Many Changes at the Station

James Jacobson was hired to replace Torvi as farm foreman on July 1, 1971. Jacobson had a B.S. degree in general agriculture from NDSU and experience with both the Soil Conservation Service and the Farmers Home Administration. With the advance of technology, it was thought a modern farm foreman should have training to enable him to better understand research.

Dr. W. Daniel Svedarsky was hired by the Station under a new joint appointment program with the College to establish the Natural History Area.

1971 was the year that public opinion across the nation first pointed a finger at agricultural pollution. E.C. Miller conducted extensive spring runoff studies and water analysis from ditches, wells, and potholes.

Director Hueg called an “all stations” meeting at Morris and a state-wide program was established by the University to investigate agricultural pollution. The result at the Station was to construct several holding tanks and liquid manure systems that still serve today.

Through the late 60’s and 70’s the Station continued to demonstrate the ensiling of high quality forage crops. Dr. George Marx led the research in this area. Moisture control, was a major problem in producing good hay silage. Differences in moisture of 10-20 percent could ruin a crop.

Marx and Miller embarked on a search for electronic testing equipment that would be reliable and easy to use in a farm situation.

An open experimental pole building had been constructed in 1971 to house beef animals. The building was designed to capture early sun to help warm and clear the newly installed slatted floor. The timber industry requested the Station to try a treated wood manure pit which was included in the design.

Data collected on temperatures by E.C. Miller showed no advantage to this open pole building design.

Patti Malme joined the staff as principal secretary in 1972. Malme was a native of Gonvick, Minnesota. She graduated from Bemidji State College with B.S. and M.S. degrees in business.

Russell K. Severson was appointed to the Northwest Experiment Station staff in 1973. He was to work directly with Dr. Soine. Severson completed his B.S. degree in soil science at the University of Minnesota.

The Beef Cattlemen’s Institute, a cow-calf oriented program held in the Winter Shows building was popular and well attended in 1973. Forage handling, evaluation of cross-breeding, external and internal parasites of cattle, reproductive and calving problems, and production testing of beef cattle were among the program offerings.