

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MEETING

March 17, 1961  
9 a.m.

State Education Building, Sacramento

ROLL CALL

Present

Joseph Anderholt  
Verne Hoffman, Jr.  
Fred Rohnert  
Volney Craig  
Clen Eidman  
Allen Grant  
Milton Kidd

Byron J. McMahon  
E. Dave Graf  
George P. Couper  
R. H. Pedersen  
S. S. Sutherland

Absent

Cyrille Faure  
Earl Blaser

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joseph Anderholt.

September Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held at Yuba City on September 23, 1960 were read and approved. Chairman Anderholt called on members for reports on new developments in their respective fields.

Individual Reports

VOLNEY CRAIG: While the current problems of labor supply have not especially hit the Ventura citrus area, growers have not in preparation for possible action. They have organized and checked on their legal rights and responsibilities in case of any labor dispute.

Because of the labor situation, farmers are changing from hand-harvested to machine-harvested crops. Last year there were fewer lima beans and more tomatoes; this year projected plantings are the other way.

Citrus growers are pushing toward mechanization, but no one has invented a satisfactory harvester. The best outlook is to increase the output per picker and consequently pay higher wages. The USDA, University of California, growers, and machinery people are launching a four-pronged attack.

The problem in Florida is somewhat different; more fruit is going for processing and less for the fresh market. A "shaker" has been taken to Florida for trial under the supervision of Roy Bainer, University of California. It was tried in Ventura County, but first to come off the tree were the leaves, then the immature fruit, and last the mature fruit, which was all that was wanted.

Much work and experimentation are going into shaping the trees. Mechanical pruning (hedging) is going on. Production has not been reduced. The picking cost has been cut some because the height of the tree is reduced. One experiment is to cut the tree so low all fruit can be picked from the ground. In the future, there may be mechanical hoists which keep the man in the tree constantly with no climbing up and down ladders. Boxes would also be available at picker height. Dwarf trees are being tried, but use of dwarf roots may also result in dwarf fruit. Another

idea is a very tall, slim tree, close together and only two-arms-length in diameter so that a man on a hoist could reach all the way to the center of each tree without going around the tree or using a ladder.

Mr. Craig said he had been judging FFA projects in the county and he was impressed by the leadership and good grades of the boys, as well as the good projects. He was critical of some evidence of too much help from the father and too many steer projects aimed for fairs, which would require a premium auction price to break even.

GLEN EIDMAN: He said the sheep industry is in the doldrums, although we only produce about four pounds of lamb per United States resident per year. Still there is a surplus. He said the answer may be a marketing problem. Currently lamb is a specialty and often seasonal. Perhaps we should produce 15 to 20 pounds of lamb per person, per year, and keep it on the market at all times.

He said rainfall had been good in the northern counties. It has been light along the San Joaquin foothills.

Mr. Eidman said that the original beef cattle census showed 102 million head, but a re-estimate has been made and there are actually 5 million head less than originally reported. This, of course, was good news to beef raisers.

He said that Modoc County had a bad outbreak of virus abortion, one herd reporting a 50 per cent loss. He said it had been fairly common for years in foothill areas but had not hit the high country. He reported a crash program to try to find the cause. He reported an outbreak of encephalitis on their farm. There is no known cure for this brain disease. The place has been over-run with veterinarians. It is feared there may be some connection with human paralysis, but this is not known.

He said there is no labor problem yet in the livestock industry, and that he is mighty happy to be riding his horse over the range and not having the troubles of some other areas.

VERNE HOFFMAN: He said the talk of the swine industry is a new feeding method. \*Art Adrian of Escalon is the dealer for patented equipment tried out for some time in England. It is producing No. 1 hogs up to 97 per cent with a feed efficiency of one pound of pork to three pounds of feed. Some feeders have it down to two and six-tenths pounds of feed.

The system is to keep the pigs in a darkened area. The feeding machine runs on rails down the center, controlled by a time clock. Four times per day it drops into the trough one pound of feed per pig, then dumps water on the feed. When the pigs hear the water, they come to the trough, quickly clean up the feed (about five minutes), then go back and lie down. The theory is that they

\*Adrian got his State Farmer degree in the FFA at Escalon high school in 1941.

never get too much to eat; therefore, virtually all of the feed goes to lean, rather than fat meat.

