

MINUTES OF THE STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
to the
STATE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Coalinga, California
March 18, 1955

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. in the Board Room of the Coalinga High School by President Waldo W. Weeth. Members of the Advisory Committee present were:

Waldo W. Weeth, Coalinga
Joseph Russ, Ferndale
George Ende, Lodi
Eugene Boone, Modesto
Harvey McDougal, Collinsville

Others present were:

Byron J. McMahon, Chief, State Bureau of Agricultural Education,	Sacramento
E. W. Everett, Assistant Chief, " " " "	Sacramento
A. G. Rinn, Regional Supervisor, " " " "	Fresno
R. H. Pedersen, Special Supervisor " " " "	Fresno
George P. Couper, " " " "	S.L.O.
James Bunker, Superintendent, Coalinga High School District	Coalinga

Also present during the day were the members of the Agricultural Staff of the Coalinga High School and Junior College:

Donald Sande, Director
Frank Coyes
Don Crawford.

Mr. McMahon read a letter from Bob Couchman expressing his regret at being unable to attend due to illness.

Due to illness, Carl Avrit was confined to his home, it was reported.

Albert Thille expressed regrets in not being able to attend due to pressure of business.

(Later in the day a letter was received from Keith Mets also expressing his regrets at not being able to participate in the meeting.

Mr. McMahon read the minutes of the previous meeting held in San Jose.

Review of the evaluation score card and results of sample evaluations were taken up. Mr. Bunker asked for discussion on the evaluation procedure. Mr. Everett explained the evaluation process and what had been done in actual situations, with a regional supervisor on hand to explain items which might be misunderstood. Sets of completed evaluation sheets were distributed, not all packets the same, but each containing the evaluation of the Coalinga Department.

Mr. Bunker said the evaluation sheet was not entirely objective, and that some items contain two points which possibly should be divided into two questions, or two parts of a question. He said that other points are not entirely clear, such as, "satisfactory summer service" to a layman or to a principal or board member not familiar with agricultural education.

Mr. Bunker suggested possibly an accompanying explanation sheet might be valuable. Mr. Everett then reviewed the history of the development of the evaluation sheet. He said the present form is the sheet developed specifically for the information of the State Advisory Committee, and asked how it can be used to show weaknesses in our vocational agriculture departments.

Mr. McMahon said that Mr. Weeth and Mr. Russ had each gone through the evaluation programs in their respective districts, and asked them to state how it worked. Mr. Russ said the evaluation in his community had been done quite rapidly, but was to be followed up later.

Discussion followed on the matter of what is meant by such a topic as "Selection of Students".

Mr. Weeth suggested that a big value of the evaluation is to make each person taking part in an evaluation conscious of a "standard of excellence" whether or not a "superior rating" can be reached on that particular point.

Mr. Everett said the value of the evaluation sheet to the State Advisory Committee is to show up general weaknesses. He mentioned that there is already noted from the sample evaluations, a general lack of attention to adult and Young Farmer programs.

Mr. Weeth took up the item of "Farm Records" as an example of how a local evaluating committee can work on actual upgrading. Mr. Rinn suggested that such items as discipline, organization and public relations are important and are not in the evaluation sheet. Mr. Everett said these items are actually in the scoring but not by those specific names. For example, classwork could not be satisfactorily presented unless there were discipline.

Mr. Weeth suggested that this evaluation sheet should be adopted by the Advisory Committee, with action on its use to be determined by the Bureau.

Further discussion progressed on the matter of supplementary sheets explaining standards. Mr. McMahon said that this could and would be done.

Mr. McDougal moved that this evaluation sheet be used by the Bureau on a voluntary basis, with the addition of an explanation sheet. This motion was seconded and carried. It was indicated that an evaluation would not necessarily be done in every school this next year.

Mr. Everett presented the following data on the establishment of local advisory committees as of March 18, 1955:

	<u>Number of Departments</u>	<u>Active Committees</u>
North Coast	27	6
South Coast	26	4
Sacramento Valley	37	9
Central	41	6
San Joaquin	41	13
Southern (KBC)	30	8
Southern (MKL)	30	4
Totals	232	50

Mr. Everett noted a slight increase over last year. The State Advisory Committee asked why there is such a lag in certain areas of the state. Mr. Everett said there were a number of reasons. He said he had hoped there might be twice as many local advisory committees by this time.

