

No one to step in

There will be no new agricultural engineering professors if current trends continue, says a U of A agriculture professor.

"A lot of us in ten years or less will be retiring and there will be no people in their twenties and thirties to step in," says Dr. Egon Rapp of the Department of Agricultural Engineering.

Only six students are enrolled in the graduate program at the U of A, down from 18 a few years ago. Similar trends are occurring in other Canadian universities, and several vacancies already exist in university research and teaching positions, according to the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering.

Rapp says attractive starting salaries in industry and inadequate teaching assistantships are largely responsible for the problem.

"We give the impression that here in Alberta, we're well off . . . we're worse off than we were before in terms of assistantships and research funds.

"Assistantships have gone up, but they're still inadequate." Agricultural engineers with

undergraduate degrees receive salaries of approximately \$14,000 per year. A teaching assistantship usually provides about \$5000 per year.

Rapp says graduate work must be made more attractive if enrolment is to increase.

"Otherwise, we won't be able to replace ourselves in the future."

Agricultural engineers design farm machinery, storage buildings, irrigation and drainage systems and various engineering systems for agricultural use.



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Salaries down for grads

OTTAWA (CUP) — Although an undergraduate university degree will help you get a job, your starting salary won't be as high as at the start of the decade, according to a statistics Canada study.

New employees with bachelor of arts degrees now earn about 12 per cent less than the average industrial wage. In 1968 they averaged about 18 percent more than the average industrial wage, according to the study on school enrolments and the labour force.

"It's a matter of supply and demand," said Zolton Zsigmond, statistics Canada projections chief.

Zsigmond said the drop in demand for BAs is partly due to the decline in the need for teachers and the hiring freeze in the public service.

These two areas accounted for a large percentage of the jobs available to people with BAs in the 1960s.

Engineering degrees still command high starting salaries in the job market according to the national study.

The starting salary for engineers was \$1,166 per month in 1977, about 7 per cent higher than the average industrial wage of 1,086, but even this is a drop from the 30 per cent advantage that they held in 1965.

Starting salaries for business graduates have also dropped in the last decade and a half in relation to the industrial average.

In 1965, they earned almost 13 per cent more than industrial averages. Twelve years later business graduates were paid one per cent less than their industrial counterparts.

But the data compiled in the study also indicates that the more education one has, the better the chances of finding employment.

The study found 13 per cent unemployment among those 15 to 24 year olds with only high school education for the period 1974 and 1977.

Among community college graduates for the same period the study found that only 7 per cent were unemployed, and only 6 per cent for university graduates.