

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

March 9, 1966
Modesto Junior College, Modesto

ROLL CALL

Present

Advisory Committee Members

Norman Boeger
Glen Eidman
Fred Frick
Milton Kidd
Herman Sperber
Willis Stribling

Bureau Staff and Guests

Sam Barrett
Dave Graf
Emile LaSalle
E. M. Juergenson
Leland Ruth
Don Wilson
Walter Garcia
Dave Risling
Ernest Tarone

Absent

Allan Grant
Robert Smith
Theodore Todd

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Chairman Herman Sperber. Greetings were extended to the group by Milton Kidd and by Dr. Walter Garcia, President of Modesto Junior College. The introduction of guests was handled by Don Wilson. New Bureau staff members, Emile LaSalle and Leland Ruth, were introduced by Dave Graf.

The minutes of the 1965 fall meeting were summarized by Don Wilson and approved by the committee.

Review of Staff Operations and New Developments in Vocational Agriculture

Mr. Wilson: The enrollment in the vocational agriculture program is 17,852. FFA membership has also shown an increase. There is increasing pressure to include girls in FFA. At present there are 1,179 girls enrolled in vocational agriculture classes in the state. If we are challenged in court, they may have to be included in FFA.

There has been a great deal of growth in junior college agriculture programs. At present there are approximately 30 junior colleges in the state that offer or are planning to offer classes in

agriculture. With the establishment of a Junior College Vocational Section and the appointment of an agricultural consultant in this section, more services will be provided to junior colleges, but this will necessitate close coordination between the Bureau and the new section.

A great deal of subject matter material has been developed for the area of ornamental horticulture. The biggest problem is to find qualified teachers. The same problem exists in the field of agricultural mechanics.

There are a number of different studies under way involving vocational education. This includes the Arthur D. Little Survey, which includes the entire Department of Education, and a study authorized by the State Board of Education to study vocational education. The study is now in its second phase of operation. The chairman of the committee is Dr. Collins.

Action: Mr. Frick moved that the committee write a letter to Dr. Collins indicating that the State Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education would be happy to work with the State Board of Education's Committee on Vocational Education. The letter will state the committee has an interest in, and wants to assist with, the total study that is being made in the field of vocational education. The letter will volunteer the services of the advisory committee and will include the names and addresses of each member of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boeger, and it passed unanimously.

Committee for Agricultural Farming Needs

Mr. Graf: This seems to be a committee without portfolio. It is difficult to determine whose committee it is. It was called to Sacramento to discuss training needs for agriculture in California. A number of important people (growers, labor associations, Department of Employment) were in attendance. The meeting centered around labor problems relating to the tomato industry. It was difficult to find out what the committee actually wanted to accomplish.

If the agricultural people of any community indicate they want workers trained, the Bureau of Agricultural Education has a responsibility to assist. The MDTA Program is primarily for unemployed people; however

upgrading programs can be accommodated. There is no evidence that the Bureau needs to put on an all-out training program or set up new programs at the present time.

Mr. Frick: Apparently the federal program is not designed for what the committee wanted. The demand for training should come from the grass roots.

Mr. Sperber: There was a great deal of difference of opinion among farmers as to how much need there is for training. In the Holtville area there is a shortage of trained tractor drivers and mechanics.

Panel Presentation by
Advisory Committee
Members at CATA Summer
Conference

Mr. Wilson: Teachers need to be aware that the Bureau has an excellent Advisory Committee. Many individuals of the committee have participated in various events. However, the CATA Conference Planning Committee would like to have a panel presentation on "New Developments in Agriculture" by the entire committee.

Action: Mr. Kidd moved that the committee attend. There were no objections, and the motion carried.

Suggestions for Improving
the Farm Foreman Training
Program

Mr. Frick: The foreman training program has proven to be an excellent activity in the field of adult education. Perhaps it should be worked into the regular program.

Mr. Sperber: The foreman training program did a lot of good in the southeastern area of the state. It improved the quality of the foreman in the field.

Mr. Boeger: The program was very well taken in our area. Even farmers, themselves, went to classes.

Mr. Wilson: The Bureau has just requested approval for the University of California to continue the Farm Foreman Training Program for another year.

Agriculture Teacher
Supply

Mr. Eidman asked if the shortage of agriculture teachers is critical. Dr. Juergenson replied that the situation has improved. More teachers are becoming available. The expansion of personnel in agriculture departments is increasing the demand. For a long time all of the recruiting was done at the high school level. Now, recruiting in industry

has been paying off. Of the 30 new agricultural teachers this year, 11 came from industry. The Advisory Committee members were requested to notify the Bureau or the teacher training institutions if they know of people in their areas who would make desirable teachers.

Mr. Boeger: If the draft status of teachers is 1A will the schools still hire them?

Dr. Juergenson: Usually they will, although some are being drafted from teaching. There is still a real need for more good teachers.

Horticulture Training for Agriculture Teachers

Mr. Stribling: We should give serious consideration to giving new agricultural teachers a stronger basic background in horticulture. This is a field that is gaining in emphasis. Teachers need more orientation in this field so they will be better able to counsel students about career opportunities in this area.

