

*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*



NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics

Vol. 16, No. 8, August 2002

The Dean's Perspective

We are embarking on an interesting journey in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics with the beginning of this new academic year. A year from now, we will have a new permanent administrative team at the associate dean level. We cannot go into a holding pattern, however, because we must use that time to take a serious look at ourselves.

We can take pride in our college, its sense of service to the community and to students, and the quality of our people. Yet, resources are so precious that we must be sure we are making the best use of them. In announcing changes in the administrative team, my first action was to collapse administrative positions in reaction to tough budgetary times. It is important for us to look critically at the administrative structure of the entire college to assure that there are good reasons for the way we are organized.

In the academic realm, the university administration has put the onus on each college to scrutinize its own programs and assign positions and resources accordingly. They want us to prune unproductive branches and graft on promising new programs.

In Extension, a review process has begun, and it is important to continue the process in the coming year. It is my hope that such a focus on serious review of our programs will be the subject of the departmental meetings that take place after our opening day activities on Aug. 15. Come to our luncheon, where we can talk about the future and meet our new faculty and staff of the future.

One permanent, two interim administrators named

Three director positions were closed in an announcement Aug. 5 that established Dean Jerry Schickedanz as director of the three College of Agriculture and Home Economics divisions. Schickedanz announced that the divisions would each have an individual with the associate dean and associate director title who will run the day-to-day activities.

LeRoy Daugherty, who has served as associate director of the Experiment Station since 1997, will continue as associate director and gain the associate dean title on a permanent basis upon the departure of I. Miley Gonzalez at the end of August.

Cynda Clary will serve as interim associate dean and associate director of Academic Programs. She has served as interim associate dean since February.

Robert Coppedge is the interim associate dean and associate director of Extension. Coppedge is a 30-year Extension Economics

veteran, who this year won the Distinguished Extension Award from the college. He coordinated successful efforts with the New Mexico congressional delegation to get e-commerce funding authorization into law for Extension nationwide. Coppedge said he will not be a candidate for the permanent post.

Under policy of the university administration, interim appointees must step down if they are to be considered in searches for permanent posts.

Schickedanz said the Faculty Senate would arrange election of members to search committees for the Academic Programs and Extension associate deans. He said that the assistant dean and assistant director of Extension position that was closed upon the announcement of Billy Dictson's retirement will be re-evaluated after a new permanent Extension associate dean is in place. ❖

Opening Day Events—Thursday, Aug. 15

9 a.m. University Faculty Meeting—Music Center Recital Hall
Presidential Address
Award Presentations

11 a.m. College Faculty Meeting—Livestock Pavilion
Dean's Address
New Employee Introductions
Lunch

1:15 p.m. Academic Department Meetings

2:45 p.m. Extension Department Meetings

Jornada building dedication set for Aug. 13

The Jornada Experimental Range's new \$8 million headquarters building on the main campus will be officially dedicated Aug. 13.

U.S. Rep. Joe Skeen is scheduled to make a short address. Skeen, former chair of the House agricultural appropriations subcommittee, championed funding for the project, along with U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici and other members of New Mexico's congressional delegation.

The program begins at 10 a.m. with an official welcome from Charles Onstad, director of the Southern Plains Area of the Agricultural Research Service. NMSU President G. Jay Gogue and Dean Jerry Schickedanz will present remarks, followed by updates on the science program by Edward Knipling, acting ARS administrator. Representatives

for Domenici and U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman will also make brief presentations.

The morning program is scheduled to end at 11:30 a.m., and will be followed by tours of the facility.

More than 50 scientists and staff members moved into the 29,000-square-foot building earlier this summer. Two-thirds of the Jornada's staff are federal employees and about one-third are NMSU staff, supported mostly by grant programs. In addition, graduate students from the university collaborate on a number of research projects, primarily with NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Scientists with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service also work in the new building.

The new facility is designed to

help lay the foundation for better understanding of arid lands, said Kris Havstad, supervisory scientist of the Jornada Experimental Range. It houses six laboratories, a small conference area, offices and a three-story atrium that gives the building a open, spacious feeling. Construction on the mission-style building began in August 2000.

The Jornada Experimental Range, which includes some 193,000 acres, was established in 1912 to study management and remediation or repair of desert rangelands.

For more information, contact the Jornada Experimental Range at 646-4842. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate, please contact Havstad before the event. ❖

Mail service changes implemented

Agricultural Communications announced last month new mail procedures and services to take effect in August, coinciding with the retirement of much of its mail-handling staff. Marrufo Mail Services will handle college mail pickup, delivery and metering, plus some bulk mail handling for the college under contract, said Terry Canup, department head.

"We will be metering not only federal account mail in-house, but state account mail as well," Canup said. "We will forego handling charges to the university on state account mail, which amounted to about \$7,000 per year, hidden in

mailing costs."