While the initial cost of the equipment is \$14.00 to \$20.00 per pig, it is possible to save from \$3.00 to \$6.00 per pig on greater efficiency. Three or four litters could pay for the equipment. This cost covers good buildings of solid construction. It has been tried in an open building and got just as good results in feed efficiency.

There are 12 hogs in each pen compared with the usual number of 40. Each pig has equal space to eat. There is a premium price of 25 cents per hundred for quality hogs at Stockton.

The number of firms processing hogs is dropping. Many packers are willing to order dressed halves shipped from Iowa. This means fewer buyers and less competitive bidding for California hogs.

He said that liquid feeding is being tried in Europe with the feed conveyed in pipes. It has proved very efficient.

He said he was glad to see cattle numbers re-estimated; he feels that this would be good for the pork market.

ALLEN GRANT: He said that mechanization was even entering the dairy business. He had seen a circular device for feeding calves inside of a concrete wall. The feeding unit moves around, dumping milk for the calves at periodic intervals.

He said the labor situation is not good. He is on a labor committee of the American Farm Bureau Federation, which is extremely interested in the California situation. He said there had been a somewhat similar problem in Michigan, where they have used Puerto Ricans. Now they cannot employ them, even though they are technically under the United States jurisdiction. He said growers have investigated strike insurance, and that Lloyds of London would match grower contributions, dollar for dollar. The Farm Bureau proposes a \$750,000 fund to indemnify growers against actual crop loss.

The California Farm Bureau has a farm labor placement organization under development.

Mr. Grant is also on an advisory committee on the health of migrant labor. The farmer members thought there are already enough agencies in each county to handle this problem without any additional agency. There is a bill in the legislature to appropriate \$115,000, for which \$75,000 could go to counties for specific medical care for transient families. The counties must ask for the money.

He said that as a result of the national telecast and other publicity, the sympathies of the public are with the migrant labor. Farmers are blamed for conditions having nothing to do

with farm labor. They are primarily social problems. But farmers must take part in many activities in order to keep people informed.

He spoke at length about the many places in the state where dairies and feed yards have been classified as a nuisance and ordered moved. He cited one dairy in Tulare County which had no flies, nor odor, used shavings for litter, and was very clean. Yet the judge said it was a nuisance. At another place where there was a feed lot across from a fruit establishment, the feeder was ordered to clean up manure and control the flies, as well as pay some damages. In Pomona two feed lots are having to move. In Lancaster, a man built a feed yard before asking for a permit, then had to tear it down and move it. In Ventura there was a complaint about a feed yard. It was later stated that the odor came from another source. In Tulare County, a perfume was used where a feed lot was claimed to affect a winery. In Tulare County also, a teacher complained about feed lot dust. After some discussion, the feed lot operator agreed to control dust and flies, and construct a high fence or hedge.

Mr. Grant said that in one case where flies were blamed on a poultry set-up, University of California investigators found people in a subdivision had used chemicals to kill lawn grubs, which in turn attracted the flies. It was also revealed that odors sometimes come from other places such as sewage. Mr. Anderholt said this was the case at Calxico.

Mr. Grant said that the cost of dairy cows is too high. He cited a case where a 30-pound contract was sold with the cows bringing \$900 each. This is not sound he said. He cited a case where a father sold cows to his son for \$750 with a contract.

He said that a bill pending would place manufacturing milk under control. It must go to a vote of dairymen. He did not think it would be of particular help, although nobody knows for sure.

MILTON KIDD: He mentioned that farmers are being put more and more on the defensive.

He said that in the water situation, Bob Durbrow, advocate for the water interests, recently appeared before a legislative committee in opposition to some measure. A legislator said, "Bob, aren't you ever for anything?" Mr. Kidd said farmers need to take more positive action.

While proposition No. 1 squeaked through, it was far from an ultimate accomplishment. It was supported by areas, more than by philosophy. Most of the northern counties were against it. Bills now in the legislature should hold up funds and action.

