

Hobgood Is Named Fellow In ASAE

Price Hobgood, professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, was elected last week to the grade of Fellow by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, an honor reserved for engineers who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.

A long time member of ASAE, Hobgood has received national recognition for research accomplishments, particularly in rural electrification and in the agricultural structures and electric power and processing fields. His recent publications include "Tilt-up Concrete Construction on the Farm," "Future Electric Power Use in the Dairy Industry," "Feed Proportioning, Grinding and Mixing on the Farm," and "Evaporative Cooling and Air Conditioning for Poultry and Livestock."

Hobgood joined the agricultural engineering staff in 1939, and completed requirements for the masters degree the following year. He was named professor in 1950, became department head in 1958, and since has directed all agricultural engineering research activities at A&M.

He made many contributions to research while serving as project director for the Texas Farm Electrification Committee, as chairman of the USDA's Farm and Home Structures Research Advisory Committee, and as chairman of ASAE Research and Education Division.

Hobgood presently is chairman of the Equipment Instructors Research Advisory Committee to the

USDA, and is president-elect of ASAE. He holds membership in the National Society of Professional Engineers, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, and is chapter advisor of Texas Delta.

Ag Eco Department Has New Teacher From Texas Tech

James W. Graves, formerly of Texas Technological College, has joined the A&M Department of Agricultural Economics and Sociology as an assistant professor. He is teaching an undergraduate marketing course and developing research on cotton marketing.

Graves taught courses in agricultural marketing, prices and statistics at Texas Tech. He was awarded a plaque in May as the outstanding instructor in agricultural economics by students in Tech's Agricultural Economics Club. He also conducted research on economics of water utilization in the High Plains on cotton and grain sorghum.

The economist received his BS degree at Cornell University in 1952, his MS degree at A&M in 1953, and is completing requirements for a doctorate from Michigan State University. He plans to return to Michigan State later this summer to take a final oral examination over his dissertation concerning western European demand for United States feed grains.

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THE BEST WAY TO BEAT THE HEAT! These neighbors beat the heat every afternoon with a refreshing swim, fishing, or horse-back riding adventure at FUN FOREST-LAKE PLACID, 5 minutes south of A&M on hwy. 6. With dollar savings in travel to some more distant lake, these two are financing a tree-studded lakeshore lot, leisure home and their "cajun" canoe. LAKE PLACID is actually a finger of the proposed Millican Reservoir. These two figure their recreational investment could well quadruple in value with the announcement by Congress of an appropriation for Millican Dam. Why not drive out to FUN FOREST-LAKE PLACID, (a 5 minutes drive south of A&M) today and explore your nearest leisure lake opportunity? Several choice lakeshore lots are still available. (Adv.)



PRICE HOBGOOD honored by professional society

Researchers Try Mulching System

Agonomists and agricultural engineers are working on a system of petroleum mulching for corn and other crops. The method is designed to warm ground earlier in the spring, hastening seed germination, and to conserve moisture. The project workers are W. P. Hatch, agronomist at the Spur Experiment Station; Dr. M. E. Bloodworth, A&M agronomist; and Lamont Wilkes, A&M agricultural engineer.

The petroleum mulch is an asphalt-like material, similar in appearance and consistency to the material used on roads before paving. Experiments have been conducted at the Spur station. The petroleum material was applied as a slurry through jet nozzles mounted on ordinary planting equipment. Application rates were 60, 125 and 180 gallons per acre.

Bloodworth said the black color of the mulch absorbs heat and warms the soil, causing the seed to germinate and emerge sooner than they would if soil warming were left to nature. The mulch also helps to conserve moisture. He said the 170 gallon rate of petroleum mulch appeared to be the most effective. Germination was faster and a higher percentage of seedlings emerged was noted over other treatments.

This is related to the ability of the heavier film to hold soil moisture at a higher level and for a longer time," the agronomist said.

Bloodworth said the system shows promise but has some drawbacks. Application of the petroleum material appears to be its greatest disadvantage because of the complicated equipment and relatively large volume needed to make a satisfactory mulch.

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