

*The Morrill Act of 1862 established a Land Grant University
in each state where The Leading Object
would be instruction in agriculture and related fields*

**THE
LEADING
OBJECT**

NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics

Vol. 13, No. 8, August 1999

The Dean's Perspective

This past month, our Extension Support Council gathered in Las Cruces. I was able to share a lot of exciting things that have gone on since its last summer meeting. It has been a great year during which much has been accomplished and we still have the sense of great possibilities for the future.

The opportunities we have are not the result of happenstance. It has been said that the commonest form of opportunity is hard work. The hard work of our supporters on behalf of our mission has been the basis of our opportunities. As we watch our buildings go up, we have our supporters to thank.

As we make progress toward solidifying our new programs at the agricultural science centers at Alcalde and Clayton, we have our supporters to thank. As we enjoy a new sense of opportunity on campus, we have our supporters to thank, again.

Their support has given us the courage to pursue new opportunities. But opportunities to do what? Opportunities to pursue our mission. The progress of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics is not an end unto itself. It is only a means to serve families, producers, communities and students.



Extension Support Council elects new officers, reviews programs

Larry Hobson, a farmer from Roswell, was elected president of the Extension Support Council as the group met in Las Cruces, July 22 and 23, to review plans for the future of Extension and the Experiment Station.

Hobson takes over for Blake Curtis of Clovis, who took the vice presidential slot after two years as president. Steve Stoddard of Los Alamos relinquished the vice presidential office to become the Northern District representative.

Returning to the executive committee were: Susie McCaw of Artesia, parliamentarian; Virginia Mack of Raton, Eastern District representative; Richard Haskell of Alamogordo, Southwestern District representative; and Spencer Pipkin of Clovis, Agricultural Science Center representative.

The advisory group also met to review program priorities and action plans for the next year, yielding a host of concerns to address including water policy, tourism and child development.

At an evening barbecue, state senators Ben Altamirano of Silver City and John Arthur Smith of Deming were honored for their service to NMSU and the land-grant mission of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Altamirano said he shared an appreciation for the importance of the agriculture industry and a concern about tough times for producers today. Smith said he was concerned that reapportionment would further erode the clout of rural New Mexico.

The senators and the support council got an update near the construction site of the new Center for Sustainable Development of Arid Lands. Earlier, Jerry Schickedanz, interim dean and chief administrative officer, expressed his thanks to the support council for helping to make the building and new funding for programs possible. ❖

Academic Year Opening Day Events Tuesday, Aug. 24, 1999

**9 a.m.- University opening convocation and awards ceremony
Music Recital Hall**

**11 a.m.- College opening convocation and luncheon
Judging Pavilion**

**1:30 p.m.- Academic department meetings
Place announced by department heads**

**3 p.m.- Extension department meetings
Place announced by department heads**

4-H round-up of annual state conference

"Conference 1999, The Final Chapter" was the theme for this year's state 4-H conference in Las Cruces, July 12-16 on the NMSU campus.

Top 4-H members from across New Mexico received awards and scholarships at the closing ceremony July 15, following four days of nonstop recreation, contests, educational workshops and elections of officers for the upcoming year.

Hannah Kesselring of Bernalillo County and Brenda Bryant of Santa Fe County received \$250 scholarships from NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Family and Community Educators 4-H Scholarships were awarded to Alan McBee of Bernalillo County, \$1,000; Jesse Decker of San Juan County, \$500; Joni Pate of Quay County, \$500; and Deborah D'Ann Dictson of Doña Ana County, \$500. Dictson also received a \$500 scholarship from Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.

The 4-H Foundation awarded \$2,000 scholarships to Dictson, T.J. Rivera of Valencia County, Jessica Settles of Doña Ana County, Christy Sumrall of Grant County and Joleen Szaloy of Quay County.

During the ceremony, contest winners were recognized and 1999-2000 council officers were installed. Billy Dictson was given the Friend of 4-H Award and Edwina Barela, Scott Stinett and Suzanne Jones were named honorary state 4-H members.

Carlos Valdez of Los Alamos County will be the 4-H council advisor for the upcoming year. ❖

Timeline set for dean search

The search committee for the dean and chief administrative officer for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics set a timetable at its July 28 meeting.

Chair Juan Franco established a Nov. 22 application deadline. Committee screening is expected to last until the third week of January, 2000.

From that process, three to five finalists will be recommended to

John Owens, NMSU executive vice president.

The committee will meet to discuss the content of the search announcement on Aug. 11. Franco said the announcement will refer potential applicants to a World Wide Web site with additional information about the position, university and college. ❖

Extension reports welfare-to-work success, new partnership with WNMU and ENMU

More than 1,100 job openings were lined up for welfare recipients in the nine months ending June 30 under the New Mexico Works program in Doña Ana, Otero and Eddy counties.

The program, administered by Extension, served more than 3,500 participants and 965 went into paid employment.

Alfred Rucks, chief of operations for the program, said employment agreements were reached with 68 businesses and organizations, many as a result of 11 workshops with business groups on tax incentives for participating employers.