He said, however, that water development must come and is coming. There is more action in federal development than at any time in the last 10 to 15 years. Federal and state

governments are at long last in political agreement. Power lines from the Trinity dam will be federally-owned, and power will be sold to distributing agencies but transmitted over government lines.

Progress is going on in the San Luis Dam area. (Mr. Rohnert reported later that they had completed the survey of the dam site and are making drillings for tunnels into San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. He said there was space for a project office at the dam site.)

Mr. Kidd said water development means power development. Even federal water development will not slow down the state plans and progress. There is room for, and need for, all. The San Luis dam would help develop new areas, needed in the projected population growth of the state.

He said that the 160-acre limitation was being liberally construed and that it was not the barrier some people thought it would be. Those with more than 160 acres can get water by paying an additional charge.

He said there is little water in the San Joaquin river for pumping and the quality of the water is poor. He mentioned a power tie-in between California, Grand Coulee, Bonneville, Hoover Dam, Yellowtail, and other sources.

FRED ROHNERT: He said that there was considerable pressure by farmers for new tomato varieties for mechanical harvesting. Two varieties have been developed but are not entirely satisfactory. Seed has been sent to Obregon, Mexico, for winter culture. Some seed will be harvested and pro-rated among growers. The seed companies are cooperating with the extension service to get the seed distributed.

A tomato harvester is now being tried out, which will sell for around \$4,000 and which is claimed to be more efficient and satisfactory than some other more expensive ones. It has been tried in Florida in a coral rock soil, and it worked well even in coral boulders. It is being developed by Food Machinery Corporation and ten machines are available for test. It is not yet for sale.

Tests are being made in Florida on a tomato variety developed by Heinz in the east, which is more advanced toward mechanical harvesting. He said it will be tried in California this year. Generally eastern varieties do not do well in California, and vice versa.

He mentioned the truck crops award program for Future Farmers, and said that members of the California Seed Association will enter more into the activity than ever before.

Answering a question by Mr. Craig regarding the maturity problem, he said that planting time does not answer the problem of

spreading the crop over a period so canneries can handle it. He said it is more a matter of varieties and strains. Labor troubles are causing canneries to have difficulty signing up tomato acreages.

JOSEPH ANDERHOLT: He referred to the nuisance problem, and that Imperial County is being made aware of odors, flies, and so on because it is becoming a tourist center (Salton City). Both city and county planning bodies are concerned with nuisances. He said that El Centro had been "hollering for industry," and that General Foods had located an onion and garlic dehydrator in the city limits. The prevailing wind, he said, is away from the business district.

He said the marketing order on lettuce was not effective. When they were only shipping 41 per cent of the crop, it still didn't pay shipping costs. He said that Yuma, once shipping a car or two, was shipping 90 cars a day, and Texas was shipping much more than before. He said people are circulating a petition against the marketing order.

He said that not over 25 to 50 persons were ever signed up by the labor union. Many problems arose, but the state and federal agencies were more harassing than the labor unions.

Labor edicts often came out on Friday and were reversed by Monday or Tuesday. There were only a couple of cases of violence. Thirty-three men had been indicted on 17 charges of violence. He claimed that 28 of them had previous criminal records.

He said he was moving his lettuce operations to Arizona, where there would be no labor harassments. He said that the only people who got anything out of the Imperial lettuce strike were the lawyers. Mr. Grant mentioned the labor propaganda that people who wanted to work were met by armed growers. Mr. Anderholt stated that growers and foremen were armed but that there were no incidents.

Mr. Couper reported on the agricultural scholarship situation. He said that, in addition to the scholarships from donors, there are 100 state agricultural scholarships but only 35 persons are using them. He said farmers were against filling out the financial statement required, but that any University of California scholarship applicant would need such a form this year. Probably all scholarships would require this. It was pointed out that this is the only scholarship limited to one field (agriculture) and if students do not take advantage of the offer, the scholarships probably will be withdrawn.

Sutherland reported on the "Application of Biological Principles of Agriculture." He said three men have worked on the material, plus the staff at the University of California, Davis. He said that about a dozen agriculture teachers had been called together

Agricultural  
Scholarships

Application of  
Biological  
Principles to  
Agriculture

recently to go over the material. A number of suggestions were made. The next step is to pick out 10 to 15 high schools to try out the material as part of the regular agriculture program. He said an effort will be made to get some funds for supervision from National Defense Funds. Dean Briggs of Davis has said that the course content outlined would probably not only equal, but excel, most courses in high school biology. He said there is application as well as principle in this approach.

