



CARP NEWSNOTES

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
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CONGRESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FAIR

Tennessee State University recently represented the 1890 Land-Grant Colleges at the Congressional Agricultural Research Fair, held in the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill. The fair (the first of its kind) was orchestrated to acquaint members of Congress with outstanding examples of agricultural research at federally supported laboratories and state Agricultural Experiment Stations.

The theme "Partners in Progress" was illustrated through exhibits portraying the diversity of current research efforts aimed at keeping America in the forefront of world agriculture.

"The Agrichallenge: Developing Human Capital" was the focus of the exhibit developed by Tennessee State University's CARP Director, Dr. Handy Williamson, Jr., to represent research at the 17, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions. Darralyn Hall, Information Officer at TSU and Lucinda Hall of the public relations firm, Holder Kennedy, assisted Williamson in developing the exhibit.

At a reception for Congressional members and key staff assistants, Dr. Williamson, McDawson L. Burton, Jr., Superintendent of Research Properties and Operations with CARP, Darralyn Hall and Edwina Farmer of TSU's Public Relations Department conversed with members of Congress and their aids to stress the critical need for funding in agricultural research to meet future world-wide demands for food, fiber and forest products.

The idea for the fair originated in the Committees on Agriculture, House of Representatives, U.S. Congress. The Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOMP) and USDA Secretary John R. Block together with the House Committee on Agriculture and agricultural industrial groups co-sponsored the fair.

E. (Kika) de la Garza, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture said the

fair was sponsored "as a means of 'bringing to life' the USDA-State partnership principal as reaffirmed and strengthened in Title XIV of the Agriculture and Foods Acts of 1977 and 1981."

THE AGRICHALLENGE:

DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL

CARP has developed a slide presentation with accompanying brochure which represents the variety of current research projects being conducted at the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions.

Titled "The Agrichallenge: Developing Human Capital," the presentation was exhibited May 4th at the first Congressional Agricultural Research Fair.

Highlighted are research with triticale, earthworms, soybeans and dairy goats. Advanced breeding methods of rock crabs and guinea hens and plant studies in the culture of peach trees are also discussed.

Dr. Prem S. Kahlon, Principal Investigator with CARP is featured on the cover of the brochure.

CONGRATULATIONS AG & HOME EC GRADS

At Tennessee State University's 71st Commencement on May 7th, the School of Agriculture and Home Economics graduated 26 undergraduate students and four received the M.S. in Agricultural Science.

In the Department of Home Economics, 15 received degrees, six in General Home Economics, seven in Early Childhood Education and Child Development and Family Relationship.

Eleven received degrees in Agriculture, three each in Animal Science and Plant Science and five in Rural Development.

Best wishes for your future!

JSRCTF

AG PROGRAMS GET HIGH-TECH ACRONYM

The Joint Southern Regional Computer Task Force (JSRCTF) was created in recognition of the increasing use of computer technology by clientele of research and extension service units.

Designed as a five year pilot cooperative agreement, the JSRCTF will provide a way to facilitate improved cooperation between the various southern programs to develop and implement computer technology to carry out the stated missions of the research and extension units.

Goals of the JSRCTF are to establish improved communication to avoid duplicating efforts, to establish dialogue across discipline lines and to identify target areas where multi-state efforts would be beneficial. It will also serve as a mechanism for the four regional associations of extension and research directors and administrators to keep abreast of the overall regional and state extension and research program activities utilizing computer technology.

The four associations involved are: 1) Association of 1890 Research Directors; 2) Southern Association of Extension Directors; 3) Association of 1890 Extension Administrators; and 4) Association of Experiment Station Directors.

A Joint Administrative Advisory Committee (JAAC) will be established to represent the four associations, with a host institution housing the executive director who will will coordinate the efforts of the JSRCTF.

BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

Some believe that biotechnology may have more potential in agriculture than in medicine, where most research money and effort have been concentrated up to now.