"Our experience in the first nine months demonstrated that the first challenge is to place participants in jobs available," said Ron Gurley, director of the program for Extension. "We were so successful in identifying job opportunities that we had to get our job developers in the work of matching participants to those jobs."

Extension entered into a second contract with the New Mexico Human Services Department to conduct the program in nine southern New Mexico counties for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2000.

The program will serve individuals supported by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and food stamp programs.

Extension will offer skill assessment, job development and job placement services in Doña Ana County, while subcontracting with Western New Mexico University and Eastern New Mexico University to serve the remainder of the region.

WNMU will serve clients in Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna and Sierra counties. ENMU will serve Lincoln, Otero and Socorro counties. The Human Services Department set a goal of serving 7,300 clients in the nine-county region during the year, Gurley said.

WNMU's subcontract is almost \$882,000; ENMU's is almost \$950,000; and NMSU's funding is about \$2.1 million.

Gurley said NMSU will operate employment academies in Las Cruces and Anthony to teach job readiness and offer some specialized vocational training, such as forklift operations.

The current contract includes funding to help participants with transportation to jobs, Gurley said. ❖

Regents OK legislative proposals

NMSU's Board of Regents approved three legislative initiatives proposed by the College of Agriculture and Home Economics for \$1.319 million in budget enhancements.

The proposals included \$500,000 in Experiment Station and Extension funds to add an agronomist, water specialist and dairy specialist, plus support staff, to the Agricultural Science Center at Clovis.

Another proposal requests \$380,000 in Extension and Experiment Station funds for a tourism researcher, a tourism policy specialist and a hospitality operations specialist for Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management.

A water quality initiative for \$438,800 in Extension and Experiment Station funds would pay for specialists in water quality, water use policy and irrigation. ❖

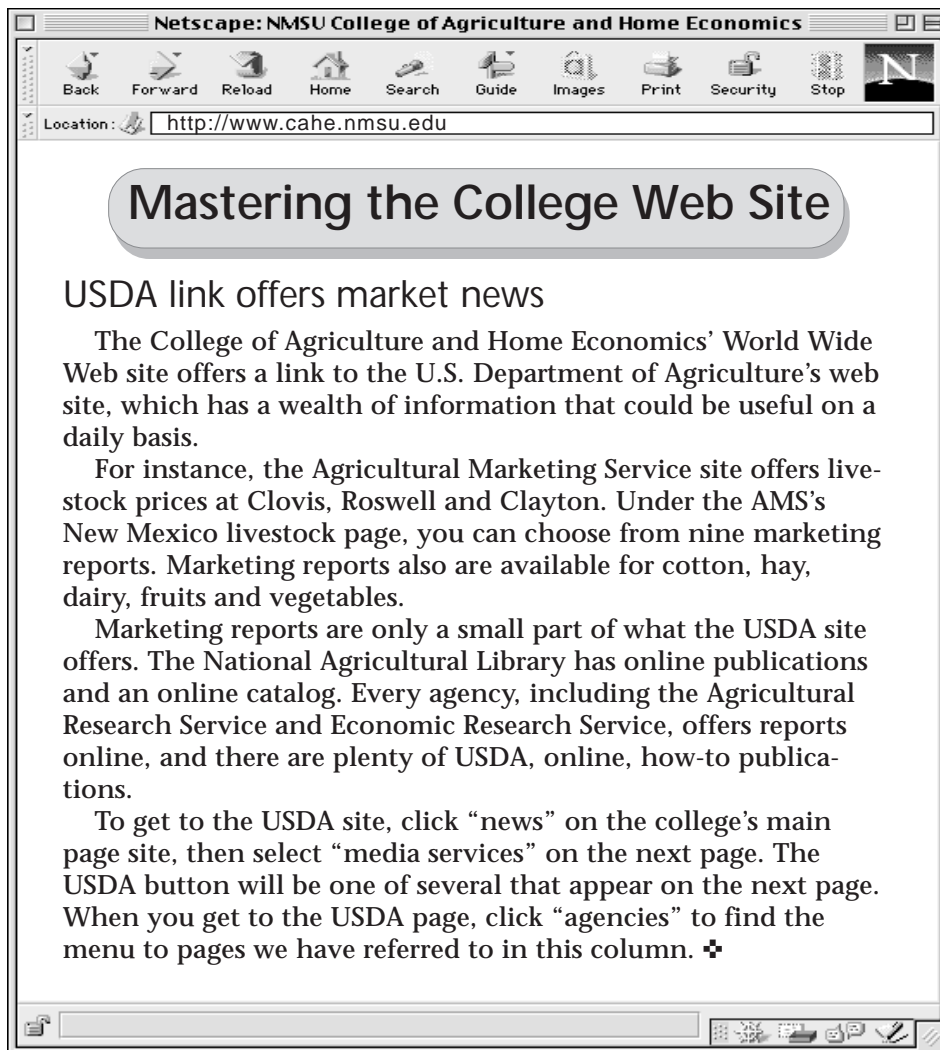
Building renamed for Jacob Tejada

The Agricultural Engineering Building will be renamed for the late Jacob Tejada, former Extension agent, assistant director and distinguished alumnus.

