

State Department of Education  
Minutes of Meeting  
State Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education

March 19, 1965  
Merced High School - North Campus

Roll Call

PRESENT

Advisory Committee Members

Norman Boeger  
Glen Eidman  
Allan Grant  
Milton Kidd  
Herman Sparber  
Theodore Todd

Bureau Staff and Guests

Byron J. McMahon  
E. D. Graf  
G. A. Hutchings  
S. S. Sutherland  
G. P. Couper  
James Becket  
Clair Hopkins  
Frederick Pfitzer  
Ed Gardener

ABSENT

Verne Hoffman, Jr.  
Fred Frick  
Willis Stribling

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Theodore Todd. Greetings were extended by Superintendent of Schools Clair Hopkins. Mr. Frederick Pfitzer, Principal of Merced High School, was introduced. The minutes of the fall meeting of the committee were read by George Couper for Secretary Verne Hoffman.

REORGANIZATION OF THE  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
SECTION OF THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCA-  
TION

A summary of the status of the reorganization of the vocational section of the State Department of Education was given by Byron McMahon. He explained that Dr. Max Rafferty had included in his election platform a promise to reorganize the State Department of Education, although no specific lines were indicated. Mr. McMahon stated that the first tentative reorganization plan for the vocational education section was not accepted by Dr. Rafferty in its entirety, and it had been changed somewhat. The present proposal was drafted at a meeting of the total vocational education staff at meetings held in Sacramento on February 8, 9, and 10, 1965, and it is now being reviewed in the field.

Mr. Eidman and Mr. Grant asked whether the current proposal would insure a direct line of authority between the regional supervisors and the bureau chief. They were assured that this would be done on such things as the Future Farmer program. It was indicated that there might be other changes before a final plan is adopted and that it might be several

months before it can be put into operation. Along with the reorganization chart, there will be a manual of operations which spells out the job specifications for each position.

INTERIM STATE PLAN  
FOR VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION

Copies of the Interim State Plan for Vocational Education were distributed. Mr. McMahon explained that this plan was formulated last September so that California could receive the benefits of funds available under the Vocational Education Act of 1963. He said that a new, complete plan must be written and adopted by the State Board of Education by December 31, 1965, when the Interim Plan expires.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT  
FOR 1963-64

Copies of the Descriptive Report for 1963-64, which included a picture of the members of the State Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education, were distributed to the members. They expressed appreciation for the copies.

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR  
COORDINATORS OF  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Mr. Sutherland was called upon to tell about the program held at Fresno for training local and county coordinators of vocational education. They were introduced to the State Plan, the provisions of the new federal laws, and the basic principals and purposes of vocational education. He said a mythical community was described and the participants were asked to develop a total vocational program for this community, considering all of its resources, population, available schools, etc.

FARM FOREMAN TRAINING  
PROGRAM

Mr. Becket told of his follow-up study on, and the continuation of, the program to train farm foremen. He said the real problem in expanding the training program is to find some way to free agriculture teachers one or two nights a week to conduct the course. He said the make-up of a typical class is about one-third owner-operators and two-thirds foremen and supervisors. So far about 350 to 400 supervisors have been trained, and they direct the operations for about 10,000 workers. The supervisors get a certificate upon completion of the course. Mr. Todd commented that understanding human behavior is the most important need. Mr. Sutherland reiterated the previous statement that there is a real need to find a source of capable teachers.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  
AND TRENDS IN  
AGRICULTURE

Allan Grant: Western meat packers state they must have regular and continued imports of Mexican cattle. This is because of the heavy consumption of hamburger. Fed cattle are too fat; Mexican cattle are thin and never put on much fat. Artificial insemination has just about eliminated the "bologna bull."

While there are increasing imports of vegetables and fruits (such as strawberries from Mexico), there are also growing exports. The American Farm Bureau maintains an export office in Rotterdam. The volume of business in 1963 was about \$4,000,000; in 1964 it was about \$16,000,000, and



it is continuing to grow in 1965. Leading items are feed grains, specialty meats (liver, tongue, heart), canned goods, fresh fruits, and vegetables. A major item is carrots from Texas. The European market for fruits and vegetables will increase tremendously with increased prosperity generally throughout Europe. An export center is planned for Japan, which offers great possibilities. World-wide efforts are being made to achieve international stability, and stability of prices is one important factor.

