

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
State Advisory Committee

March 21, 1958, 9:00 a.m.

Santa Paula High School, Santa Paula

ROLL CALL

Present

Absent

Advisory Committee

Bureau

Eugene Boone  
Carl Avrit  
Joseph Anderholt  
Volney Craig, Jr.  
Cyrille Faure  
Fred Rohnert  
Robert Couchman  
George Emde

Byron J. McMahon  
E. W. Everett  
George P. Couper  
G. A. Hutchings  
Kenneth Cutler  
H. H. Burlingham

Joe Russ

Guests

Gordon Woods  
William Putman  
George Madsen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eugene Boone at 9:00 a.m. in Santa Paula High School. Members of the Advisory Committee were welcomed to Santa Paula High School by Mr. Max Forney, District Superintendent. Mr. Gordon Woods and Mr. William Putman, vo-ag instructors, were introduced.

The meeting minutes of the Advisory Committee of October 4, 1957 at Scotia were reviewed by Mr. Couchman.

Federal  
Grants-in-  
Aid  
Programs

Mr. McMahon summarized developments in agricultural education since last August. He reported that a meeting had been held by members of the President's Cabinet with eight governors to discuss federal grants-in-aid programs. The governors recommended that certain grants-in-aid programs be returned to the states, and that to finance them 40 per cent of the federal tax on telephones be turned over to the states. About \$40 million dollars annually has been appropriated to California for all phases of vocational education. Since the original meeting various grants-in-aid programs have been eliminated from consideration, except for vocational education. Should this proposal be adopted, as seems unlikely, it would still be necessary for the Congress to determine whether the Smith-Hughes and George-Barden Acts should be continued or nullified. The American Farm Bureau Federation has opposed this proposal and indicated its whole-hearted support of vocational education.

Resolution

Mr. McMahon said it is the consensus of vocational educators that the major harm that would result from the proposal would be the withdrawal of federal coordination of the program. The Advisory Committee then discussed adoption of a resolution supporting the program as it is now administered. On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Avrit, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the State Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education that financing and administration of the educational program in vocational agriculture under the Smith-Hughes and George-Barden Acts has been both adequate and successful because of its continuing and stable nature: Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Committee goes on record as being opposed to the proposed financing of this program by an allocation to the individual states of 40 percent of the federal telephone tax.

New  
State  
Plan

Mr. McMahon reported that the New State Plan is being written for submission to the State Board of Education. He expected this to be ready for Advisory Committee consideration at its fall meeting, although the Plan will not be completed until sometime in 1959.

Mr. Everett explained that the heart of the matter is who shall be permitted to enroll in vo-ag training, since under the present policy, instruction is limited to boys who are now farming or preparing to farm. Mr. McMahon explained that the terms of the original act are very broad, but that the limitations in the policy bulletin are quite narrow.

Science  
Programs in  
High Schools

Mr. McMahon called to the attention of Committee members the present emphasis on science instruction in high schools. He said that at a recent meeting of key people in commerce and industry, called by State Superintendent Simpson, the conclusion reached was that the major need is for better qualified students, better prepared teachers, more money with which to do the job, and improved guidance. He said it is evident that everyone is after students in the top 20 percent, top I.Q. bracket. He said that he feels that emphasis should be given to the fact that agriculture is a science, and that such sciences as entomology, botany, physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics are all required in various phases of agriculture.

Meeting of  
Committee  
of 25

Mr. Boone mentioned the meeting of a Committee of 25 at the University of California at Davis at which time the University was advised to give wider publicity to job opportunities in the various phases of agriculture.

Credit for  
College  
Entrance

The committee discussed in some detail the fact that high school graduates who have taken courses in vo-ag are not given full credit for college entrance. Mr. Craig questioned whether it would not be better to strengthen the courses in vo-ag so as to make them equal in value to such academic subjects as chemistry and physics. Mr. Emde wondered if there is not a tendency to require agricultural students in the university to specialize, to too great an extent, when they should be taking general work in agriculture.

Tour and Luncheon

The meeting was then recessed so that the committee could be taken on a tour of the Limoneira Ranch and the packing houses, after which luncheon was served in the high school cafeteria.

