

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

September 13, 1963
Galt, California

ROLL CALL

Present:

Advisory Committee Members

Norman H. Boeger
Glen Eidman
Fred B. Frick
Allan Grant
Verne Hoffman, Jr.
Milton L. Kidd
Herman M. Sperber
Willis Stribling
Theodore J. Todd

Bureau Staff and Guests

Byron J. McMahon
E. Dave Graf
Samuel L. Barrett
R. H. Pedersen
G. A. Hutchings
George P. Couper
Orville Fletcher, District
Superintendent, Galt
Jack Scott, Director of
Agriculture, Galt

Absent: None

Superintendent Orville Fletcher greeted the Advisory Committee, Bureau staff and guests. He said that the Galt District covers 270 square miles in two counties, including 5000 people and serving four rural communities in addition to Galt. He said that the education problems of Galt were about those of many similar growing communities. He concluded by saying the agriculture program made a real contribution to the school offerings.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held in Willows on March 15, 1963, were not read as each member had previously received a copy.

History of the Advisory Committee

After introductions were made by Chief Byron McMahon, it was noted that so far as could be determined, this was the first meeting in the ten-year history of the Advisory Committee when all of the nine members were able to be present. Such a milestone called for a picture, which was taken by the Galt High School staff photographer.

M.D.T.A. Program

Dave Graf made a presentation on the plan and purpose of the Manpower Development and Training program, after which considerable discussion took place. Graf stated that sixteen agricultural programs either had been completed, were under way, or were in the final planning stages. These include

training pruners, tractor drivers and maintenance men, groundskeepers, and some other occupations.

Allen Grant told of a 26-week program under discussion at College of the Sequoias which would be in various agricultural skills. Its purpose would be to train people for all-around, all-year employment. Graf said this program had not been presented to the Bureau for approval and added that it is necessary that any program involving M.D.T.A. funds be established through the legal channels.

After a discussion of a program last winter at Fresno to train vine and tree pruners, Norman Boeger asked if the pruners, once trained, stayed through the season. Gilbert Hutchings said that, in general, they did. He said they took pride in their training certificate and card, and used them to get other jobs following the pruning seasons, such as jobs as irrigators. It was stated that M.D.T.A. training is not necessarily in low-skill operations. A course in lens grinding was cited as an example in a non-agricultural area.

Youth Employment in Agriculture

Considerable discussion followed on youth employment in agriculture. Graf recited the operations to date, stating that every agriculture teacher was encouraged during the spring to contact the local farm placement office, find out whether there was a need for student labor, and recruit students if desired. He said some material is being developed on employer-employee relationships, and that a series of lesson plans to train older boys as crew leaders will be provided during the fall and winter.

It was stated that much must be done to build up the image of agricultural work. It is not necessarily low-grade work. Boeger said that the Gridley and Oroville High School students had in the past assisted in the fruit harvest. There was considerable discussion on child labor laws affecting agriculture. Jack Scott said he was interested in the work opportunities and said many boys cannot get jobs. Glen Eidman said that the agriculture teacher is always a good source of potential labor, as he knows the work capabilities and responsibility of his own, and often many other, students.

Recent Developments and Trends in Agriculture

Members of the Advisory Committee presented new developments and problems in their various enterprise and interest fields. For details, see the attached article, "New Things in Agriculture."

Report by Jack Scott on Galt Agriculture Department

Since Jack Scott had classes during the afternoon, he presented some information on the agriculture program at Galt High School before the luncheon. He pointed out that Galt is a small high school, and that he shares the shop space with a general shop program. He said there had been an 80 per cent dropout between the freshman and senior years in vocational.

agriculture and that his objective was to hold a high percentage of boys. Only two boys who took ag during Scott's first year (1962-63) had not returned and he has a big freshman class. He said he hopes to get 100 students. Scott said that he considers developing a good course of study to be his first major responsibility. He plans to concentrate on production during the first two years. Instruction in the third year will be in such areas as agribusiness, soils, careers in agriculture, record keeping, farm management, plant and animal breeding and genetics. Farm credit, agricultural law, conservation, pumps and irrigation, marketing and government programs will be taught during the fourth year. Scott felt that counseling in the high school is good and aids the ag program.

Luncheon

The high school hosted the group to an excellent luncheon, featuring "Berkshire brand ham" provided by Verne Hoffman, Jr.

State and Federal Legislation

Chief McMahon said that very little state legislation would affect vocational agriculture. Federal legislation, if adopted, could provide a great deal of money, especially for out-of-school and adult groups. He said that a state bill provided for area-wide vocational schools but that no funds were set up. He said there was no need in California, since the present high schools and junior colleges are fully able to meet the needs.

Future Farmer Convention

Sam Barrett briefly discussed the forthcoming trip of about 75 top Future Farmer members to the national convention in Kansas City.

Spring Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, the site of the spring meeting was decided on as Brawley, in the Imperial Valley. Herman Sperber is to make arrangements. The date of March 13 was tentatively set.

Tour

Following the meeting, the group visited the pork processing plant operated by Hoffman and his associates in the nearby town of Thornton. The operator described the various processes and problems.

Respectfully submitted,

George P. Couper, Acting Secretary
for Herman Sperber

Attachment