

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

Modesto, California  
April 13, 1956

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Waldo Weeth, at 9:30 a.m. in room 31 of the Agriculture Building at Modesto Junior College. Those present were:

Advisory Committee Members

Waldo Weeth, Coalinga  
Eugene Boone, Modesto  
Harvey McDougal, Collinsville  
J. J. Anderholt, Holtville  
George Emde, Lodi  
Volney H. Craig, Ventura  
Carl Avrit, Chico

Bureau of Agricultural Education

Byron J. McMahon, Chief, Sacramento  
E. W. Everett, Assistant Chief, Sacramento  
W. J. Maynard, Special Supervisor, Santa Clara  
R. H. Pedersen, Special Supervisor, Fresno  
George P. Couper, Special Supervisor, San Luis Obispo

Modesto Schools

Dr. James Corson, City Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Roy McCall, President Modesto Junior College  
Ernest Tarone, Director Agriculture Program, Modesto Junior College  
George Biddle )  
Dean McNeilly )  
LuVerne Donker )  
Weldon Longbotham ) Staff, Agriculture Department, Modesto Junior College  
Jerry Holterman )  
Roy Lippert )

The group was officially welcomed by Dr. McCall. He indicated the pride of the junior college in the agriculture program and facilities. He praised the personnel, and said that the problems today were "little ones".

Dr. Corson gave a detailed explanation of how the present program was developed through extensive use of an advisory committee and surveys in the district. He began with the history of the junior college program, indicating that its early development was to prepare boys to meet University entrance requirements. The enrollment at that time was small. About eight years ago, Dr. Corson said, the school system decided that it was essential to plan a junior college program to meet the needs of the community, both in terms of terminal and college preparatory

After surveying the high schools, talking to prospective students, parents, and administrators, it was found that six or seven major courses would be needed. Dr. Corson emphasized the extensive part played in the development of the curriculum and plant by Eugene Boone as an advisory committee member. He stressed that the goal of the study was to find what the college could do to serve, and not merely to get enrollment. The study groups represented various agricultural enterprises as well as different parts of the school district.

He indicated that the science field is being stressed for those students in the strictly college preparatory field. This was later amplified by Tarone, who said that all courses of comparable nature are now being accepted by the University of California at Davis, by Cal Poly and by Fresno State College.

Dr. Corson said that the committee had recently reviewed the program as developed and found it to be working satisfactorily. He said there were eight instructors and 216 students. The building cost \$219,000 and was built to be functional. Stress was placed on facilities which could be used by the community, farm groups and others. Each staff member employed is a specialist in an agricultural enterprise.

Dr. Corson said that the committee had not recommended a school farm, feeling that a major part of the value of a school farm came in its actual development by the students, after which it might become a management problem.

This was followed by the reading of the minutes of the October 7 meeting at Ontario. Dr. Cordon commented that the problems of urbanization brought out through the minutes, as being critical in the south, were not just limited to southern California. He said that a third high school is needed in Modesto now. When there was one high school, they had a staff of six agriculture teachers; now they have agriculture in two schools, with three teachers each. The question is whether to also have agriculture in the third high school, with two teachers in each one.

Mr. McMahon reviewed some of the recent happenings in vocational agriculture. He said that the recent Grand National Junior Show at the Cow Palace was marked by less FFA participation (at the request of the management) but that the quality was better. He discussed the Governor's Council on Children and Youth, and indicated that "delinquency is no problem when boys are as busy as Future Farmers are". He reported on the recent state public speaking contest at San Francisco, and the forthcoming state FFA Convention, parliamentary procedure and judging championships at San Luis Obispo. He mentioned three workbooks completed or in preparation, one on counseling students, one on plans for agriculture buildings, and a guide for general agriculture courses. He stated that a survey is now under way cooperatively with the University of California and with the State Bureau of Business Education to find the training needs for those entering employment requiring a knowledge of agriculture but not actual production.

A chart showing the proposed plan for establishing a uniform supervised farm program competition plan, which might be sponsored by the California Bankers Association, was exhibited.

Members of the Advisory Committee were asked to present some ideas on new developments in their particular fields. Those given at this time and later, were as follows:

Carl Avrit. "Dairying is coming out of the "depression". The butter storage surplus has about disappeared, and dairymen can look for better prices in the summer when the heavy spring milk supply has dropped. Now, more than ever, management must be stressed; dairymen have to make fewer cows produce as much, or more, milk. Greater cooperation is needed among dairymen. A proposal is that all milk be sold through producer-controlled pools, which could regulate the surplus. Artificial insemination is becoming a greater factor all the time. One bull in the University pool will serve as many as 25,000 cows this year. This could be a great factor in upbuilding, but the bull must be proved, because it could be as great a factor in downgrading an equal number of calves if the bull were faulty."