C.A.T.A. Summer Conference

Following luncheon, the committee discussed at length its possible participation in the summer conference of vo-ag teachers at California State Polytechnic College, in June. Mr. Burlingham described the program of the summer conference; this year's theme is to be, "Agriculture--Science's Brightest Horizon." He proposed that the committee consider participation in the program on Wednesday, June 25, which will be School Administrators' Day. He asked that the committee take the morning period from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. for a discussion of the theme, "Keeping Pace With Science in Agriculture". He suggested that Mr. McMahon serve as chairman, and that Mr. Couper serve as moderator.

Chairman Boone then appointed the following committee to arrange for participation by the Advisory Committee: Mr. Couchman, chairman, and Mr. Rohnert and Mr. Faure.

Committee Members' Reports on New Developments and Job Opportunities in Agriculture

Mr. Avrit

Mr. Avrit gave a detailed discussion of job opportunities in the various phases of the dairy industry and suggested the educational preparation desirable in each. He pointed to the specialization that is taking place in the dairy industry and the technical training required in the special fields of activity. He mentioned that educational requirements varied from high school graduation in some areas to four years or more in college work in others. Mr. Avrit displayed several booklets dealing with job opportunities in agriculture. These included, "Job Opportunities for the Agriculturally Trained", from Oregon State College; "Careers Through Curriculum", from Washington State College; and "Careers Ahead", from the Association of Land Grant Colleges.

Mr. Rohnert

Mr. Rohnert said that the American Seed Trade Association is very aware of the man power shortage in its industry. Material is now being prepared on job opportunities in this field by the California Seed Association. The Association is working with the University of California at Davis in developing courses of study and course content that would fit into a degree course in seed technology. "The seed industry requires technically trained men in many areas," he said, "such as plant geneticists, seed analysts, disease control specialists, and others such as mill operators and fieldmen to oversee production." The salary range is from \$3600 for beginners to \$8000 or \$9000. Men in the technical fields should have four years of college training. Mr. Rohnert said it appears that we are well on our way to having hybrid vegetables of all kinds. Hybrid carrots and table beets will be available before long. Hybrid sugar beets are already being grown, as are hybrid cabbages and hybrid onions. A large percent of garden flowers is now with polyploids on hybrids.

Mr. Emde

Mr. Emde reported on developments in the field of truck crops, mentioning particularly the efforts of growers, through the California Tomato Growers Association, to secure a field price of \$22.50 a ton this year for tomatoes for processing. Cannery growers are now offering growers \$20.00 per ton. He said the Association has signed up growers of 90,000 acres who are pledged to hold for \$22.50. This represents about 70 percent of the estimated acreage to be planted to tomatoes this year.

Mr. Emde said that field crops, such as tomatoes, offer good opportunities for a young farmer with little capital to get into farming by starting out on leased land. He mentioned job opportunities for cannery fieldmen and technicians.

Mr. Faure

Mr. Faure briefly summarized the bull feeding trials carried on at Cal Poly to determine daily rates of gain. These rates of gain varied from  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds daily per head. He said the bulls making the poorest showing had won the largest number of purple ribbons at fairs, and he was of the opinion that the basis of judging animals should be modified. He said that Fresno State College is starting a daily testing program under joint sponsorship with the San Joaquin Hereford Association.

Mr. Faure also reported on the increasing use of Coastal Bermuda Grass as an irrigated pasture forage crop on poorer soils of the San Joaquin Valley. He said that one field had produced the equivalent of  $16\frac{1}{4}$  tons of feed per acre. This grass does not produce viable seeds and is established by planting stolons. He said that a project is being launched in which they hope to produce weaned calves at a cost of 8 cents per pound.

Mr. Anderholt

Mr. Anderholt said that there are many job opportunities in the row crop field, such as lettuce and cantaloupes, and that jobs start at \$350 to \$400 a month and go up to \$10,000 to \$15,000 in large organizations. He said there are many good opportunities in the selling phases of the industry offering opportunities that might be particularly good for farm boys, pointing out that city boys have been taking most of these jobs.