Mr. Rinn was asked whether there had been any actual refusal on the part of a district to establish an advisory committee. He said there were such refusals in a few cases, including Kern County. He said that some administrators believe the department is getting along as well as possible.

Mr. Bunker spoke in favor of the use of an advisory committee and said that the national situation in education is such that advisory committees will materially increase in the next five years. Mr. McMahon mentioned the formation of an advisory committee for the development of the new plant and curricula for Bakersfield College.

There was a recess for coffee and doughnuts, hosted by the High School.

The meeting was reconvened. Mr. Weeth said that later in the morning there would be a tour of his own property. He indicated that he had gotten some good ideas from the Western Livestock Journal Tour, and suggested that such a tour arranged by the High School Agriculture Department is a good project for the older students. He pointed out the farm housing and mechanization of his own place as modern needs in such an area.

Mr. Weeth also spoke of the Coalinga High School and Junior College Farm as a means of meeting the needs of boys from families living on large-scale farms such as his. Mr. McMahon spoke of the problems of boys in such an area as Fullerton, where there will be five senior high schools very shortly serving an area covered by a single high school a few years ago.

Mr. McMahon reported on the progress of the revised reimbursement system. He told of three meetings of administrators, and that there was universal approval of the plan. Mr. McMahon said that there would probably be the same amount of funds for reimbursement in the coming year 1955-56 as were available in 1954-55.

Mr. Russ gave a brief history of the sheep business in California. He said there were about 1,700,000 sheep in California in the gold rush days, but that the great demand for food brought this number down to about 700,000. Spanish Merinos were introduced in 1954, which had a big influence on sheep type and quality. The numbers were built up to about 6,000,000 head in 1876. Sheep were primarily raised for wool, and the meat came from mutton sheep three and four years old. Eating of lambs was virtually unknown. During World War I sheepmen began to sell lambs for meat.

He said that various acts of the government had been a factor in sheep numbers, including the grazing fee for national forests and ultimate elimination of sheep from grazing. He also indicated that development of farming, such as in the Coalinga area, had eliminated millions of acres of grazing land. He also said that world markets had caused a decline in sheep numbers, and indicated that today the number is almost exactly what it was 100 years ago - about 1,700,000. He said California imports about 1,000,000 head of sheep a year - 500,000 ewes for replacements and the balance in lambs for fattening. He said that tariff is a factor in the wool industry, and explained the provisions of the Wool Act of 1954.

Mr. McMahon asked what is the outlook for the sheep industry. It was indicated that sheep would be largely supplemental to other farm income, with small farm flocks as the probable future prospect for increase in sheep numbers, if any. A discussion of the economics of the sheep business followed, including a source of supply for Future Farmer projects and other information. Mr. Russ stated that there was a need for more instruction in wool grading in the Universities and Colleges of the state. He also said that the wool growers are "not afraid of synthetics", and that the fabric makers are

now using some proportion of wool with synthetics in many weaves. Mr. Boone told of local experiences with sheep, indicating that they could expect a good profit from 500 head being run on a farm near Modesto. Mr. Emde said that he did not believe that sheep could be cared for on irrigated pasture 12 months of the year - that some supplemental feeding was essential.

Mr. McDougal told about his experiences in visiting cattlemen on the Hawaiian Islands. He said virtually all cattle are marketed off grass as two and three-year-olds. He said they grade rather low in quality, and that California-fed beef brings a premium of about five cents per pound. He said the cattle were mostly Herefords, with some Brahmas, and some Santa Gertrudis. He mentioned one farm which was entirely stocked with red Shorthorns - no roans or whites.

