



EPSILON SIGMA PHI

National Honorary Extension Fraternity



Number 59

February 1995

National Office Returns To Minnesota

by Shirley Shellberg



Management of the National Office changes hands. Gail Shellberg congratulates Judy Carlson upon assuming the role of Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Shirley Shellberg and Carl Carlson, ESP office staff look on, adding their congratulations.

Judy and Carl Carlson are now the newest people to staff the National Office of Epsilon Sigma Phi and they are only the sixth to have served in that capacity. The first Executive Secretary-Treasurer was Luke Schruben of Washington, D.C. and Mildred Payne Blokker of Virginia was the second. The next person in the position was Robert Clark of Wisconsin followed by Bill Milbrath of Minnesota. Most recently, Gail Shellberg of Colorado held that post.

Judy Carlson, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, retired from Iowa Cooperative Extension in August 1994 following a 34 year career. She and her husband Carl have built a new home at Battle Lake, Minnesota. This will be the new location for the National Epsilon Sigma Phi Office as it returns to Minnesota. Judy assumed the Executive Secretary-Treasurer position January 1, 1995. Carl will assist in the

management and operation of the National Office.

Gail and Shirley Shellberg moved the office equipment, furniture and supplies to the new location in a U-Haul truck during the first week of January. They helped the Carlsons unpack, set up the equipment and provided several additional days of training for Judy and Carl. The new address and telephone number is:

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Epsilon Sigma Phi
PO Box 626
Battle Lake MN 56515
phone: 218-864-8678
FAX: 218-864-8064
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Shirley Shellberg along with Gail Shellberg edit the Newsletter.

Scholarship Used For Summer Study

by Greg Wheeler

The 1994 American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEE) conference in Asilomar, California this past summer addressed sustainability as the conference theme. The summer study was on energy efficiency in buildings.

Christine Ervin, United States Department of Energy Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Renewable Resources, in her plenary presentation quoted Thomas Jefferson from 1789 that went roughly like, "each generation is entrusted with the care of the earth which it must pass on unencumbered to the next generation." It should be noted that people would be in a better situation now if that statement were a law instead of a comment.

One of Epsilon Sigma Phi's professionalism scholarships granted to Greg Wheeler, from Oregon's Gamma Chapter, allowed Greg to attend this outstanding conference. Greg Wheeler presented his paper "Energy Management System Performance" during the conference.

This quality conference was outstanding, not only for the content, but for the greatest international collection of energy professionals in the world. The opportunity to build bridges to agencies, utilities, and consultants was evident in every session of the conference.

Numerous topics were addressed from System Optimization (several papers addressed the concept of system efficiency rather than component efficiency) to Energy Efficiency Centers. Contact Greg Wheeler, Extension Energy Specialist, Oregon State University, for additional highlights or more in-depth information about this outstanding conference and the many subjects that were covered.

Greg Wheeler is an Extension Energy Specialist and a member of Oregon's Gamma Chapter.

Corbitt Wins State Award

Steve Corbitt (left) recently received the Friend of Extension Award from the Mississippi chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi national honorary extension fraternity from Tom Smith, president of the organization. The honor is the highest award given by the group. It recognizes the person considered most supportive of extension programs and activities during the past year. Corbitt is the executive vice president of the Mississippi Forestry Association.



Give Us Your Contacts!!

by Charlotte Crawford and Marilyn Furry

You can help the ESP Foundation! How? By providing names of potential donors to the ESP Foundation. The ESP Foundation supports professional improvement through grants, scholarships and loans for Epsilon Sigma Phi members.

An ESP chapter contact in each state is needed by the National Resource Development and Management Committee to help identify potential donors. If interested, volunteer to your state chapter president and provide your Internet number to the national committee.

Send names and addresses of potential donors and chapter contacts to:

Marilyn Furry
Vice President, Northeast
Pennsylvania State University
323 Agricultural Administration Bldg.
University Park PA 16802-2601
phone: 814-863-7869
Internet: familyliv@psupen.psu.edu

Marilyn Furry, Vice President, Northeast, and a member of Alpha Omicron Chapter along with Charlotte Crawford, a member of Alpha Nu Chapter are members of the Resource Development and Management Committee.