George Emde. "More attention should be given to farm management and cost accounting. Even college students who work for me do not seem to have any interest or understanding on cost accounting; they are carried away by the glamour of fitting and showing a few animals."

Harvey McDougal. "There has been more advancement in feeding cattle over the last four or five years, through antibiotics and hormones, than has taken place during the previous 100 years. There will be equally significant changes in the next five years. One new development will be that up to 50 per cent of the meat will be cut up and go into freezing units directly from the packing house. The FFA could help with the beef industry program designed to encourage greater consumption. The retail stores, such as Safeway, are getting out of the live cattle business as fast as possible. Beef carcass storage has not increased, but prices are not going up and probably will not for some years. Meat promotion will be carried on separately, and competitively, by the beef, swine, sheep and poultry groups. "Top-good" is the most desirable grade to which a steer should be fed. It will be necessary for the beef industry to go to Washington, D.C., and work with the government grading men to secure a revision of carcass grades; this must wait for the completion of a survey now being made. My feed yard is preparing to feed 100 beef bulls which will go on sale to cattlemen at not as high a condition as most sales bulls; they will grade as "good". This is an experiment to see how the animals will sell in comparison with highly-fitted bulls. A sterility check on beef bulls, before putting them in service, would be valuable."

Eugene Boone. "I should like to stress the constant development of greater mechanization. Crops such as green beans are being harvested by combines with the straw returned to the fields in the process. There is a change in the growing of pole beans, with 2" x 2" poles every 12 feet, a wire along the top, a string along the bottom, and string loops in a diamond pattern over and under. This replaces the 1" x 1" pole for every hill; it is much cheaper and just as satisfactory. This reduced the 'poling' cost factor to 20 per cent of the previous cost. When they could not get redwood stakes because of the floods, they sent to Oregon, bought lumber and made up their own, with a special 'pointing' device. Ten per cent of the grocery sales now come from the frozen food cabinets. My company is growing 200 acres of Brussel sprouts to try to improve on methods used principally in San Mateo County by old-country farmers. When we have found better methods and can get farmers to use them, we will not be interested in producing the crop."

Joe Anderholt. "I feel that business administration should be stressed more in schools and colleges, and that marketing is being neglected. Many farmers can do a good job of growing crops, but don't know what to do with the product, or how to analyze the markets. People are getting away from the 'free enterprise system' and placing too much emphasis on government aid." (Mr. Anderholt is a candidate for the Assembly from the Imperial County area.)

Waldo Weeth. "Experience is developing in double-cropping, on land used for growing alfalfa seed. Some 300 acres on my place were cultivated after taking off an alfalfa seed crop, then barley was sown. There is now a good hay crop of barley and alfalfa. (McDougal said this was the best hay obtainable for cattle feeding.) There is a test being run on sprinkler-versus-furrow irrigation, on adjoining half-sections, using the three crops—alfalfa, cotton and milo."

At the end of the meeting it was moved, seconded and passed that each member be prepared at each meeting to bring information of this nature.

After luncheon, provided at the Junior College Cafeteria through the courtesy of Mr. Boone, very interesting tours were made of the Marathon paper box plant and the John Inglis frozen foods processing plant of which Boone is a partner. The group then returned to the junior college.

Reports were made and a chart distributed on the study of how many high school vo-ag graduates are eligible for four-year colleges. A chart was also distributed, and discussion held, on the fact that local advisory committees are not increasing in number. It was indicated that because of some pressure groups, not necessarily agriculture, administrators had in many cases turned against all advisory committees.

Topics for the fall meeting were discussed, and it was voted to include training for related fields, as well as the adult and Young Farmer program, which was not touched upon at the Modesto meeting because of lack of time.

It was announced that the terms of Eugene Boone, Joe Russ and Carl Avrit would expire at this meeting. Boone and Avrit agreed to serve one more term, and a communication was to be sent to Mr. Russ, also asking him to serve. Boone stated he believed this should not establish a precedent of keeping advisory committee members indefinitely, and felt that one more term was all he should serve in the interest of getting new people in this activity.

Mr. Craig moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for the re-election of all officers. Mr. McMahan, serving as chairman pro tem, accepted the motion and it was adopted.

October 5 was accepted as the date for the fall meeting, to be held in the Rio Vista area, and to include a visit to the McDougal feeding operations.

Mr. Anderholt asked if the spring meeting could be held at Holtville, and suggested March as the most desirable month. This was agreed upon.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Robert Couchman, Secretary  
by George P. Couper