

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

September 21, 1962
Corona, California

ROLL CALL

Present

Verne Hoffman, Jr.
Fred Rohnert
Herman Sperber
Theodore Todd
Byron J. McMahon
E. D. Graf
G. P. Couper

K. B. Cutler
W. J. Maynard
Owen Burman
George Stanley
James L. Merrihew
Lyle Hawley
Thomas O'Connor
G. A. Sherman

Absent

Glen Eidman
Cyrille Faure
Allan Grant
Milton Kidd
George Nicholas

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Rohnert in the Board Room of the Lemon Products Division of Sunkist Growers. Ted Todd welcomed the group as a member of the "Sunkist family", and told about the tour of the plant to take place in the afternoon.

State Agricultural
Scholarship Program

The current status of the State Agricultural Scholarship program was reviewed by G. P. Couper, chairman of the Bureau committee on scholarships and awards, and a member of the agricultural advisory committee to the State Scholarship Commission. As a result of this presentation, the group authorized Chairman Rohnert to send a letter to the Executive Director of the State Scholarship Commission. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

State Advisory Com-
mittee on Agricul-
tural Education

Mr. McMahon reviewed the objectives of the committee, and distributed materials relative to this and to the service records of present and past members.

Bureau Meeting with
Calif. Farm Bureau
Federation Repre-
sentatives

Mr. McMahon reported on a meeting of Bureau Staff Members with top-level officials of the California Farm Bureau Federation. The purpose of the meeting was to enlist the aid and interest of the Farm Bureau in maintaining existing high school vocational agriculture programs, establishing new departments, or re-establishing dropped departments where conditions indicate a need for this program. The Farm Bureau is interested, and action can be expected as soon as material can be developed for county Farm Bureau use.

The California State Grange has also indicated an interest in this matter, and has already arranged for some local programs.

Dr. Richard Clowes, Associate State Superintendent of Schools and Chief of the Division of Instruction, is also finishing a term as head of the California Association of School

Administrators. In going over the State, he has found an interest in, and concern for, strengthening vocational programs as an answer to the drop-out problems and growing unemployment in the 18-22 age bracket. This is in sharp contrast to the situation a few years ago, when all of the emphasis was put on mathematics and science, regardless of whether students were capable of excelling in these fields.

Technician Training Programs

Mr. Graf reviewed the technician training program, which is being developed by Modesto Junior College as a result of a study made by faculty member, Jerry Halterman. Eleven areas of training, in which junior college graduates could be gainfully employed, were identified by 54 employers. Several programs are now in operation or under study.

Mr. Graf emphasized that junior colleges are two-year institutions with a major responsibility for terminal education. It was brought out that proper technical training can give prestige to agriculture at both the high school and the junior college level, and that colleges and universities can absorb only a small part of the young people who want and need agricultural education beyond the high school level.

Mr. Hoffman mentioned the development of a county-wide junior college in Stanislaus County, and Mr. Rohnert brought up the potential inclusion of the Morgan Hill and Gilroy high school districts in the San Benito County junior college area.

Legislation

Mr. McMahon discussed national legislation affecting agricultural education, and he said California had lost some vocational agriculture money because of the new definition of "who is a farmer".

The scholarship program and credential developments were discussed.

The Manpower Development and Training Act was discussed by Mr. McMahon and Mr. Graf. The employment service must certify to the fact that there is unemployment and at the same time actual job opportunities (this is secured from potential employers). The school is only responsible for the training. A program is being started in the Indio area to train fifty farm equipment operators - thirty-five for year-around employment. A program will get under way at Fresno to train fifty vine and tree pruners.

Mr. Sperber felt that a program to train farm machinery operators would not be successful in the Imperial Valley.

Mr. Todd thought it would be of great benefit in the Corona area, and said that good farm equipment operators are very hard to find.

It was emphasized that proper training could do much to reduce maintenance on expensive farm equipment.

Mr. Rohnert felt it might be better to train people for total employment in an enterprise, rather than in just one skill, such as vineyard operation, not just pruning.

