Dr. Don Rasmusson explains trial results at Crops and Soils Day held at the Northwest Experiment Station.

Dr. Donald C. Rasmusson, and his cooperative staff, developed ‘Robust’ barley and released it in February, 1983. It was one of the progeny of a cross between ‘Morex’, named for it’s “more extract”, and ‘Manker’, and exhibited good traits of both parents. Tests showed that Robust gave consistently better yields over ‘Glen’, ‘Larker’, Morex, and Manker by 6-13 bushels per acre.

Station Events

Dr. John Wiersma reported in a paper in 1983 that 75 percent of all the barley and over 50 percent of all wheat produced in Minnesota during the past growing season was grown in the Northwest District 1, which includes twelve counties. “The ability of growers in our district to excel in the production of wheat and barley is directly related to the availability of superior varieties and production practices,” said Wiersma. “Varieties and practices which the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station has promoted since the early part of the century.”

The Northwest Experiment Station hosts the National Fiber Fuels Conference June 15, 1983. Miller chaired and helped organize programs which attracted a wide range of fiber fuel manufacturers and parties interested in burning these alternate fuels. Governor Rudy Perpich attended.

January, 1983, E. C. Miller was officially named to an institutional development role by Superintendent Youngquist. Working with Lowell Larson, UMC director of development, Miller was to promote the Annuity Fund for agricultural research.

B.E. Youngquist Retires

Dr. Bernie Youngquist retired in July, 1983, after 27 years at the Northwest School and Experiment Station.

At his retirement ceremony, Youngquist gave this overview of this era: He remarked, “In late 1956, the Superintendent’s office clearly identified widespread feeling that farmers wanted a stronger program at the Northwest Agricultural Experiment Station.

A ten-year program of far reaching internal adjustments began in 1957. The research staff was relieved of 70 percent of their teaching load. Research with chickens, turkeys, and the beef cow-calf herd was dropped. A full-time agronomist was engaged. A classic twin male bovine species artificial insemination project was assumed and completed. The sunflower research effort and industry was launched. A second animal scientist was engaged. Sugar beet research was engaged. A full breeding program of potato research was expanded from zero to about 14,000 entries annually. Likewise, the Northwest Station provided land, machinery, and manpower to assist with expansion of the barley research effort from a few plots to approximately 14,500 entries annually.

Over four hundred acres of land were purchased. The entire Station building complex was remodeled or replaced. The dairy herd was tripled in scope. Private research grants became an added source of support. The sheep project was revised, tripled in effort, and supported in part by a $50,000 Hill Foundation grant. The record of those years shows that scope and quality of the research effort was sharply increased and major adjustments were accomplished in staffing, rebuilding, and expanding the physical plant of the Northwest Experiment Station.”

William Bisek with Superintendent B.E. Youngquist (center) and Dr. Keith Huston, director, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul (right).