Dr. John Wiersma, agronomist, and Mark Hanson, senior research plot technician.

Dr. John Wiersma joined the staff February 1978 to fill the role of general agronomist. He had completed his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. at Ames, Iowa. On a post-doctoral assignment with Michigan State University, Wiersma was involved with a large soybean project prior to coming to Crookston.

In 1978, a new soybean variety was named after former Superintendent T.M. McCall. The McCall variety was bred to be most suitable for northern and central crop maturity zones in Minnesota.

**NWES Swaps Land**

Pressed by Crookston on its southern borders, the Experiment Station made a land swap. Approximately 102 acres to the south were turned over to developers while the Station acquired the Borgman Farm of 320 acres, a mile to the north. This enabled cooperative research with many departments on the St. Paul campus. They had always been involved with Crookston because of the ideal land and weather for breeding new small grain varieties. Cooperative research multiplied and entirely new crops were brought in by Dr. Robert Robinson, and other agronomists, from the St. Paul Station.

Dr. Richard J. Sauer was named the director of the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Experiment Station by the University's Board of Regents December, 1980. He was then professor and head of the Department of Entomology at Kansas State University, Manhattan.

**CPM Started**

A new alternative to scheduled applications of pesticides was started when a program called Crop Pest Management (CPM) was introduced. Michael Hutter was welcomed to the Station in 1979. Hutter left in 1980. Replacing him in 1981 was Carlyle Holen, a former county agent, Kittson County.

At first just potato acreage was enrolled in CPM. Later sunflowers and sugar beets were covered. When pest populations multiplied to dangerous proportions, the pest management crew advised farmers how to handle infestations. The contracting with individual farmers stopped in 1983 and the CPM program focused on educational programs. Seed dealers, crop consultants, and farmers were trained to identify the various pests and recommend threshold values.

Carlyle Holen of the CPM program, sweeps a field for pests.

April, 1981, Dr. George Marx reported on the use of baking soda incorporated in the dairy cattle ration. This buffer was researched through 62 full lactations and proved that cows receiving baking soda did give about a pound more milk per day.

**Pioneer Researcher Honored**

Dr. Robert G. Robinson was honored as a pioneer researcher at the July, 1981, Crops and Soils Day. One of the research ranges at the agronomy farm was named in his honor. Well conceived plans, careful and timely communications with the Station and "on the scene" observations were mentioned as some of his honored research traits. One of Robertson's last projects at the Northwest Experiment Station was planting sunflowers on different planting dates, thus some fields would miss the influx of the sunflower midge moth which laid eggs on thousands of acres in this era.