Herman Sperber: The brightest spot in the economy of the Imperial Valley is lamb prices - 23 cents a pound. The lettuce growing season was marked by warm weather. Labor problems continued, although many transients come to the valley for the winter months. Lettuce harvesting was done by trios consisting of two cutters and a packer. They frequently made exceptionally high wages by piece work (up to \$100 a day), but often a supervisor was required for each trio. The lettuce price was low and the cost of production jumped from \$208 per acre to \$400. The cabbage season was also disastrous.

The future labor outlook is gloomy. The high prices being paid in other areas and availability of other kinds of labor are attracting experienced irrigators away from their jobs. Banks are not going to finance row crops. Growers may go back to shed packing where women can be employed. Hay prices are low. Progress is being made in automation such as planting sugar beet seed in pellets (about three seeds to a foot), mechanical "blocking," weeding with herbicides, and mechanical harvesting. A total planting and harvesting operation can be conducted without hiring any hand labor.

Norman Boeger: The 1964 prune crop was a big one. About 5,000 tons were sold to the school lunch program. Cafeterias, however, want the prunes canned. They don't want to take the time and trouble to soak and cook dried prunes. Research shows that the same people are eating prunes who did 20 or 30 years ago but young people are not getting the habit. Canned and pitted prunes may be part of the answer. There was a 300% increase in the export of pitted prunes to the United Kingdom. Prunes are moving into trade 16% faster than in 1963-64.

There is a shortage of pruners for peaches and pears. Wages are up. The loss of braceros is not providing more domestic labor. People are moving from one part of the state to another to get the highest price for piece work or the kind of work they like best. For example, pruners wanted to take a month off from their jobs to go south to pick citrus which used to be picked by braceros. Thus there was a shortage of pruners. Tree crops seem certain to suffer. Citrus

growers are coming into labor camps in Northern California to recruit workers. Mr. Todd commented that it is the Department of Employment which is doing the recruiting. Workers can make more money picking citrus.

Milton Kidd: Automation and stable prices make the dairy industry better than many others. He cited modern milking barns with hot water piped through the concrete floors to keep the milkers' feet warm, thereby keeping the milkers happy. He said Safeway Stores wants its shippers to be able to provide a minimum of 1,500 gallons of milk daily.

Relative to water, he said that more dams in the northwestern part of the state are vital. With the availability of hydroelectric power, there should not be any increase in power rates in the near future. He said there would not be too much opportunity in the future for additional water power development, but there will be great expansion in nuclear production of power. He said the proposed Bodega Bay project would be relocated in San Luis Obispo County, where the people were favorable to it. He said that the big utility concerns have allied themselves with the Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light to put a price tag on a nuclear plant to pump northern water over the Tehachapi mountains.

Glen Eidman: A new development is the sale of "futures" in beef cattle, the same as in cotton or soybeans. He said that if a man puts 200 steers into a feed lot for 150 days, he can buy "futures" on 200 steers weighing 1,000 pounds each as a hedge. He said beef "futures" could surpass soybeans in volume this year. It is also possible to buy "futures" on dressed meat.

Spring lambs are going at 24 to 25 cents, a very good price. Wool prices are down 8 to 12%. Beef numbers apparently are still going up although it is questioned whether the count is or can be made accurate. The government puts the total number of beef cattle at 106,000,000. Fed cattle prices have improved but feeders could still lose a lot of money.

In the field of science, a fertilized egg, identified as in the sixth stage by microscope, was transplanted from the uterus of a registered Southdown ewe, planted in the uterus of a grade Rambouillet ewe that produced a purebred Southdown lamb, which won grand champion at a Kentucky fair. The egg can now be "flushed out" without discomfort or pain to the ewe - something which was previously impossible. The problem is to identify the cell.

He said livestock men are concerned over a bill which would require all imported meat to be so labeled in the butcher shops. He said this could become a prestige item.