He said that the Hawaiian cattlemen must learn to feed their stock. There is acreage available for grain if they wanted to use it. They are making some profit now and are satisfied. He said it was almost impossible to buy any land on the islands and that lease costs are high. He said the cattlemen are using some sugar and pineapple by-products for supplemental feeding, but making little use of cheap copra. He said he saw no range cattle on irrigated pasture - just some purebreds. He said they got varied answers on the desirability of statehood for Hawaii.

The meeting was adjourned for a tour through the school farm to the Weeth Ranch where the cattle pasture and feeding area, the excellent housing for permanent employees, and the neat and efficient buildings for a highly-mechanized farm operation were viewed. The Coalinga District provided a school bus for this tour. It was concluded with an excellent buffet luncheon at the Weeth home.

The return trip was made to the school farm, with an explanation of the development by Mr. Sande. It was shown that a great deal of development was through actual student work, building corrals, barns and storage buildings, and cleaning up what had been the city dump to create a productive farm. It was indicated that \$80,000 worth of cotton had been sold from the farm, and the value of the entire plant including the new agriculture buildings is now about \$350,000. Mr. Weeth was given great credit for his interest in the development of this farm, and his interest in Vo-Ag boys generally by both the School Administrators and Mr. Sande.

The group reassembled in the new agriculture building. Mr. Weeth asked if this kind of program, including the farm visitation, appealed to the Advisory Group. The Advisory Committee Members said that it was very worth while. Mr. McMahon said that the reports on conditions in the sheep and beef industry were in themselves most valuable to the Bureau Staff. Mr. Boone said that at some future time he would like to see agricultural problems in the southern part of the state since he was certain that their agriculture problems would soon be of a similar nature in other parts of the state.

Mr. McMahon said there was no particular problem in legislation. He mentioned the bill setting up an interim committee to study all phases of vocational education. He said that the names of the committee, when and if appointed, would be sent to the Advisory Committee, and that the legislative interim committee may call on the Advisory Committee for suggestions or recommendations. The committee indicated a willingness to make recommendations if called upon to do so.

Mr. Weeth asked if the Advisory Committee could look into the exorbitant cost of construction of buildings used on school farms. He mentioned the milking barn at Coalinga which cost \$38,000 when a farmer could build it for \$8,000. He said he thought this amount of precaution was unnecessary on a one-story building. This was followed by a discussion on school building costs.

It was suggested the Bureau get information on school farm buildings, including costs and pictures for discussion by the committee at a future meeting.

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It was indicated that the Bureau Staff would present information on three topics at least two weeks prior to the next Staff Meeting, so members of the committee could familiarize themselves with these topics. The ones selected were:

1. The place of General Agriculture on the secondary level. (Mr. Weeth asked that this include the topic, "Who should enroll in vocational agriculture courses?")
2. The objectives of Junior College Agriculture.
3. The responsibility of the Bureau for Young Farmer and Adult Instruction.

The matter of the Advisory Committee membership and organization was taken up. It was moved, seconded and passed that George Emde be reappointed.

It was recommended that Mr. Thille be asked to serve another term.

The matter of Mr. Mets' inability to attend any of the meetings during the past two years was taken up and it was indicated that the Advisory Committee desire very much to have actual representation from the Imperial Valley. Fully appreciating how extremely busy Mr. Mets is, the committee recommended the names of two men as possibilities to replace Mr. Mets - Herman Sperber and Robert Brown, both of Brawley. The committee gave recognition to the splendid assistance that Mr. Mets has given regularly to the Holtville Chapter, and only regretted that his many duties prevented his attendance at the state meetings.

Mr. McDougal said he would like to be replaced, but that he would stay on, with the understanding that he could not state how much time he could put in, in addition to attending the state meetings. He indicated a continued interest in the problems of vocational agriculture, but a limit of available time. He stated he would definitely attend all meetings, however.

A suggested meeting in the south was adopted, possibly in the Orange County area. Dates of October 7 or 14 were recommended, with the 7th as preferable. It was decided to have a full day's meeting - 8 to 5 o'clock, with no prior evening meeting.

In the election of officers, the following were unanimously named:

Waldo W. Weeth, President
Harvey McDougal, Vice-President
Robert Couchman, Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

George P. Couper, Acting Secretary
for Robert Couchman, Secretary