Auction Sets Record – \$3,096

by Gail Shellberg

A spirited and fun-filled Scholarship Auction conducted at the 1994 National Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, netted \$3096 from over 80 items auctioned. This is the largest amount of funds raised for the Scholarship Auction.

Glenn Thompson and Tod Planer, "auctioneers" from Wisconsin's Alpha Sigma Chapter, presented items from a Utah ski package to a Garfield stuffed animal personally autographed by Jim Davis, creator of Garfield. The auctioneers added much humor to an entertaining and profitable event. All the state chapters and individuals who donated items for the auction are to be commended for their support.

The Scholarship Auction proceeds will enable Epsilon Sigma Phi's scholarship program to be expanded.

Much Distress Over Retirement Review

Long-service federal and postal workers have good reason to fret over the Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform, the 32-member body appointed by President Clinton and congressional Republicans and Democrats. The panel, which is gathering information on such programs as Medicare and Medicaid, as well as the federal retirement system, is hoping to find ways to make these programs cheaper.

Of course, cost-cutting could hit these programs hard. The federal retirement program has been attacked for many years by those who claim it's too generous. The White House, under several administrations, has tried to bite into it but without much success. Most members of Congress have publicly called for reforms while privately working to scuttle change because they benefit directly from the retirement systems.

All this seems to be changing, however. Half a dozen members of Congress don't belong to either CSRS or FERS. But their numbers are expected to creep up with the influx of new members after the elections. The more members who don't belong, the greater the chance of cutting retirement programs.

At this point it's up to the commission to make recommendations, if any. If it goes after federal retirement, it likely would consider these possible cuts:

- Reduce the government's contribution toward the FERS thrift investment program, currently capped at 5 percent of salary. The government matches no CSRS thrift investments.

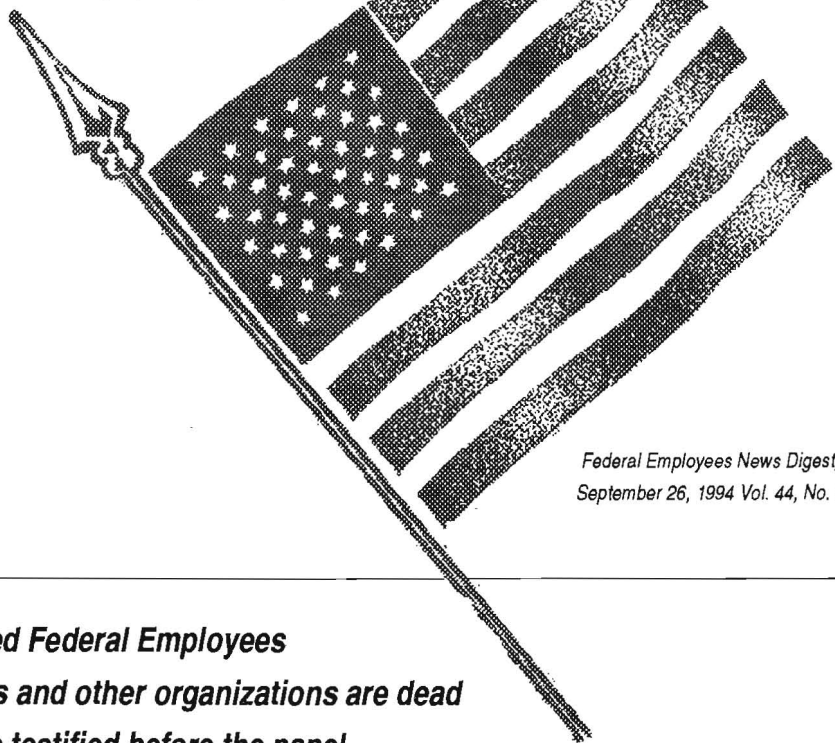
- Raise the federal retirement age over time, for only new employees or for current workers. The more likely choice here would be to gradually introduce a higher retirement age.

- Reduce annual cost of living raises (COLAs).