Summer Employment  
for Agricultural  
Students

Mr. Graf outlined the summer employment plan sponsored by the Crow Publications. He said it was being offered to boys only in the southern part of the state, but that a boy might go to a farm in northern California, Nevada, or elsewhere. Mr. Kidd said that while the idea is good, it does not meet seasonal peak needs. Mr. Eidman believes it probably is good for the boy but not necessarily for the farmer.

Need for Emphasis  
on Average Students

Mr. Sutherland mentioned the concern of many that too little attention is being given to the average student in high school, while much attention goes to the high IQ student and much to the mentally retarded. There is a trend in credentials to brand the agriculture teacher as offering a second-rate course. He said that brains alone cannot keep America great - practical experience and knowledge are vital. Predictions are that 66 per cent of the young people will not go to four-year colleges. Mr. Kidd said that we should build more colleges. Mr. Pedersen said that the California Youth Authority had found that only 25 per cent of its youth who had taken vocational courses ever came back, while 75 per cent of those who had taken general courses were "returnees."

Legislation

Mr. McMahon talked on legislation. He said that G. A. Sherman, Mr. San Antonio College, former CATA president, had done a fine job presenting the side of the vocational teacher to the committee considering the Fisher bill on credentials. He said that many studies by citizens and other groups are ending this year, and the reports resulting from the studies are causing a great deal of disturbance in educational circles. This includes the Master Plan for the state colleges.

Mr. Kidd said that much of the success of the nation will come from the "middle 60 per cent" of our students. Mr. Eidman decried the small number of farmers in legislation. Mr. McMahon mentioned the plan of school tax equalization by counties.

He said that hearings are now bringing truth out of hysteria in the book-burning episode, that much of the problem was a matter of following the laws those legislators had passed.

He said there was now particular problem on national legislation for vocational education but that general aid to education may not get favorable action.

Need to Create  
Favorable Attitude  
Agriculture

Mr. McMahon mentioned continued effort to create a favorable atmosphere to agriculture. The state FFA public speaking contest was mentioned as one approach. It was stated that six state FFA

officers would appear in late March before the agriculture committee of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Rohnert said that many people now working in related and business fields are doing the work once called farming. He said perhaps science should be substituted for agriculture.

Mr. Grant said that the attack on farmers was long-planned by the labor unions. People criticize the farmer who buys a Cadillac, but they wouldn't criticize some one else. The farmer hasn't done the right job of public relations. Mr. Hoffman said that much needs to be done, even in high schools which teach agriculture. Mr. McMahon mentioned a banquet at Santa Rosa where the National FFA President was a speaker. He said most of the important people in the community turned out and lauded the agriculture program.

New State Plan  
For Vocational  
Education

Mr. Graf mentioned the new State Plan for Vocational Education, and said it simply spelled out minimum requirements. It will be supplemented by a new booklet on policy and procedure.

Retiring Committee  
Members

Mr. McMahon presented certificates of appreciation to Volney Craig and Joseph Anderholt and to Earl Blaser in absentia. All are going off the advisory committee. He expressed the thanks of the Bureau, and of the 375 teachers in our 230 agriculture departments, for the services of these outgoing members. He asked that names of possible replacements be sent to him.

Miscellaneous

Mr. McMahon read a very fine letter from former member Bob Couchman, expressing his longtime pleasure in his associations with the group, and indicating that this is a work which can be very enjoyable, while contributing to a very worth-while program.

Election of  
Officers

In the election of officers, all candidates were elected without opposition. Verne Hoffman became Chairman, Fred Rohnert, Vice-chairman, and Glen Eidman, Secretary.

Date of Next  
Meeting

The next meeting was set for Friday, September 22, 1961 at California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo. George Couper will make arrangements for the meeting room, and will arrange to meet anyone coming in by plane or other means of travel; he will also make hotel or motel reservations if requested.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Rohnert, Secretary  
by  
George P. Couper, Assistant