

STUDENT ACTIVITIES 1/Robert L. Hausenbuiller 2/

This section deals with the Crops and Soils Club and the Crop and Soil Judging Teams. The judging teams have been sponsored by the Club, but they have functioned sporadically depending on the availability of faculty with interest and time to serve as coaches.

The Crops and Soils Club

The Crops and Soils Club (originally the Agronomy Club) was organized about 1939 under the guidance of Ev Kreizinger, then a member of the Agronomy Department. Early records of club activities are not available, but they have been published regularly in the Agronomist (formerly Agronomy and Men) since its inception as an annual publication in 1950. Initiation of this noteworthy publication was suggested and encouraged by Department Chairman Bertramson as a means of documenting student and staff accomplishments while increasing student interest and participation in both Club and Departmental activities. Thanks to the dedication of students, staff, and secretaries, the Agronomist has become an outstanding record of student functions and of changes in and achievements by the Teaching and Research Faculty. It is probably one of the best, if not the best, student publication of its kind in the Country.

A record of membership in the Crops and Soils Club has not been maintained, but it is judged to have peaked in the late 1970's, when the

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number of undergraduate majors in the Department exceeded 100. Majors in both Soils and Crops have been well represented on the Club rolls. Further, in recent years there has been increasing participation by young women, and they have contributed more than their fair share to overall Club activities.

By the early 1950's, the pattern of club activities had become reasonably well established. These activities were in part a response to internal interests and needs and in part to a call for participation in University and College of Agriculture functions as well as in programs sponsored by the Student Activities Section of the American Society of Agronomy.

Club meetings have been scheduled monthly, originally on week-day evenings, but more recently during the lunch hour. The meetings have provided not only an opportunity to conduct essential business but also to hear guest speakers or to view various films important to agriculture. Speakers covered a wide range of topics and represented industry, Federal and State Agencies, and the University, both from within and from outside the Department of Agronomy and Soils.

Funding of club activities in the earlier years was limited and came primarily from (1) dues, (2) the operation of first one and then two coke machines in Wilson Hall and (3) the sale of subscriptions to the Crops and Soils Magazine, a publication of the American Society of Agronomy. In 1959 a new fund-raising project was initiated; the preparation of seed mounts for weed-seed identification. These, for the most part, were sold to FFA chapters.

In 1960, a large boost in funding came from sales of the film "Water Movement in Soil" produced by Dr. Walter Gardner. Slide sets, one prepared

directly from this film and a second on weed identification, prepared by Dr. Dean Swan, provided additional revenues. In the mid-1970's, the Club raised money by cleaning, packaging, and selling Himalaya barley seed, and in 1980, by a similar handling of sunflower seed from experimental plots. Financial support from special projects, such as team travel to crop-judging contests, was supplied on many occasions by various commercial concerns, both agricultural and nonagricultural.

Club-sponsored activities have had three stated goals: (1) to promote careers in agronomy and soils, (2) to improve relations among all peoples, and (3) to broaden the knowledge and understanding, particularly of the Club membership, of matters bearing directly or indirectly on agronomy and soils. To these ends, the Club has been involved in such things as:

1. Organization and manning of booths promoting Agronomy and Soils at University Registration in the early years, at the College of Agriculture Little International Livestock Show (later Aggie Day and then Land-Grant Day), and at other University-wide functions, such as Open House. The Club has provided displays for Career Days and the annual Ag Awards Banquet, and for Departmental Open-House on Mother's Week-end. The Club has also provided hosts for the latter event.
2. Sponsoring and hosting an annual Crop-Judging Contest for Washington State high school students from 1950 through 1978.
3. Involvement in various social activities, including student-faculty picnics and sports events, both at the Departmental and College of Agriculture level, and joint meetings and outings with its counterpart at the University of Idaho.

