

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Meeting
State Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education

October 8, 1965
Country Kitchen, Gridley

Roll Call

PRESENT

Advisory Committee Members

Norman Boeger
Fred Frick
Allan Grant
Milton Kidd
Robert Smith
Herman Sperber
Theodore Todd

Bureau Staff and Guests

Wesley Smith
Donald Wilson
Dave Graf
Sam Barrett
Bill Brodbeck
Marvin Casady
Tom Evans
Bob Horn
Norman Phillips
Al Shirley
Robert Vaughn
J. Everett Walker

ABSENT

Glen Eidman
Willis Stribling

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Herman Sperber. Greetings were extended by Norman Boeger and by Robert Vaughn, Superintendent of Gridley Union High School. The minutes of the spring meeting were approved as mailed to the members.

Reorganization of the
Vocational Education
Section of the State
Department of Educa-
tion

Mr. Graf reviewed the reasons making such reorganization necessary and outlined how it has been brought about. The structure and personnel of the bureau are not disturbed but for administrative efficiency three regions have been established within the state. A regional coordinator, who also continues his regular duties of regional supervisor, has been appointed for each region. Mack Stoker of the Bureau of Industrial Education is Coordinator for the Southern Region with headquarters in Los Angeles. Mrs. Jane Mills of the Bureau of Homemaking Education is Coordinator of the Coastal Region with headquarters in Oakland. Samuel Barrett of the Bureau of Agricultural Education is the Coordinator of the Northern Region with headquarters in Sacramento.

Bureau Staffing

Mr. Smith reviewed the progress being made in securing replacements for Byron McMahon and George Couper. He told the group that by his own choice, Mr. Graf has elected to continue as Assistant Chief of the Bureau. Mr. Smith announced the appointment of Donald E. Wilson as the new Bureau Chief. He said, also, that selection is well along

and that announcements will soon be made of the new Special Supervisor to replace George Couper and of the new Regional Supervisor to replace Don Wilson.

Bureau Chief

Don Wilson, as Bureau Chief, outlined areas of concern in vocational agriculture as follows:

1. Are we keeping pace with the changing nature of agriculture?
2. Do we know where the actual employment opportunities in agriculture are located?
3. Increased student load of vo-ag teachers.
4. Possibility of maintaining our program, as we know it, in the face of pressures for reorganization.
5. Complicity of working effectively with new federally-instigated programs.

Areas of strength:

1. Well-prepared, dedicated and effective complement of vo-ag teachers.
2. A highly professional and well-organized teachers' organization - CATA.
3. A well-established, effective, and respected youth activity program - The FFA.
4. An experienced, capable, and dedicated Bureau staff.
5. Support of major farm organizations and industry.

New Legislation

Mr. Vaughn reported on new legislation making continuation classes compulsory for youth under 18 years of age who are not regularly enrolled in high school and have not graduated from high school.

1. Must be provided by schools with graduation classes of 100 or more.
2. 10% of funds will be withheld if classes are not provided.
3. Agriculture has a definite responsibility in this program.
4. Attendance four hours per week is required of those employed and three hours per day for those unemployed.

Recent Developments
and Trends in
Agriculture

Milton Kidd: Two national appropriations have been made by Congress for desalting plants. Desalting of water is not being done successfully. The cost is too high. Recreational developments add extra cost to water development projects so that some are delayed or not being built. Recreational development is going on fast because people have more leisure time. There is plenty of water in the State to care for the needs for the next forty years. The greatest undeveloped water resource is on the north coast. The P.G. and E. have offered to purchase power of the Oroville Dam but the price offered is considered too low.

The water development program includes provision for handling Colorado River water. Enforcement of the 160 acre limitation has not been as severe as expected.

Theodore Todd: Hurricane Betsy did serious damage to avocados and limes in Florida. This hurts Florida but helps California. The 140 miles per hour wind, which blew for ten hours, knocked down 40% of the trees and took 90% of the crop. A high percentage of the trees can be salvaged. In spite of a heavy crop in California, this has been a good year. Varieties is one of the major problems of the avocado industry. The problem is to eliminate the undesirable and to develop the desirable. Taxes present a serious problem in the Corona area. Faced with a 300% increase in assessed valuation, united effort resulted in only a 15% reduction. A tax of \$155.00 per acre means that citrus is "out."

Allen Grant: A chain store has purchased 300 cows and plans to build a herd of 2,000, which will be milked to establish an historical base for quota purposes. In the future, the United States may be called upon to feed as well as educate the world. American food being sent to India now is preventing famine in that country. Agriculture has a tremendous future if too many handicaps are not placed in the way. One-fourth of the people ever born in the world are alive today. By the year 2000, one-half of those born will be alive.

Robert Smith: In Kern County agricultural development, the canal will bring more land into production but the cost of the water will necessitate specialized crops. The citrus business is moving into the area. Dairies from Southern California are moving in and creating a demand for more feed production.

Fred Frick: Two large livestock marketing cooperatives are consolidating - Valley Livestock with six thousand members and Farm Bureau Marketing Association with four thousand members. Beef futures indicate there will be a delivery point established in California. The beef market is better than last year but not outstanding. There is 12% more cattle on feed in California this year than last year.

Norman Boeger: Late rains caused a 25% loss in the peach crop. Some growers were hurt badly and others very little, dependent upon varieties. There was a 15% to 20% loss of the prune crop also because of drop caused by rain. A 20% set-aside of the prune crop was voted for this year. Set-aside can be carried forward into the next year's crop. This is beneficial in case of a light crop. Pitted

prunes is a newly developed product now available in the stores of Northern California. The market for this product is just being developed. The new pitter rejects prunes with broken pits. A market for the product is being developed in Great Britain and Japan. A new marketing organization, with membership made up of several co-ops, has been formed with Earl Coke as manager. Improved techniques in spreading, drying and scraping have increased the speed of drying 35% to 40%, resulting in increased volume of the dryers. Progress in developing new products and new machinery in the prune industry has been very rapid over the past four years.

Herman Sperber: Labor is a tremendous problem in the Imperial Valley. It costs \$100 per acre to harvest lettuce. Students have been a valuable source of labor. "Wet-backs" are also being used. Hybrid corn production is on the increase. There is an excellent crop of cotton this year. The weather has been cool and this has helped the harvest. Taxes have gone up from \$12 per acre to \$22 per acre. Better cattle prices have improved the price of grain. The winter produce production is moving into Mexico. Without a source of labor, production will go back to grain and field crops.

TIME AND PLACE OF
SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting will be held at Modesto Junior College. Milton Kidd will be responsible for the arrangements. He and Mr. Wilson will determine a date for the meeting later.

Respectfully submitted

Norman H. Boeger,
Secretary