

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

March 8, 1967
Francis Polytechnic High School, Sun Valley

ROLL CALL

Present

Advisory Committee Members

Glen Eidman
Fred Frick
Milton Kidd
Robert Smith
Herman Sperber
Theodore Todd

Bureau Staff and Guests

K. B. Cutler
E. D. Graf
R. E. Matthews
R. D. Regan
L. H. Ruth
D. E. Wilson
Ivan Wolfson

Absent

Norman Boeger
Allan Grant
Willis Stribling

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 A.M. by Chairman Fred Frick. Greetings were extended to the group by Ronald Regan, Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Los Angeles City Schools.

The Minutes of the 1966 fall meeting were approved by the committee.

Los Angeles Program

Mr. Regan was asked to give a brief description of the agricultural education program of the Los Angeles City School System. He told the committee that every seventh grade boy in junior high school goes through a ten-week orientation course in agriculture, using facilities similar to those viewed by the committee members at this meeting. He estimated that this involves 17 different schools and approximately 13,000 students per year. In addition to this number, he indicated that there are 2,800 high school students in agriculture - 400 of which are vocational agriculture majors.

When questioned about job opportunities, Mr. Regan pointed out that last year 76% of their graduates were placed in agriculture.

Mr. Cutler was asked to comment on the changes taking place in his region. He told the committee that zoning laws are causing a problem in protecting the usual program of projects. Project emphasis has changed gradually over the years from live-stock to horticulture, landscaping, and training for off-farm occupations. He pointed out that the total program was growing rapidly with five new FFA Chapters being established in his region this year.

Mr. Frick suggested that an effort be made to let the public know what is being done in the Los Angeles area to develop an appreciation of the importance of agriculture. A suggestion was made that this might be something the Council of California Growers might want to include in their newsletter "Insight." Mr. Regan and Mr. Cutler were assigned the responsibility of following through on this recommendation.

New California Exposition

Mr. Wilson in summarizing recent developments said that a survey conducted by Assemblyman Belotti's office on grass root opinions of 4-H Club and FFA Chapter leaders supported the position of the Bureau of Agricultural Education. He indicated the State 4-H leadership is still committed to accepting the program offered by the management of the California Exposition. At present there is a stalemate with no date having been settled upon. The sale of bonds has further complicated the issue. A special committee appointed by the Governor is currently making a survey of the entire problem.

Mr. Wilson asked for the advice of the committee as to what the Bureau's future course of action should be. In the discussion that followed, the committee seemed to be in agreement that now is the time to take action and that every effort should be made to make the Bureau's position known to legislators and all others concerned.

It was moved by Mr. Todd, seconded by Mr. Eidman that the committee reaffirm its position in a resolution concerning the State Fair problem. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

Special Supervisor

Mr. Wilson announced that Leland Ruth will be leaving the Bureau of Agricultural Education on March 17, 1967 to take a position with the Agricultural Council of California. This is causing a problem because of the Governor's job freeze. Men are available for replacement, but the Bureau to this point has not been able to obtain clearance to take the necessary steps to fill the position.

FFA Magazine

Mr. Wilson outlined the problems connected with printing the FFA Magazine. He indicated that efforts are being made to see if it is feasible to have the printing done privately rather than as a student project at Cal Poly.

In discussing the merits of the magazine, Mr. Smith commented that in his opinion the magazine is wanted and needed by the agriculture teachers. The magazine approach with pictures seems to him to be the most desirable. The committee was essentially in agreement that the magazine approach is more desirable than a newsletter.

Recent Developments and Trends in Agriculture

Herman Sperber, Holtville: There is a depressed situation in the Imperial Valley. It has been brought about to some extent by concern over the 160 acre limitation. It has been an unusually hot winter, and now a low market on lettuce is being experienced. The tomato business in the Imperial Valley is practically gone.

Competition from Mexico is increasing. The Mexican people, however, are concerned over their own population growth and indicate that it may not be long until they will need all of the food they produce for their own use. The cattle feeding business is predicted to have no longer than five years left in the Imperial Valley. The pink bollworm is a major problem. Growers are reluctant to become involved in a major control program because Mexico is not doing anything at this time.

Milton Kidd, Modesto: The dairy people are concerned about receiving a price cut this year. Legislation has been introduced that would establish a statewide milk pool. This will prove to be a very controversial issue.

The snow pack in the Sierras appears to be substantially better than last year. Water from the State project must be supplied next year in order to provide the necessary revenue to pay interest on bonds.