4. Participation in the Student Activities Section of the American Society of Agronomy. Members have attended the National Meetings on many occasions, have successfully participated in the National Speech and Essay Contests, and have served as officers (Vice President, Treasurer, and Chairman of the Student Improvement Committee) in the Student Activities Section of the National Society. In 1965, the Club was awarded fourth place in the National Achievement Award Contest, which is based on a report of club educational, recreational, and fund-raising activities.
5. Participation in field trips developed by and for the Club membership and advisors. These have been from one to three days in length and have allowed visits, both in and out of state, to experiment stations and commercial concerns, such as seed-, food-processing, and fertilizer plants. Much of the expense of these trips was financed from the Club treasury.
6. Support of both Crop and Soil Judging teams is described in the following section of this document.

The following is a list of advisors to the Crops and Soils Club with the years in which they served:

Al Davis	1969-71	Jim Maguire	1958-60
Carl Fanning	1969-70	Bob McCreery	1952-53
Bruce Frazier	1977-82	Brian McNeal	1971-72
Bill Gregg	1956-59	J. K. Patterson	1951-57
Dave Guettinger	1965-67	Henry Smith	1959-60
Jim Harsh	1984-85	Ivan Teare	1964-67
Bob Hausenbuiller	1961-65, 67-69	Steve Ullrich	1979-85
Tom Jackson	1951-52	Bob Witters	1971-77
Ev Kreizinger	1939-40	Vern Youngman	1961-63
Al Law	1941-54, 77-79		

The Crop Judging Team

Although it is not an ongoing activity as of the spring, 1985, crop judging has been a reasonably long-lasting and successful function at Washington State University. The teams, made up primarily of undergraduate Crop Science majors, have, in each of the years they have competed, entered two closely coordinated contests held each fall in Kansas City, MO., and Chicago, IL. The contest at Kansas City is national in character; at Chicago, it is international. These competitions require three things of the participants: (1) plant identification, (2) commercial grain grading, and (3) seed identification. Scores earned by individual team members are the basis for overall team scores.

Under the sponsorship of the Crops and Soils Club, the first competition entered by the WSU team was in 1953. There is no record of competition for the next two years, but it was reinitiated from 1956 through 1964 and again from 1969 through 1976. The team, in most years placed from fourth to seventh while in competition with from 9 to 11 other teams. The last year of competition, 1976, was the best, with the team taking first place overall in both the national and international competitions. No crop judging team has been fielded by WSU since 1976.

Coaches for the crop judging teams have been John Goodding (1953), Don Seagraves (1956), Evan Purser (1957), Vern Youngman (1958, 1960-64), David Kittock (1959), and Dwane Miller (1969-76).

Whereas good experiences and fond memories appear to have been among the most revered benefits of crop judging, they were the result of tremendous dedication and work on the part of both the team members and the coaches. In the earlier years through 1964, travel to the contests was by van or station wagon. Because of the distances involved, the team was away

from Pullman for nearly two weeks. This proved very difficult for team members, who had class obligations to fulfill. Thus, in 1969, travel by air was initiated and continued through 1976.

Travel expenses for the Crop Judging Team were paid for by various means. Important financial support came from the team sponsor, the Crops and Soils Club. However, without the help of numerous businesses and business organizations, funding would have been inadequate and entry of the team in the crop-judging competitions likely impossible.

The Soil Judging Team

Soil judging at Washington State University has had a brief, though reasonably successful, history. The first team to be fielded was in 1978; it was sponsored and given financial support by the Crops and Soils Club, advised by Drs. Willy Hendershot and Bruce Frazier, but inspired to a large degree by Coach Alice Jones, a graduate student in Soils. The initial competition was at a regional meet in Provo, Utah, where the team won first place overall. This placement entitled the team to compete in the National Meet, held in the spring at Bozeman, Montana. The team placed 9th among 17 competitors at this event.

In its second regional competition, held in Pullman the following year, the team again was awarded first place. It subsequently entered the National Meet at Pennsylvania University, where it placed 12th in a field of 16. The trip was a tiring one, having to be made by van from Pullman.

In 1980, the team competed for the third and last time, and then only in the regional match hosted by the University of Idaho. Second place was gained from this contest. Although qualified to attend the National competition the following spring, the loss of key team members because of February graduation prevented it. Since then, there has been no effort to

organize a Soil Judging Team.

Dr. Hendershot coached the Soil Judging Team during its second season, but he left the Department at the end of the year. During the third year, coaching was taken over by Craig Hunter, a graduate student in Soils.