- "Means" test COLAs, which would give upper income folks either smaller adjustments or none at all.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), as well

as federal unions and other organizations, are dead set against such change and have testified before the panel. They pointed out that COLAs currently are delayed until April each year through 1996. Further, they said, the federal retirement program is dwarfed by much larger entitlement programs, Medicare and Medicaid. Federal retirement represents only about 5 percent of the total, doesn't add to the deficit and is earned, said witnesses.



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• HIGHLIGHTS •

- 1995 Regional Workshop dates and locations are: Southern Region, February 2-4, New Orleans, LA; Northeast Region, February 5-7, Burlington, VT; Western Region, February 23-25, Tucson, AZ; and North Central Region, February 26-28, St. Louis, MO. Note location changes for Western and North Central Regions.
- Margaret A. Viebrock, Washington, was elected by the 1994 National Council delegates to the position of President-Elect/First Vice President for Chapter Relations. Patrick G. Boyle, Wisconsin, was elected to the new Second Vice President position and will chair the Professional Development Committee and 1995 National Meeting Planning Committee. The election was held during the December 8-10 National Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Bill Braden, Texas, assumed the Epsilon Sigma Phi leadership as President.
- The 1995 National Meeting will be held December 7-9 in Spokane, Washington, at the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel. Washington's Beta and Idaho's Theta Chapters will host the meeting. Mark your calendars now and watch for details of the professional development meeting in the August Newsletter.
- The National ESP Newsletter will expand to four issues in 1995. The mailing dates will be February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. Copy deadline for each issue is 30 days prior to the mailing dates. Story ideas and articles are welcome. In addition, evaluatory comments are appreciated.
- Remember!! March 1, 1995 is the due date for all nominations in the National Awards Program. All scholarship and mini-grant applications are also due at this time. Any nominations or applications postmarked after March 1 will not be considered.
- Elected at the 1994 Regional Workshops, Bernadette Watts, Vice President, South and Al Wollenzien, Vice President, North Central, assumed their positions on the National Board. They will serve 1995-96.

Crom Recognized by Minnesota Extension

By Julie Medbery

Robert L. Crom, Alpha Mu Chapter, Iowa was recognized October 17, 1994, at the Annual Conference of the Minnesota Extension Service. The award was for his "role in reaffirming the importance of the national Cooperative Extension System to the land-grant outreach mission at the national level and for distinguished contributions to Extension throughout his career."

Dr. Crom, who served as Assistant to the President at North Dakota State University; Dean of University Extension at Iowa State University; and, most recently, as Director of Extension and Outreach at the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges in Washington, D.C., retired and moved to Hackensack, Minnesota in 1993.

Julie Medbery is in the Office of the Dean and Director, Minnesota Extension Service.

In Remembrance

Robert C. Clark, Executive Secretary-Treasurer 1981 through 1986, died in February 1994. He was a past Distinguished Service Ruby Award recipient in 1987 and the International Service Award recipient in 1983. Bob will be remembered by many as the person selected to organize and administer the National Agricultural Extension Center for Advanced Study which was sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation from 1955 to 1965. Dr. Clark, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin, was one of the founders of the National Epsilon Sigma Phi Foundation. His presence will be sorely missed by his family and the Epsilon Sigma Phi fraternity.

Glimpses into Our National Meeting



Clockwise from top left:

1. The 4-H Reach Out Singers from Walworth County Wisconsin presented their "Happiness is—" production during the Awards Recognition Banquet.
2. Bill Braden, newly installed president, admires the "dream catcher" presented to him by Past President Dick Angus.
3. Dick Angus receives past president plaque from Bill Braden the new president.
4. Gail Shellberg enthusiastically displays the ESP clock, hand-carved by Art Redinger, received from the National Board. Shirley, national office staff, is appreciative, too.
5. Indiana's Alpha Lambda Chapter garnered three awards in the National Awards Program and Art Redinger retired as North Central Director.
6. Jeanne Davis, 1994 Member Services Committee Chair, expresses her appreciation to Gail Shellberg for an impressive Awards Recognition program. Jeanne is a member of Kentucky's Alpha Kappa Chapter.
7. Dick Angus installed the 1995 National Board (l-r) Bill Braden, President; Margaret Viebrock, President-Elect; Laurel Kubin, Vice President, West; Pat Boyle, Second Vice President; Marilyn Furry, Vice President, Northeast; Bernadette Watts, Vice President, South; and Al Wollenzien, Vice President, North Central. Angus is Past President.



