

Science, and Agricultural Meteorology and Climatology. The current headquarters building is in a very sad state of disrepair, it is difficult to heat, it is limited in space and very expensive to maintain. It is inefficient for management and communications, and it is totally and woefully inadequate for many of the educational programs relating to research, to tour groups, group presentations, field days and other extension programs. Tours of the research sites, coupled with the sit-down total educational programs are common and represent the essence of a facility such as the facility at Mead. The center is heavily utilized for research, teaching and cooperative extension projects. There are 782 people at the center, excluding administrative, security and maintenance staff. Of these 782 people, 120 are scientists, 172 are graduate students, and 490 are undergraduates. This year's August schedule includes these major events, 1,000 people are expected to attend the exposition on soybeans. Over six departments will be involved with working with the Soybean Check-off Board, the State and County Soybean Growers Association. A three-day conference on National Sustainable Agriculture will be held with field trips to the center's research projects. Over 500 people are expected to attend that event. Similar events are held year-round such as Dairy Days, Bee Keeper Days, Seed Days, hail adjustor training programs and pasture tours. The current project plan involves a 19,000 square foot headquarters building, which will be built with a sloped roof, brick and mortar building. The facility will include office space, it will include a computer room, small conference room, security room, 150-person auditorium, and a 150-person multi-purpose education center which would be a staging area for tour groups and guests for other scheduled events. In summary, the general appearance of the existing facilities does injustice to the importance of the Agricultural Research and Development Center's programs and to the overall mission of the institute. As stated in the task force report, research conducted at the center yields essential new information for efficient crop and livestock production and conservation of natural resources. The research also stresses maintenance and enhancement of environmental quality in both rural and urban settings. Ladies and gentlemen, I have told you before on this floor, agriculture is the only basic industry in Nebraska which contributes to new wealth in this state. All the others are consumptive. Education is consumptive, judges pay raises are consumptive, virtually everything we are involved in is a consumptive use of funds. We have established a parameter of spending by this