Canup said this would mean that the deadline for all mail will be 4 p.m., and that it will all go to the Post Office the same day. Previously, state account mail had to be in by 2:30 p.m. in order to be handled by university central mailing that day. The new system will entail more billing work for Agricultural Communications' bookkeeper, Canup said, but it will offer better service to the college.

The department will no longer offer bulk mailing services to county Extension offices for free, Canup said. "There is adequate federal penalty mail authority for

campus departments to send mail individually to county offices in normal daily mail," he said, adding that any departments concerned about their penalty mail authority can contact Dan Liesner.

The department also will soon offer a self-service UPS station in Room 173 of Gerald Thomas Hall. There, departments can weigh and meter UPS packages and leave them for pick up, if their account number is registered in the system.

Contact Canup for more information about UPS service options or for any other concerns about mail service at 646-5424 or tcanup@nmsu.edu ❖

Los Lunas hosts field day Aug. 14

NMSU's Agricultural Science Center at Los Lunas will spotlight new research on pine tip moth, turf and wine grapes at the annual field day Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It's a great opportunity for people to learn about the research we do here and get information from specialists about everyday problems, from backyard garden and lawn care to pest control and horse care," said Mike English, center superintendent.

The center will offer hayride tours of the 202-acre facility, high-

lighting grass and forage variety trials and noxious weed and pest control research. NMSU and USDA specialists will discuss warm- and cool-season turf grasses; native grasses like alma blue grama; alfalfa hybrids; and forages such as Max Q fescue and new sorghum and sudan hybrids.

They will discuss xeric, riparian and mountain plants, showcase a wine grape variety trial coordinated jointly by NMSU and the New Mexico Wine and Vine Society, and unveil a new experiment to control pine tip moths with parasitic wasps

imported from Georgia.

Indoor and outdoor demonstrations will include foot care for horses, erosion control along riversides, food preparation tips for people with diabetes and quick and easy ways to make refrigerated pickles.

Master gardeners will staff an information booth and plant clinic to answer gardeners' questions about plant diseases and insects. The free event will conclude with a complimentary lunch at noon and speakers from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. ❖

Artesia field day features forage, cotton research

Agricultural research on the Pecos Valley's top commodities will be featured at an evening field day Tuesday, Aug. 20, at NMSU's Agricultural Science Center at Artesia.

"Our research deals with issues that are critical for this area, particularly alfalfa, cotton and dairies," said Robert Flynn, science center interim superintendent.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. at the science center, located six miles south of Artesia, followed by a catered barbecue dinner. The scientific portion starts at 5:30 p.m. with introductions and a short research advisory board business meeting. Next, Jay Lazarus, owner of Glorieta GeoSciences Inc., a environmental consulting firm based

in Santa Fe, will give a presentation on dairies' economic impact and related water issues in the Pecos Valley.

The number of dairies in southeastern New Mexico has jumped significantly in recent years, leading scientists at the center to focus on ways to improve forage production and nutrient management, as well as insect and weed control in field crops.

Beginning at 6 p.m., NMSU researchers from Artesia and other science centers will also give research updates at several field stops. Among those presenting information are Leonard Lauriault, forage agronomist from the Agricultural Science Center at

Tucumcari; Extension agronomist Denise McWilliams; Extension turfgrass specialist Bernhard Leinauer; and senior research specialist Cindy Waddell. Artesia-based researchers will include Flynn, agronomist Martina Murray and entomologist Jane Pierce.

Founded in 1955, the Artesia center has approximately 75 acres under cultivation, using sprinkler, drip and gated pipe irrigation systems. Ongoing research includes fertility studies and manure use in crop production, integrated insect pest management, weed management and performance evaluation of crop varieties and alternative crops. ❖

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.

Extension Internet Conferencing Center establishes procedures

Agricultural Communications plans to increase marketability of the Extension Internet Conferencing Center, a service that's being used primarily for Extension workshops, through the proprietary Centra system.

"There will be three types of service offered: Extension-sponsored events, for-credit instruction, and for-fee services," said Terry Canup, department head.

Extension-sponsored events are largely underwritten by ongoing support for the center by Extension, Canup said.

"For-credit instruction must be coordinated through the Office of Scholarly Technology under an

agreement involving a consortium that purchased the proprietary software for the university. That will require a server fee, and additional services can be arranged through them or us."

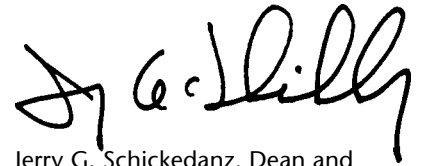
For-fee services for agencies and nonprofit entities are available through the center, which has an established rate card.

"We think this service offers tremendous savings for conferencing, in-service training and other events that would normally require travel, per diem and conference facilities," Canup said.

For additional information on options available, contact Canup at 646-5424 or tcanup@nmsu.edu

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, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer



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Deans' Coffee Time

Resumes August 21, 2002

Wednesdays, 8:30–9:15 a.m. GTH Foyer