Robert Smith, Shafter: Water development is still the big news in this area. By this time next year water is expected in the aqueduct. The formation of new water districts has caused some problems. The decision of what kinds of crops to grow is one that is facing most farmers in the area. The pink bollworm situation is of great concern. Growers feel that the Department of Agriculture program for control will not give complete protection even though two million dollars may be expended.

Glen Eidman, Willows: The lamb market this year is considerably lower than last year's. Spring lambs are selling at 23¢ per pound, which is four cents lower than last year at this time. There are a lot of heavy old crop lambs on hand. The problem is further complicated by the Federal Government's contracting for twelve to fourteen million pounds of Australian lamb for military use overseas.

There is a new type of wool bag on the market. It is about the same size as the old type but is manufactured from plastic impregnated fibers. The new bag has not eliminated the problem of foreign fiber in the wool, however. Now the foreign fibers are plastic instead of jute. Solid plastic bags have not proven successful because of damage to the wool as a result of the plastic bag's inability "to breathe."

Teaser bugs are being used to a great extent to start ewes cycling. This allows a flock to be bred in a much shorter period of time. Experiments have shown that in the artificial insemination of beef cattle, it is possible to raise the percentage of males or females by allowing the sperm to go through a settling process.

Meat is being aged with plastic coverings. The cover serves the same purpose as a layer of fat.

Theodore Todd, Corona: It is becoming very difficult to cut expenses, but it must be done in order to farm profitably. There is some oversupply in the citrus industry. Florida is providing tremendous competition. Water costs, labor, and taxes are all going up. The thing that will keep farmers going is increased return. The percent of income that the consumer spends on food must go up.

A patented process now has been perfected for the freezing of avocados. This should open new markets and be a boon to the industry. Avocado Dip, a new product, is

being accepted very well, and the market has been expanding at the rate of 20% per month.

We should not be too optimistic about the possibility of mechanical harvesting of citrus. Emphasis is going to have to be placed upon improved systems for handling, not picking.

Compensation insurance rates are constantly rising. It is the responsibility of the employer to prove that the injury did not happen on the job. The philosophy of the Appeal Boards seems to be to pay even when there is a question as to the extent and nature of the injury. Such decisions automatically raise the rates.

Fred Frick, Arvin: The Federal estimate on cattle numbers has definitely affected the market. Many people who criticize USDA figures fail to cooperate in sending in information. It is important that the USDA has the right kind of information upon which to base its report. The price of sugar beets and tomatoes is expected to improve this year. It appears that there will be a trend toward moving the beef cattle feeding industry out of California.

In pest control we need a coordinated program for utilizing both chemicals and natural predators. With certain pests biological control has real potential.

Junior College Programs

Mr. Matthews presented some guidelines for the establishment of junior college vocational agriculture programs. He indicated that there are 32 JC agriculture programs now and that four more are expected soon. About 4,000 students are enrolled in junior college agriculture. Most of the job opportunities lie in the related fields and curriculum is being developed to meet these needs. The areas of greatest need are: food processing, ornamental horticulture, service and sales, and landscape maintenance. There is a problem of providing the right kind of information to young people about these opportunities and this is an area in which work is being done.

Election of Officers and Committee Replacements

Mr. Wilson requested opinions as to the advisability of increasing the number of members from nine to eleven. This would include two new people to represent other areas such as farm machinery dealers and agri-business. The committee agreed that it would be best to broaden the committee with additional representatives.

Several members are due to retire from the committee. They are: Ted Todd, Fred Frick, Herman Sperber, and Glen Eidman. In each case they agreed to recommend names to Mr. Wilson for replacements.

The following were nominated for office during the 1967-68 year and were elected by unanimous ballot:

Chairman:	Norman Boeger
Vice Chairman:	Willis Stribling
Secretary:	Robert Smith

Fall Meeting

The fall meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 1967.

Mr. Smith recommended that the Bureau continue to seek out new types of programs being offered in vocational agriculture and present them to the Advisory Committee members so they can become familiar with them. The following were mentioned as possibilities:

Madera High School
Humboldt County
Yuba City High School
Teacher Training Institutions

"Cornerstone"

Mr. Ruth distributed copies of the publication "Cornerstone" and pointed out that it is the type of effort that will really pay off for agriculture in getting the story to the public. An agreement has been made with Pacific Southwest Airways to place a copy in each seat magazine pocket. It is also being distributed to schools, legislators, libraries, etc.

Custom Slaughtering

Mr. Cutler discussed a problem that could spread statewide. The State Department of Agriculture's Inspection Service has in two instances taken custom slaughterers to court for their method of handling FFA and 4-H slaughtering. In both cases the decision was in favor of the youth groups.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Leland H. Ruth, Acting Secretary
for Willis Stribling