

A guest editorial . . .

Experiment Station "Outreach"



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FROM THE VANTAGE POINT of a federal administrator, I am continually impressed by the strength, size and quality of the agricultural science and education programs of the state of California. Nearly one-tenth of the total U. S. agricultural research program supported by state funds is centered here—850 workers engaged full or part time in research—comprising almost 40 percent of the effort of the Western region. The intellectual array is even more impressive than the size. One can find practically every type of scientific competence represented in a staff where the quality of preeminence prevails.

There are good reasons for this phenomenon. The agricultural industry of the state is phenomenal and deserves the research program now serving its needs. The value of this industry, both at the farm gate and at the market, fully demonstrates that this has been a good investment. The rural areas of the state offer a vast challenge for development. The people of the state have an insatiable demand for education and scientific progress equal to their ambitions for social and economic improvement, and they are willing to support research. California's leadership has been dedicated and equal to the challenge. As scientists and teachers you have not neglected emerging needs of society while seeking new knowledge and truth, for which the people respect and support you.

The state's record also shows a willingness to extend interests and expertise to regional, national and international problems. There has been a generous lending of hands to the efforts of cooperative regional research teams on practically every problem extending from the most basic physiologic and genetic studies through marketing, environmental quality and human nutrition. Everyone from the bench scientist to the Vice President for Agricultural Sciences seems to take part

in multi-institutional and inter-state team efforts. Mutual benefits, of course, accrue to all concerned through consultation and coordination among scientific peers. Many of the problems could not be effectively attacked by one State or agency.

Another important aspect of California's outreach is the service rendered on the various regional and national advisory committees, task forces and planning groups. Increasing competition for public funds among priorities makes joint planning for justification and efficient use of research resources essential. With the state's help, considerable progress has been made during the past decade on identifying common research goals and objectives, classifying and documenting research projects, and sharing responsibility for various aspects of regional and national programs. Institutional consortiums and arrangements, such as centers of competence, offer additional opportunities to optimize use of public-funded research resources, to accelerate research progress, and to provide additional training on emerging problem areas.

California staff members also have a distinguished record of outreach service. To mention a very few—the role played by E. W. Hilgard in helping to establish a national system of State Agricultural Experiment Stations, the leadership of Agnes Faye Morgan in the first national study of human nutritional status, the guidance of A. M. Boyce on pesticide residue studies and non-chemical pest control, the stimulus of G. E. Mehren to cooperative research planning, and the contribution of R. N. Colwell to remote sensing technique. Many others could be named. Individual staff members will continue to be one of California's most valuable resources. I welcome this rare opportunity to express thanks on behalf of other States and the Department of Agriculture for your continuing outreach.