Epsilon Sigma Phi – Av

NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RUBY AWARD



Lucinda A. Noble, Director Emeritus, Cornell Cooperative Extension System, receives the Ruby Award from 1994 President Dick Angus.

NATIONAL FRIEND OF EXTENSION



Shirley Bellmon, Oklahoma's "First Lady", receives her Friend Award from Bill Braden, 1995 National President.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARD



Richard E. Gelzleichter, Indiana Program Coordinator for International Programs and Agriculture, receives the International Award from 1995 President Bill Braden.

SOUTHERN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Judy M. Groff, Extension 4-H Specialist in North Carolina, receives her award from Bernadette Watts, Vice President, South.

WESTERN MID-CAREER AWARD



Jay B. Carr, Extension Agent and Staff Chair in Oregon, receives his award from 1994 President Dick Angus.

NORTHEAST MID-CAREER AWARD



Jacqueline Jones Hill, Interim Regional Extension Director in Maryland, receives her award from Marilyn Furry, Vice President, Northeast.

Awards Excellence

Photos by Ralph Teague Jr.
Alpha Pi Chapter, Alabama

NATIONAL FRIEND OF EXTENSION



Louis L. Goldstein, Maryland volunteer and public servant, receives his Friend Award from 1995 President Bill Braden.

NATIONAL FRIEND OF EXTENSION



Walter "Buzz" Moss, North Carolina volunteer, receives his Friend Award from Bill Braden, 1995 National President.

NORTHEAST DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Reita Jean Marks, Extension 4-H Specialist in West Virginia, receives her award from Marilyn Furry, Vice President, Northeast.

WESTERN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Marilynne J. Ross, King County EFNEP Coordinator and Extension Agent in Washington, receives her award from 1994 President Dick Angus.

SOUTHERN MID-CAREER AWARD



Joy A. Padgett, Extension Agent in Georgia, receives her award from Bernadette Watts, Vice President, South.

NORTH CENTRAL MID-CAREER AWARD



Norman D. Long accepts the award for Janet S. Ayres, Extension Specialist Community Leadership in Indiana, from Art Redinger, North Central Region Director.

Epsilon Sigma Phi— Awards Excellence

NORTH CENTRAL TEAM AWARD



Indiana's Community Systemwide Response Initiative team members Maryann Dickason, Pam Robbins and Juanita Russell accept the Team Award from Art Redinger, North Central Region Director.

SOUTHERN TEAM AWARD



Charlotte L. Richert accepts the Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Team Award from Bernadette Watts, Vice President, South.

NORTHEAST TEAM AWARD



Carol Anderson of New York and Pennsylvania's Northeast Network: Food, Health and Agriculture team receives the Team Award from Marilyn Furry, Vice President, Northeast.

WESTERN TEAM AWARD



Bill Hancock and Jeff Tranel of Colorado's Patterson Hollow Hydrologic Unit team receive the Team Award from 1994 President Dick Angus.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Jerald R. DeWitt, Director to Agriculture and Associate Dean for Extension in Iowa.



Are We Stewards?

A Perspective for the Cooperative Extension System

by Lucinda A. Noble

The topic "Are We Stewards?" was selected in part because of a recent reading of Peter Block's book *STEWARDSHIP: Choosing Service Over Self Interest*. But more importantly, the topic was selected because of a long held belief that the people we serve or seek to reach with our extension work should be the major force influencing the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

Before pursuing this, the assumption is made that everyone is knowledgeable of current trends effecting higher education and extension programming: changing demographics, levels of public and private financing, and the public perception of the value of the work we do. The importance of societal trends nor forces of change should not be minimized but our thoughts should be focused on a vision of what could be with our dreams and input.