Marketing

Mr. Boeger: Classroom curriculum needs to cover the area of marketing - that is, how to sell the product.

Supervised Farm Program

Mr. Eidman: What has happened to the supervised farming program?

Mr. Wilson: For most of our students we are providing the typical program. In the more urbanized areas we have a greater emphasis on the non-productive projects.

Mr. Eidman: We need to maintain the personal contact with the parent in the supervised farming program.

Farm Mechanics

Mr. Frick: What is the program in agricultural mechanics? The trend is for more machines and there is a shortage of people to run them.

Mr. Wilson: Most of our programs have been changed to include more emphasis in hydraulics, farm power, and machinery operation and care. We are also attempting to establish four-hour per day, six-day per week summer programs for intensified training in farm power. In addition, schools are being encouraged to work with local specialists and equipment dealers to provide schools with up-to-date equipment and information.

Use of Local Facilities for Training

Mr. Stribling: Maintenance of landscaping, school grounds, etc. might be organized in a fashion that

could tie into an educational activity. It could provide all of the plant material necessary for study and to teach the skills needed in the field of vocational horticulture.

Recent Developments and
Trends in Agriculture

Norman Boeger - Gridley: Last year was a bad crop year in peaches, but the market looks firm. We are presently in the process of negotiating for a price. The pear market looks good. We had a short crop, and it is selling for the highest price in history. The prune market doesn't look too good due to a heavy volume. Pitted prunes are selling very well. Sunsweet is the only one with a workable pitter, and we can't produce them fast enough. We need to spend more money promoting the use of prunes for the younger generation as a quick energy food. An industry acreage control study is being made on prune plantings.

Milton Kidd - Modesto: The dairy business is in excellent condition. It has been helped by the strong condition of the meat business. This is because 40% of the nation's meat comes from cull dairy cattle. A cow and calf operator in our area went to Montana and purchased a number of heavy milking Herefords, whose udders would compare with Shorthorns. He buys 2,000 calves a year, ties them on a chain to the natural calf of the cow, and is raising pairs on these cows. As far as water development is concerned, we have a tremendous statewide program going. Our state developments have provided power to private firms which, in turn, are able to provide it at more reasonable rates.

I have just recently been appointed to the California Securities Commission, whose purpose is to survey the proposed indebtedness of all projects other than the State Water Project.

Glen Eidman - Willows: The sheep industry is in a real up-swing. Lambs are currently selling at 28¢. The demand for yearling ewes is way up. Some are selling for as much as \$35 per head. Predatory animals are giving livestock men a great deal of trouble this year, particularly coyotes and eagles. Our operation has lost over \$2,000 worth of lambs since January 1.

All rams that are to be sold at the State Ram Sale are now being double vaccinated for epididymides.

We have a vaccine that is very effective. There is a bad foot and mouth disease outbreak in Europe at the present time. Russia and Switzerland seem to be getting hit the hardest. There is a need to observe caution when importing animals.

Fred Frick - Arvin: The consolidation of the Valley Livestock Marketing Association and Farm Bureau Marketing Association is in process so they can be operated as one unit. Beef and hog futures tend to have a stabilizing effect on the market and are a marketing tool for the livestock man. The future of the industry looks good for at least a couple of years. The buying power of the consumer is up.

Willis Stribling - Merced: Orchard and vineyard prospects - this year there is a fantastic planting of new material in almonds. The marketing program has made it an attractive crop to go into. There has been very little activity in new plantings of freestone peaches for the last five years. Processors are assuring themselves of continued new plantings of cling peaches. Cherries will be in short supply this season. Pecans are a promising new nut crop for certain areas of California. The vote on planting restrictions for grapes will have an effect on the supply of root stock material available. Virus-free root stock material has become an essential for growers. It is very important that growers contract with nurseries well in advance for the varieties that they contemplate planting.

Ornamental phase - a new group of systemic insecticides are coming into possible usage. By side dressing nursery shoots and irrigating, we have been able to kill nematodes and most other bugs with this material. Testing will continue for at least another year. Shell Chemical has a material that is available in injection nails which can be driven into trees to kill spider mites and thrips.

Beautification program - county and city governments are beginning to do something about beautification. There is a growing emphasis on planting and the prospect for people trained in this field is good.

Herman Sperber - Holtville: By using pelletized seed and planting sugar beets to a stand, labor for thinning has been eliminated. Lettuce seed planted in pellets also reduced our labor needs tremendously.

In our area last season, there was no work for untrained people. In one year's time, people had been taught to cut and pack lettuce. The result was we had an over-supply of workers wanting to work on lettuce. We have been able to cut our seed price in half by pelletizing. This seems to be the answer for the future. It cuts out handwork.

Election of Officers

The following were nominated and elected by a unanimous ballot:

Chairman: Fred Frick

Vice-Chairman: Norman Boeger

Secretary: Willis Stribling

Time and Place of
Fall Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively set for October 5, 1966 at the Watsonville High School in Watsonville. Mr. Wilson is to make the arrangements and to notify committee members.

Respectfully submitted

Leland H. Ruth, Acting Secretary
for Norman Boeger