Mr. Eidman said that a developer had purchased land adjacent to the Stony Gorge reservoir with plans for a community of 5,000 people. He said ultimately a series of dams would provide a lake 100 miles in length along the west side of the Sacramento Valley. This would certainly affect land for livestock production.

Theodore Todd: Major attention is being given by scientists to what is actually a very old citrus problem known as stubborn disease. While the disease has been known for many years, nothing has been done to prevent it or to identify the means of spreading. It produces deformed and stunted fruit, small leaves, leaf curl, sick looking trees, etc. It is known that it can be spread by buds from a carrier. It may also be transmitted when tree roots touch under ground. A tree may bloom profusely, then have little or no fruit. Growers have not removed such trees because the next year the tree may again have a heavy bloom. It is difficult to detect the severity of the disease. Trees may grow well for many years, showing no effects, then become worthless, apparently having carried all that time what is thought to be the virus. All citrus may be affected but lemons and mandarins show it less. One grower top-worked his trees and came up with 50% stubborn disease. It must be stamped out through continuous inspection, removal of affected trees, and careful control of seeds and buds used in propagation.

Lemon prices have been reduced to Japan and this has increased the sale markedly, especially in the last six months.

There is a short crop of avocados - only 42% of last year. Prices to consumers are too high and there is sales resistance. Calavo is marketing a lot of Florida avocados which helps to stabilize the market nationally.

Ed Gardener: Because of the illness of local host Willis Stribling, the discussion on ornamental horticulture was directed by his brother-in-law, Ed Gardener of Stribling enterprises. Mr. Gardener said there is a great need for more students in the ornamental horticulture field. Most students coming out of the program on the secondary level are not well-trained. Many are lost because the industry cannot continue their training. Two-year college graduates can be used and this program should be expanded. A sound living can be achieved by men so trained.

It was stated that the Skills Week program in ornamental horticulture at California State Polytechnic College is meeting a tremendous response, but the college will need additional help to handle the group. Ornamental horticulture can be used as a vehicle to teach many basic skills and biological principles.

There has been a great increase in the training program especially at the high school level. Mr. McMahon commented on the Bureau program utilizing Howard Brown and Tony Amato of Cal Poly. He said the program had been of great help to schools in planning facilities under the new vocational education act.

Mr. Gardener said that 80% of the men being trained in the United States in a four-year college program are at the Pomona and San Luis Obispo campuses of Cal Poly.

Mr. McMahon spoke of the Manpower Development Training Programs which have been conducted in gardening and turf-grass management. These have helped men who otherwise would have continued to be unemployed.

Mr. Hutchings mentioned the extensive turf-grass program being carried on at Tehachapi in connection with its high school educational program. Also there is a program for potential drop-outs at Lemcore in gardening and lawn care. Mr. Hutchings said a survey showed a great area of employment possibilities in this small community.

Mr. Gardener said one of their technicians had been spending so much time talking to evening classes in ornamental horticulture that his activities had to be curtailed to take care of his regularly assigned duties. However, he feels the ornamental horticulture industry should be happy to make such contributions.

Mr. Couper mentioned that during a school accreditation earlier in the week at Soquel High School, mention was made repeatedly of the weakness of the school's offerings for students not headed for four-year colleges. Yet there was expressed resistance to a vocational agriculture program geared to a major community industry - bulb and nursery production. Mr. Couper said the nursery industry could help convince school boards that there is a real need for vocational programs in such areas.

MISCELLANEOUS  
BUSINESS

A binder, provided by the California Future Farmers Association, containing the minutes of every meeting held by the State Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education since its inception in 1953, was presented to Mr. Boeger, the new secretary for the committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
FOR 1965-66

In the election of officers, the following were nominated and elected unanimously:

President - Herman Sperber  
Vice President - Fred Friek  
Secretary - Norman Boeger

TIME AND PLACE OF  
FALL MEETING

Upon the invitation of Mr. Boeger the next meeting was set for October 8, 1965 at Gridley. Details will be sent to all committee members as soon as arrangements have been finalized.

Respectfully submitted

G. P. Couper, acting for  
Verne Hoffman, Jr., Secretary