*"Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world."
Joel Arthur Barker*

Carol Anderson and I authored a discussion paper on leadership sharing a set of six tenets that support Boyer's scholarship of discovery, integration, application and teaching. Briefly, the tenets are: 1) Leadership is based on a clear set of rationally defensible values; 2) Leadership is a shared enterprise; 3) Leadership includes a willingness to take calculated risks to capitalize on new opportunities; 4) Leadership requires

balancing the need for extensive participation and input against the need to make timely decisions when critical issues arise; 5) Leadership means building bridges between people and ideas. Diverse backgrounds and experiences are to be celebrated and used to create meaningful responses; and 6) Leadership includes balancing often concurring demands of work, community, and family life.

How do these characteristics relate to stewardship? Block defines stewardship "as the willingness to be accountable for the well-being of the organization by operating in service, rather than in control, of those around us."

In the preface to his book on stewardship, Block identifies four elements that are essential if "genuine service is performed." They are: 1) "balance of power": people

need to be involved in decision making and to act on their own choices; 2) "Primary commitment is to the larger community": the people are the customers we are in business to serve; 3) Jointly deciding a "shared purpose" and the "kind of culture this organization will become." This is working for inclusiveness and mutuality; and 4) Having a "balanced and equitable distribution of rewards": all levels of the organization need to be recognized in the success of the organization.

Block's belief is for all levels of the organization to be involved in creating the product(s), or as he states it "creating its wealth and expanding its resources." He concludes his argument by stating "Without these elements, no genuine service is performed."

My interest in stewardship centers on the people to be served. I find myself asking: what ARE we in business for? Who are the people we have a mandate to reach with our programs? What should the customers expect of us? What do we expect of ourselves? To whom are we really accountable? How do we as an organization change to do a more effective job of non-formal education? I'm afraid we have too often retreated from really coming to grips with these concerns. Instead we work on how we can be seen as more efficient and respected within the university community. We DO serve two "masters": the University and government entities that provide employment and resources, and the people of

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Continued on page 10

our state who want us to provide up-to-date and reliable research-based knowledge that they can use to improve their family living, businesses and communities.

Thus, the question: Are we stewards? If yes, for whom? To be a true steward means to have true regard for the rights of those we serve. The people we are in business to serve need to have input as partners into the decisions made about programs. I feel that also means they need to have real input into the research our universities do on their behalf. How assertive have we been as stewards in paving the way for this to take place? How much of the leadership rhetoric focuses on what we as professionals want to do rather than us working with the customer to develop a best fit for them? Attorney General Janet Reno recently spoke at Cornell University. One of her compelling messages was to "listen to ALL the people even those who disagree with you and you with them." Can we honestly say we've been doing this?

I believe we need to be stewards of the Cooperative Extension system, both in our state and for the nationwide system. We have obligations to both. I believe as growing professionals we need to know the history and mission of the land-grant university system and take an active role in developing its vision for the future. I believe that each of us need to initiate and engage in current dialogue with university decision makers and the public at large on the role of outreach and extension programming as an integral part of the university's mandate and mission. Finally, I believe that we as responsible next-age leaders need to set forth our own beliefs on what stewardship entails for the people we serve: our customers and program partners. We also need to set forth beliefs for the organization and institution we are members of and for leaders and our colleagues, and for ourselves to renew our commitment and sustain personal growth.

An abstract of Dr. Lucinda A. Noble's (New York Lambda Chapter) Ruby Award Lecture presented at the National Meeting in December 1994.

Shellbergs Say Farewell

by Gail and Shirley Shellberg

The warm acceptance of the Epsilon Sigma Phi members during the four-plus years we have staffed the National Office will always be cherished.

We have enjoyed working with you and getting to know some of you. We wish you well in your careers or in retirement. We retire again leaving the National Office in the capable hands of Judy and Carl Carlson. As we bid you farewell—

***May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again.....***

Gail and Shirley Shellberg, now past editors of this Newsletter.

