"Grants-in-Aid" For Research

By Ralph S. Hawkins

Agricultural research has been supported from public funds for many years. Closely allied industries recognize that this financial assistance is often inadequate to provide for expedient handling of some of the pressing problems confronting agriculture.

The Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station has received many so-called "grants-in-aid" from various private organizations in the past. A number of agricultural problems financed from such sources are now being worked on by this Station.

The American Cyanamid Company has been making a grant of $1,000 per year for several years to the Plant Pathology Department to finance extensive experiments in the control of watery brown rot in lettuce. Effective control measures that considerably decreased incidence of the disease in infected soil were developed.

Accurate measurement of water is important in a research study of water losses. At left is Dr. R. D. Rehmberg, assistant agricultural economist at the University of Arizona. At right is Fred S. Kountz.

Stark Bros. Nursery has given the same department a $500 grant to work on the control of bacterial blight of stone fruits. It has been found that streptomycin will perfectly disinfect the bud wood.

An anonymous gift of $3,000 is being used to buy laboratory equipment and furnish assistance in the diagnosis of plant diseases.

Plant Disease Control

Work on the control of certain plant diseases by the use of anti-biotics has been carried on under a grant from the Schenley Company for several years. Galls on deciduous fruit trees, roses, privet and other woody plants have been successfully killed by penicillin and streptomycin without injury to normal plant tissues. Experimental results show that streptomycin in particular has definite promise for the treatment of potato seed pieces infected with ring-rot bacterium.

The Salt River Valley Water Users' Association is making a substantial contribution toward a research study being pursued by the Department of Agricultural Economics. The department is determining the comparative costs in water distribution on farms which use open ditches, lined ditches, and double-fenced ditches.

Determination of water loss by seepage is a necessary part of the study. By supplying crews and equipment to move and install measuring devices, the Water Users' are doing a most necessary piece of work valued at about $2,000 in the calendar year of 1950. Two federal agencies, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Soil Conservation Service, are assisting in this study.

A grant of $1,000 from the Arizona Vegetable Growers Association has enabled the Horticultural Department to purchase much needed equipment and increase their research on problems connected with the vegetable industry of the state.

Cotton-Breeding Work

The Arizona Cottonseed Distributors has provided $1,000 to accelerate the upland-cotton breeding project. This fund will enable E. H. Pressley to increase the selections of improved strains of cotton — now the state's greatest source of agricultural income.

An article on the time-saving value of using frozen foods appears elsewhere in this issue. This work was part of a project financed under a grant of $1,800 made for that purpose by the Arizona Frozen Food Locker Association and made thru the state distributors of home freezers for the State of Arizona.

A number of grants are now being used by the Department of Nutrition for research on problems concerned with the diet of humans. The most recent is a grant of $15,500 from the U. S. Public Health Service for Cirtosone, ACTH, and amino-acid metabolism studies in connection with rheumatoid arthritis. Another grant of $10,000 has been made by the same service for the continuation of work on amino acid metabolism in rheumatic diseases.

A grant of $3,500 by the Williams-Waterman Company aided in part work published in a recent issue of the Journal of Nutrition under the title, "The Essential Amino Acid Content of Several Vegetables." This same project was also partly financed by a $5,000 grant from the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Washington, D. C.

Experiment Station work on many other research problems has been financed in years past from these grants-in-aid which with few exceptions come from private sources.

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