

# John Hagen

## Professor of Agriculture

*About 14 years ago, John Hagen was working downtown at the U.S. Department of Agriculture when he was recruited to teach at CSU, Fresno. "One day the dean for the School of Business invited me to come to the university for lunch," he recalls. "I used to be the officer in charge of the government office, and we always took potential employees to the finest restaurants in town. Well, the dean took me to the faculty dining room—known today as The Bucket—for chipped turkey on toast! It was so overwhelming, I just stayed right on."*

*Hagen's dry sense of humor has earned him a reputation for making students feel at ease. Born in North Dakota, he "grew up in a little house on the prairie" with three brothers. "I came from a very small farming community and going to school was a big deal," he recalls. "There wasn't much to do but wait for the Friday night dances and the prom."*

*After trying several majors in college, Hagen decided to study agriculture. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at North Dakota State University, and earned his doctorate at Washington State University. He taught two years in the CSU, Fresno School of Business before transferring to the School of Agriculture to start the Agricultural Economics and Education Department.*

**Q: What does agriculture economics involve?**

**A:** We say that agriculture economics is the study of scarce resources and their allocation. It involves knowing where crops are produced and how the sensitivity of prices is related to the size of the crops. It also deals with the economics of production and government policies, in addition to specialized areas such as agribusiness management, finance, marketing, and land and water economics.

