really impressed. And that makes me feel great.

"Sometimes I take Friday off, put my Macintosh and skis in the car, and head for the mountains. I ski days and work nights. It's perfect.

"You know, I can't say where I'll be in five, ten, or fifteen years, but I can say that my Macintosh will be there with me."

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