The NMSU Board of Regents approved the change to the Jacob Tejada Building — Extension Annex at the July 30 meeting in Cloudcroft. The building, at the corner of Knox and Frenger streets, houses the Agricultural Communications print shop and college laboratories.

Jerry Schickedanz, college interim dean, said a ceremony recognizing the renaming of the building would take place at the college homecoming reception on Oct. 8.

Tejada, who died May 23 at age 82, was a Centennial Outstanding Alumnus in 1988 and the 1984 college Distinguished Alumnus. He joined Extension in 1942, serving as a county agent in Guadalupe and Doña Ana counties, associate state county agent leader and an assistant director. He also trained Peace Corps volunteers and was a consultant to projects in Latin America. ❖



Mastering the College Web Site

USDA link offers market news

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics' World Wide Web site offers a link to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's web site, which has a wealth of information that could be useful on a daily basis.

For instance, the Agricultural Marketing Service site offers live-stock prices at Clovis, Roswell and Clayton. Under the AMS's New Mexico livestock page, you can choose from nine marketing reports. Marketing reports also are available for cotton, hay, dairy, fruits and vegetables.

Marketing reports are only a small part of what the USDA site offers. The National Agricultural Library has online publications and an online catalog. Every agency, including the Agricultural Research Service and Economic Research Service, offers reports online, and there are plenty of USDA, online, how-to publications.

To get to the USDA site, click "news" on the college's main page site, then select "media services" on the next page. The USDA button will be one of several that appear on the next page. When you get to the USDA page, click "agencies" to find the menu to pages we have referred to in this column. ❖

Deans' Coffee Time

Resumes Wednesday, August 25
8:30-9:15 a.m. GTH Foyer



Need to meet with the dean?

No appointments necessary on Fridays, 3-5 p.m.*

*Occasionally the dean is called away, but time is blocked for drop-ins.

In Memoriam

Kenneth A. Valentine, 93, of Las Cruces, former range management professor at NMSU, died July 27.

Valentine worked during the first part of his career at the Jornada Experimental Range. He later moved to the Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center, then known as the College Ranch.

Valentine established experimental plots at several locations in southern New Mexico and established one of the longest running grazing studies in the world.

He was born in El Paso in 1906. His wife, Louletia, preceded him in death six months ago.

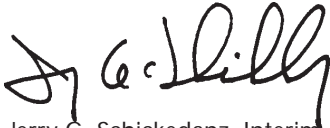
He earned his bachelor's degree in range sciences from NMSU and his master's degree in plant ecology from the University of Arizona.

Valentine was a charter member of the American Society of Range Management and was named the Range Man of the Year by the New Mexico Society of Range Management in 1971.

Donations can be made to the Kenneth A. Valentine Scholarship Fund at NMSU. ❖

The Leading Object is dedicated to encouraging communication among all areas of NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

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Jerry G. Schickedanz, Interim Dean and Chief Administrative Officer



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Vail to head Family and Consumer Sciences department

With the start of the fall semester, Ann Vail will take over as department head of Family and Consumer Sciences.

She comes to NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics from Iowa State University's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Education. Prior to that, she worked from 1991 to 1996 as an assistant professor in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Idaho.

Vail has a master's degree and a doctorate both in home economics

education from The Ohio State University. She completed her undergraduate work in home economics education at Colorado State University.

Vail is the author of numerous peer reviewed journal articles and two books—*Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Family and Personal Relationships* and *Instructor Manual for Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Family and Personal Relationships*. A third book is in progress. ❖

O'Neil to head Farmington science center

Michael "Mick" O'Neil will begin work in mid-August as the new superintendent of the Agricultural Science Center at Farmington.

He will supervise experimental work, supervise and manage the operations of the center, develop and implement research programs and work with faculty, staff and students in cooperative projects.

Before coming to NMSU, O'Neil was a senior scientist with the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry in Embu, Kenya.

He holds a doctorate in agronomy and plant genetics and a master's de-

gree in soil and water science both from the University of Arizona. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology/chemistry from Concordia University.

He is a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation and the American Society of Agronomy. O'Neil also is an adviser for the International Foundation for Science and a reviewer for the East African Agricultural and Forestry Journal. ❖

Publications

Byerly, B.K., J.D. Libbin, and J.M. Hawkes. Valuing Permanent Pasture in New Mexico. NMSU AES Res. Report 732. Apr 1999.
Dickerson, G. Description and Use of Municipal Solid Waste Composts in New Mexico. NMSU CES Circular 562. Jun 1999.
Guldán, S.J. Relay Intercropping Brassicas into Chile and Sweet

Corn. NMSU CES Guide A-609. Apr 1999.
Lee, R.D. Weed Management in Cotton Under the BXN System. NMSU CES Guide A-234. Jul 1999.
Smith C.W. Landscape Water Conservation Principles of Xeriscape. NMSU CES Guide H-707. Jun 1999.