Reports on
New Trends

Mr. Sperber stated that safflower seems to have made its stand in the Imperial Valley and will be continued. He said the crop was being planted after lettuce. He also mentioned pests brought in by safflower.

More feed yard applications are being filed in the Imperial Valley. The growing problems of dust and odor were mentioned. Mr. Sperber said feed yards need bookkeepers with an agricultural background and quoted salaries of \$700 to \$1,000 per month.

He said the area needs entomologists and plant pathologists, that present pest control agencies are using high school students who can "get you into trouble" by not being qualified.

He mentioned a new machine which lays drainage tile very quickly and permanently.

Mr. Hoffman stated that Specific Pathogen Free pigs continue to be a major topic, especially in the midwest. Pigs are taken from the sow by an operation an hour prior to normal farrowing time. They are disinfected and raised in cages. There is never any contact with any disease. They are bottle fed. They are put on farms where there have been no hogs for two months and where preventive sanitation has been practiced. The pigs make astonishing gains - 200 pound animals at four months of age, with a feed conversion of one to three. He said the first generation looks funny because of bottle feeding. Succeeding generations, normally farrowed and raised, maintain the high vitality and feed conversion. It is necessary to close the ranch to traffic. Hogs taken to fairs cannot be brought back to the SPF operation, but must be sold for breeding or slaughter. Hogs are being fed out successfully on slat floors. The Hoffman farm has developed a pork processing unit and business is good. All the hams, bacon, and sausage they can produce are being sold in chain stores under the "Berkshire" label. Mr. Hoffman said these products will sell at higher prices because of better quality attained through slow curing instead of present quick methods.

Mr. Hoffman also reported that the summer has been the coolest in sixty years and the grapes have lots of color, but are low in sugar content.

Mr. Todd discussed the future of the lemon industry, referring specifically to an article in "Citrograph." There has been a drop in the consumption of all fresh fruits, but a small increase in the use of lemon products. Mixed orders and truck shipments have helped in distribution. Advertising has helped maintain sales and there has been no decline in the foreign market as yet. However, the California citrus industry has entered into an agreement to help develop more foreign markets. Some may be developed in the Philippines and in Japan, the latter now being in better financial status. Processed fruit will just about pay harvesting costs. Fresh fruit can maintain a favorable position at this time because of good quality. The July issue of "Citrograph" and the summary on page 327 of that publication give further details on the lemon industry.

Mr. Rohnert stated that several mechanical tomato harvesters have been in operation. One machine, developed in the Willows area, seems to be most successful. Three machines have been operating on the Rohnert properties. The most successful is a big one which operates with little damage to the fruit. It appears that the development period is about over, and that there will be quite a little expansion of machine harvesting in 1963. The most successful machine is harvesting about twenty tons per hour on a field with a heavy yield of forty tons per acre. Weather conditions have been good, yields are high, and growers are on cannery pro-rate status.

A new machine has been developed to harvest lettuce. Through an electric ray, it determines if the head is loose or has interior defects. If the lettuce does not meet quality standards, the machine will not cut it. The machine has also worked successfully on cantaloupes and watermelons, actually determining interior ripeness and sugar content.

Chemical companies are working on sprays which will reduce the "drop" of tomato blossoms, thus controlling the ripening period.

In connection with truck crops enterprises, it was reported that the seven Future Farmer regional winners for 1962 averaged \$3,092 for their one year of crops enterprises.

Mr. Todd discussed the European Common Market. He said that some countries are very strict on tolerances to insecticides, but say that the only inspection they can trust is that done by the United States.

Mr. McMahon mentioned the "Adaptive Program for Agriculture." He said that while the program mentioned some drastic

General
Discussion

remedies, such as removing 2,000,000 farmers from the land and curtailing agricultural education, its sponsors had said it did not really mean what it said.

Time and Place
of Next Meeting

The date of March 15, 1963 was tentatively set for the spring meeting, with Willows as the tentative place.

Adjournment

A most interesting tour of the Lemon Products Division Plant of Sunclst Growers concluded the program for the day. Before adjourning, the group thanked Mr. Burman and Mr. Todd for the fine facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

G. P. Couper, Acting Secretary
for Theodore Todd.