1994 Ruby Lecture Video Available

by Gail Shellberg

The 1994 Ruby Lecture videotape by Lucinda A. Noble, Ruby Award recipient, is available for loan from the National Epsilon Sigma Phi Loan Library. Dr. Noble's remarks addressed "Are We Stewards?" An abstract of the lecture can be found in this Newsletter.

Contact the National Office to request this videotape. Additional videotapes of previous Ruby Lectures are also available.

Call For Workshop Proposals

You are invited to submit proposals for workshop presentations for the 1995 Epsilon Sigma Phi National Meeting in Spokane, Washington, December 7-9. This is an opportunity to share professional development information with your colleagues and provide train-the-trainer strategies. The list of potential topics is limitless. For more information contact:

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Second Vice President
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Madison WI 53705
608-262-3768/ 238-8876
FAX: 608-262-8404
INT: sears@admin.uwex.edu

Agricultural Literacy Increased for Students

by Charles B. Cox

A 1994 Professionalism Scholarship was used to complete a study that is helping to increase agricultural literacy among students in grades K-4 in Oklahoma. The Ag in the Classroom curriculum was enhanced with the study results.

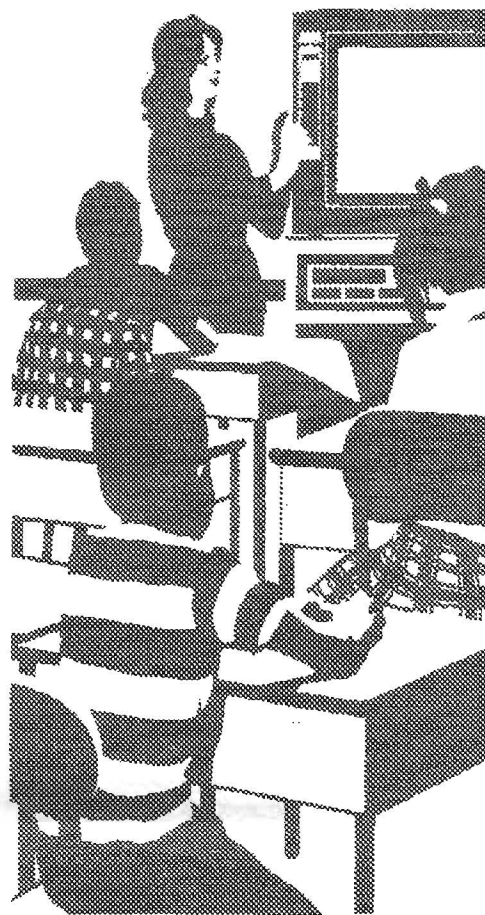
In a time when many states are trying to expand the scope of their Extension programs beyond the traditional stereotypes of agriculture, it seems that programs in agricultural education may be more needed than ever. In a study which sought to determine the knowledge and perceptions of agriculture held by selected fourth grade teachers in Oklahoma it was found that most teachers have a very limited understanding of agriculture.

While nearly half of the teachers in the study had lived on a farm or ranch at some point in their lifetime, most did not associate agriculture with science. In fact, most of those involved in the study had little appreciation of agriculture beyond basic food and fiber production.

When asked to respond to a series of 25 multiple choice questions that dealt with agricultural facts, the majority missed items associated with nutrition, plant growth and the impact of agriculture on the social development of the nation.

The teachers indicated that they were primarily using textbooks for science related information, but most were interested in more hands-on approaches to teaching. This finding was especially valuable in validating a new program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. The first Ag in the Classroom curriculum was introduced in 1992 for elementary school classrooms. Since that time, the project has been expanded and currently curriculum exists for grades K-4.

The goal of Ag in the Classroom is to increase the agricultural literacy of the students by using agricultural concepts to teach core subjects. Each of the lessons is supported with educational outcomes and background information for teachers. During its second year of distribution, over 17,000 children were reached with the program in Oklahoma. It is hoped that future studies will reflect an increased knowledge and improved perception of agriculture in Oklahoma.



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Charles B. Cox is a 4-H Youth Development Specialist and a member of Oklahoma's Omicron Chapter.

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30 days prior.

Story ideas and articles welcome.

Evaluatory comments appreciated.

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