Mr. Anderholt said that the trend in produce marketing is toward bigger organizations. "More and more selling is on an f.o.b. basis rather than on consignment," he said. He mentioned two developments in Arizona, one involving from 80,000 to 90,000 acres and a total investment he estimated at \$16 million. "The other, in Southeastern Arizona", he said, "will involve 5,000 acres of spring lettuce and 10,000 acres of fall lettuce to start." Three shippers are involved in the project, which is in Cochise County. He mentioned that in connection with this deal four labor camps are being constructed and that one already finished will house 1500 men. Ice and precooling facilities have already been started that will cost \$1 million.

Mr. Couchman

Mr. Couchman discussed the changing trends in the food industry, pointing to the concentration of food distribution in fewer, stronger hands. This is resulting in very intense competition

in food procurement and the outcome is that producers and processors are exercising less and less influence on the pricing of their commodities. He mentioned briefly recent discussion of this problem by Dr. George L. Mehren, Director, Giannini Foundation, University of California. Dr. Mehren discussed this subject in Giannini paper No. 160, "The Changing Structure of the Food Market." He recently spoke on this subject at the annual convention of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, his topic being "The Changing Pace of Food and Farming."

Mr. Boone

Mr. Boone discussed the recent formation of California Cannery and Growers, a cooperative that has acquired two major independent canning businesses--Richmond-Chase Company of San Jose, and Filice & Perrelli Canning Company, Inc., of Richmond. In this deal Cal-Can has acquired five plants, with the likelihood that additional plants will be purchased later on. He said the tax advantages enjoyed by large cooperative organizations, such as this, are a matter of real concern to commercial processors.

Mr. Boone mentioned the recent appointment by the Extension Service of a contact man who will serve in a liaison capacity between the Department of Food Technology at Davis and food processors. He mentioned the introduction of a new variety of green lima bean for processing, which is known as V-12-1. He also mentioned the increasing competition in the frozen food industry and said that three frozen food firms had gone out of business in the last six months.

Mr. Craig

Mr. Craig described the nature of the Limoneira Ranch operation. This is the largest lemon-producing operation in the world. The Limoneira Company was founded in 1893 by local farmers. Mr. A. C. Hardison, one of the incorporating directors, is now president. Mr. C. C. Teague was general manager from 1896 to 1946. His son, Milton N. Teague, succeeded him. Mr. C. C. Teague was president of the Company for more than 30 years, until his death in 1952.

The company grows, packs, and ships lemons, oranges, avocados, vegetables and seed crops. The property includes approximately 2,300 acres, of which 1,100 are in lemons, 350 in Valencia oranges, 75 in avocados, and the remainder in field crops and utility areas.

It is a completely integrated operation performing all the cultural operations on its own crops and several hundred acres under other ownerships. Some of its facilities include housing for workers, retail stores, insectaries, packing houses, warehouses, central shops, research laboratories and others.

The Limoniera Company is a member of Sunkist Growers, Calavo Growers, California Lima Bean Growers and Diamond Walnuts.

Status of  
Committee  
Membership

Mr. Emde informed the Committee of his decision to retire. Messrs. Craig and Anderholt indicated that they would consent to serve again. On motion of Mr. Faure, seconded by Mr. Bohnert, the Advisory Committee approved the reappointment of Messrs. Anderholt and Craig to serve additional three-year terms.

Certificate  
of  
Appreciation  
to Mr. Emde

On the behalf of the Bureau of Agricultural Education and the Advisory Committee, Mr. McMahon presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to Mr. Emde for his service.

Telegram from  
Mr. Russ

Chairman Boone reported receipt of a telegram from Mr. Joe Russ, Committee member from Ferndale, that expressed his regret at being unable to attend, and his wishes for a successful meeting.

Election of  
Officers

Chairman Boone notified the Committee that the next item was the election of committee officers. On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Faure, the Committee voted to reelect the present officers including Chairman Boone, Vice Chairman Avrit, and Secretary Couchman.

Appreciation  
for Meeting  
Arrangements

The committee passed a vote of appreciation to Mr. McMahon, Mr. Forney and Mr. Wood for the arrangements for this meeting.

The Committee then discussed the date of the next meeting, and tentatively agreed it would be held October 10 or 17, at Sacramento. It was also agreed to hold an informal get together on Thursday night before the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Couchman  
Secretary