

EPILOGUE

It is impossible to speculate on what the faculty of the Department of Farm Mechanics in 1921 envisioned as the changes engineering would create in agriculture in the years to come. Of course they knew that the unwieldy tractor would take over the big task of plowing and that electricity would do some choring tasks and make the farm home a nicer place to live. But it is doubtful that anyone envisioned that 75 years later you could sit in the air conditioned cab of a fertilizer applicator that could communicate with a satellite linked with sensors that could evaluate the soil and then tell the computer to regulate the amount of fertilizer that should be applied to achieve a specified yield of a crop. Or how about sitting in the air conditioning cab of a corn combine, out of the dust and wind, and receiving continuous read-outs of the yield of the crop essentially foot-by-foot as you cross the field. Or invision the miracle of instantaneous communication any place in the world by telephone, facsimile or computer.

Surely the students, both those in mechanization and those in engineering, have been part of and in part responsible for an engineered revolution in agriculture. Oh to be around at the end of the next twenty-five, fifty, or seventy-five year interval to be amazed at what has transpired in engineering for agriculture.