Companies with an eye on rising population and food-demand curves see tempting profit possibilities in plant bioengineering. Arthur D. Little Inc.'s specialist in the field, David Wheat, predicts that by 1990, sales of bioengineered agricultural products will approach \$2 billion to \$4 billion. Companies investing include Allied Corp., Du Pont Co., Monsanto Co., Stauffer Chemical Co., Eli Lilly & Co., Ciba-Geigy Corp., and Rohm & Hass Co.

The ultimate goal is to improve crop yields by endowing plants with resistance to herbicides, insects, salt, water, heat, cold, drought, viruses, and other adverse factors. Experiments are now mainly concentrated on perfecting the mechanics of how to tinker with plant genetics. (THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Tuesday, May 10, 1983, pg. 56).

PLANT PSYCHOLOGY - A NEW HYBRID

Tilling the soil cultivates the psyche. Gardening may well be one of the world's oldest forms of therapy but its value as a therapeutic technique has only been recognized in the past decade through the new field of horticultural therapy.

Such institutions as the Menninger Foundation Clinic, which has been offering gardening as an integral part of the treatment process since its founding in 1919, may offer the therapy as part of a comprehensive psychological treatment program. Other programs may use horticultural therapy to give work skills to retarded young adults or rehabilitate prison inmates.

In 1978, the small corps of professionals involved in the field banded together to form the National Council for Therapy and Rehabilitation Through Horticulture. Since then the organization has grown from 20 members to more than 800 and is one of the fastest growing professions in the country.

Currently, nine major colleges and universities offer bachelor's and master's degree programs in horticultural therapy. Horticultural therapists are used in medical and psychiatric hospitals, mental health, mental retardation and rehabilitation centers, retirement communities, and nursing homes and correction facilities.

As a therapeutic tool, horticulture appears to have an unlimited future because people and plants fit together naturally. (AMERICAN WAY, March 1983, pp. 54-58).

HAYSLETT SAYS GARDENING GOOD THERAPY

William Hayslett, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Science and associate investigator for CARP, who does a series on gardening for Channel 5 television said that many psychologists feel gardening, both flower and vegetable, indoor and outdoor, have a therapeutic effect on patients.

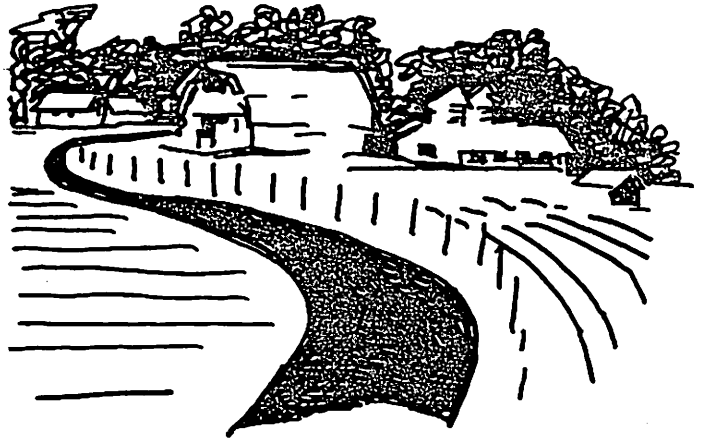
Hayslett discussed a 1976 study in which the effects of flowering plants on the behavior of hospitalized psychiatric patients was observed. When flowering plants were placed in the hospital dining room, there was a significant increase in conversation among patients, amount of time spent in the dining room and amount of food consumed. Hayslett said most psychiatric hospitals do include some form of gardening in their rehabilitation programs.

Hayslett said also that industry officials have found attractive landscapes and

interior plants result in above-average labor productivity, less absenteeism, and easier recruitment of workers.

"I believe that people have a basic desire for contact with plants, and that plants have a positive influence on human behavior," he said. More studies are needed to verify such relationships and to find out how plants can be used more effectively for human well-being, Hayslett concluded.

It's Spring and CARP has just moved into its new building right next door to the Ag building, Lawson Hall. The CARP program also has a new Coordinator of Publications and Information, Lydia Wiggins-Azimi. Vernita T. Richardson will continue as Assistant Editor for our newsletter.



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