



WISCONSIN'S AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION— *How Much Do You Know About It?*

By Monroe S. Miller

Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association members are certainly more aware of Wisconsin's agricultural experiment station now that the NOER Facility is an active part of that system.

All of our citizens—rural and non-rural—have benefitted from the research conducted at these stations during their history.

Safer, higher-quality and lower-priced foods have resulted from AES research. We've learned much about conservation of our state's natural resources from AES work. New farming ideas and techniques are devised and tested at AES. Soon, so will better golf course management ideas and techniques.

The Wisconsin agricultural experiment station is the research division of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-

Madison. It fosters and finances research in all departments of the College as well as the School of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Family Resources and Consumer Sciences.

The scope of the AES is beyond what is usually considered agricultural research. It includes fields such as bacteriology, genetics, food science, nutritional science, rural sociology, forestry, wildlife ecology and international development, to name a few.

And turfgrass science, to name one more!

As a recognition of the value of the AES, take this QUIZ and see how much you know about this Wisconsin treasure.

1. When was the Wisconsin Experiment Station founded, and who founded it?
2. Is the AES peculiar to Wisconsin or is it a national network?
3. Why is the Hatch Act important?
4. How many Agricultural Research Stations are there in Wisconsin? Name five.
5. What are funding sources for the AES?
6. What kinds of research are conducted at the AES?
7. Name three of the most significant discoveries from the AES.
8. Who head the Agricultural Research Stations System for Wisconsin?
9. How is the CALS Dean related to the AES?
10. What familiar person to the Wisconsin turfgrass industry formerly headed the ARS office?

Answers to The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz on Bottom of Page.

Answers

1. W. A. Henry started the Wisconsin AES in 1883, Henry later became dean of the College of Agriculture.
2. It is a national network.
3. In 1887 Congress passed the Hatch Act which established an agricultural experiment station in each state. As noted, Wisconsin AES was four years old at that time!
4. Thirteen—Ashland, Spooner, Hayward, Rhineland, Kemp, Leiah Starks, Marshfield, Madison, Lancaster, Hancock, Arlington, Peninsula and Noer (Verona).
5. The AES in Wisconsin gets money from federal funds (form-1a), state funds, industry gifts and grants and federal competitive grants.
6. Five types of research are conducted at the Wisconsin AES:
 - A. Basic—this research is undertaken purely for expanding knowledge. It may take 15 to 20 years before it can be applied.
 - B. Directed basic—work done to develop ways to put basic research to work. Application time runs 7 to 15 years.
 - C. Applied—this research puts basic discoveries to work on farms, on golf courses, in homes and in other agricultural industries. This is a problem solving step that takes 5 to 7 years.
 - D. Applied adaptive—field-tests discovers in different environments is the key to this research. Work done at various different
7. Steven M. Babcock's butternut test for milk, discovery of vitamin A and vitamin B and vitamin D and their functions, vernal alfalfa, etc. The list of accomplishments here is overwhelming.
8. Marshall F. Finner.
9. He is the director.
10. Dr. Charles Koval preceded Marsh Finner.