Man and his environment would be markedly different today without the agronomist — the crop and soil scientist. We cannot imagine the full consequences of an earth without agronomists. Regardless of scientific or professional identity or name, agronomists play many essential and increasingly important roles in our complex society. We can be proud of our heritage and are assured of a challenging future.

Agronomists play many roles, in many theaters, on earth's huge revolving stage. Occasionally we enter as one of the stars in the drama of man and his environment, but most of the time we carry supporting roles in a worldwide production. We must seek our opportunities for excellence and achievement in the roles we do play on the smaller stages on which each of us participate.

We are members of a large cast from many walks of life whose continued concern is the reciprocal adjustment and harmony of man and earth. Our major concern as agronomists is to develop and transmit to others an understanding of the nature and behavior of the earth's outer crust — the soil — and of the plants which grow upon it. The manner, degree, and use of such knowledge by man have a profound influence on the future of both man and earth.

“Humanizing the Earth”

Recently Rene J. Dubos (Agricultural Science Review, Fourth Quarter, 1972) presented a constructive, unifying concept of man in relation to nature entitled, “Humanizing the Earth.” He recognizes that, “many of man's interventions into nature have, of course, been catastrophic” . . . and that a primary cause of the collapse of ancient civilizations “was probably the damage caused by the quality of the soil and water supplies by poor ecological practices.” Dubos further states:

achieved through symbiosis, account in large the immense diversity of places on earth the fitness between man and environment so observed in areas that have been settled remained stable for long periods of time.

Humanizing the earth thus implies much transforming the wilderness into agricultural sure grounds, and healthy areas suitable form of civilization. It also means preserving wilderness where man can experience long his daily life, and also recaptures tness of the cosmic forces from which he evolves.

This concept, of the symbiosis of man which commonly alters each component beneficial to both, is shared by agronomists each of our many roles contributes toward humanizing the earth.” Consider, for example of the agronomists who 1) develop high sorghum, 2) quantify the behavior ions in soil, 3) inspire a student to excel, 4) provide leadership for a company ad or research and development program, 5) interpret a soil survey, 6) provide information farmers in improving crop production in a forage-livestock program, and 8) accepted method of using soil to dispose of waste. Surely these agronomists play major roles in the worldwide drama of “humanizing the earth.”

Agriculture, A Continuing Concern

The enhancement of agricultural production has always been a major concern of most. They have played a major role, along with cultural scientists, in utilizing and developing to solve problems of food and fiber. Agronomists have maintained close association farmers and ranchers and their problems, many still view the role of the agricultural as one which benefits only the farmer and