

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

March 19, 1969
State Education Building, Room 400
Sacramento, California

ROLL CALL

Present

Advisory Committee Members

Norman Boeger
William I. DuBois
Fred Frick
Richard Johnsen
Milton L. Kidd
Ralph Nissen
Robert Smith
Willis Stribling

Bureau Staff Members

J. W. Becket
A. Christensen
J. T. Davis
E. D. Graf
E. M. Juergenson
W. P. Smith
D. E. Wilson

Absent

Advisory Committee Members

Glen Eidman

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Smith at 8:40 AM.

Welcome Remarks - Wesley P. Smith

Mr. Smith extended a welcome from the State Department of Education and recapped the history of the Agriculture Education Department Advisory Committee. He pointed out the important part the committee was playing in helping to keep agricultural education programs modern and up to date. He indicated that a reorganization of the department would make a program planning unit available to keep programs up to date.

October 1968 Minutes

Mr. Wilson reviewed the minutes of the October meeting and indicated that the minutes had been mailed. No corrections or additions were made.

Vocational Education Act of 1968

Dave Graf reported on the Vocational Education Act of 1968. Mr. Graf, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Education, is head of the Task

Force to write a new State Plan and help to implement the act in California. He reported that a major effort had been made by the Committee to involve many people in writing the new State Plan. To this date, he reported, over 3,000 people had been involved. Over 20 meetings up and down the state have been held for the purpose of keeping people informed about the act and the progress of its implementation. By 1973, if the money is appropriated, over 60 million dollars will be available for California. Nowhere in the act is a subject matter area indicated except for consumer and homemaking education which is specifically named. The thought is that the home family unit must be strengthened and that consumer and homemaking education can help in this task. One of the things in the new act which will be different is the development of a 20 member State Advisory Council, representing various vocational areas. (Attached is a list of the Advisory Council).

The Advisory Council is to act as an advisory group to the State Board. They must evaluate and report concerning the state vocational education program. Each state is left up to its own design to develop its program. A National Advisory Council has also been named by the President. In California, the program will be ready to report by June 13. At this time, there is no money to implement the act.

Previously, money was identified by bureaus and the money flowed to the school districts according to bureau plans. The 1963 Act money flowed primarily through projects written by local districts and through the old George-Barden Smith-Hughes plans. The new act will require a total plan. Local districts will now submit yearly plans and 5-year plans. These plans will be reviewed and funding will follow in line with the district plan. No district will be denied funds because of its inability to match federal funds.

A new reimbursement system will be used with the new act. As a part of this system an equalization factor will be developed involving each local district. An entitlement for each district will include its total vocational program; not for specific subject matter areas. The local districts must indicate how the money will be used. Extra effort by the districts such as 12 months pay for an agriculture teacher must be written in the local plan. The basic concept is that the money will follow the students.

There are nine parts in the act. The top priority of the funds will go to disadvantaged students and to areas with high concentrations of dropouts. There is a problem in identifying disadvantaged students. The regular kinds of programs may receive approximately 60 percent of the funds.

A sensitive area to the districts is the manner of reimbursement to the district. Teacher qualification and cooperative work experience are also sensitive areas. Types of work experience programs, vocational

or general, are a major concern. The act authorizes 40 million dollars for consumer education through homemaking education. No determination has been made at this time as to how much of the funds will go to junior colleges. The act stipulates at least 15 percent for the junior college level.

State and National Advisory Councils

Mr. Wilson discussed the requirement of the act concerning state and national advisory councils. At this time, it looks as if no one serves on the council who represents agricultural interests. Appointments are made by the Governor to serve on the twenty man board. The board must be appointed by April 1.

Five Minute Reports

Ralph Nissen, Williams: The rice industry in California is represented primarily by two cooperatives, which handle about 90% of the volume. Coors Brewery Company is offering five-year contracts to some growers guaranteeing equivalent prices with co-ops. This is siphoning off many co-op members, and it will hurt the two existing cooperatives. There is no guarantee that the company will offer this advantage after they have filled their quotas. The industry picture is sound and at this time, there is no great change evident due to the new National Administration.

Cal Expo will be open for a 19-day run in August and September. The show this year will be much the same as that at the old State Fair. The 4-H and FFA shows should be normal ones this year. This is a temporary situation, and it is expected that the "exposition" idea will be worked out in the long run. The Expo Board hopes that private industry will eventually buy the exposition and lease it back to the state during State Fair time.

Fred Frick, Arvin: Beef prices have moved up. Choice beef is bringing thirty cents. While 8% more beef is being consumed, only 7% more is being killed. Feed prices are going up. The futures market on beef to June is 29 cents. Wet weather in various areas has caused more beef feeding.

There is 40% less barley this year, and feed grain will be more expensive. The cost of grain has gone up to about 40 cents per pound. The tendency now is to feed to a heavier weight. There are about one million head on feed in California. Of these, 12 - 20% may be dairy type stock. The future of feeding cattle in California is stable. The conversion of feed to beef is better in California than in most other states. A large increase in cattle feeding may develop in the midwest where crop residue, primarily corn, will be used more. Farms there are increasing in size.

The tomato price is \$27 per ton in the southern area. There will be many acres planted, but production may not be up due to less tonage per acre.

Norman Boeger, Yuba City: The cling peach industry is financing more of its growers and may be dropping some of the large growers who are not

being financed. Their interest rates are generally lower than that of banks. Mechanical harvesting for peaches is just around the corner. Most co-ops are pretty well filled up now. Some Hindu growers may be in the process of starting their own cooperative. There may be a surplus of peaches this year. The crop set looks good at this early date. Last year some growers averaged 16 to 17 tons per acre. The state average is 13 to 14 tons. Large manufacturers are getting into development of specialized equipment. This may speed up the move to mechanical harvesting. New plantings are adapting to mechanical harvesting while old orchards are not well adapted. The National Farmers Organization is becoming active in peach growing areas. The cling peach industry tries to establish an early price. This does not lend well to NFO ideas of market control.

The apricot and prune industries have fallen off in recent years. The apricot industry is moving to the San Joaquin Valley. Patterson is a new area coming on strong in apricot growing. Mexico is making some plantings. Work is being done on new varieties that will do better in hot weather. There is not a distinguishable difference in the Royal and Blendheim trees now. The Tilton is a good fresh fruit variety suitable for shipping and it can be dried. Labor is a factor in the dried fruit industry. The labor situation for peaches was not bad last year.

William I. Du Bois, El Centro: A new source of water for the Colorado is needed. The water is still salty as a result of drainage water being returned to the lower Colorado. Poor germination is one of the results of salty water. The Upper Basin States are using more now, and this takes the best water.

The trend to larger feed lots is continuing, and many small ones are no longer in operation. There are not many feed lots left in Imperial.

Extensive acreages of sugar beets are now grown in Imperial County, which makes it one of the most concentrated in sugar beet planting.

Milton L. Kidd, Modesto: This is a good water year - a tough one, however, for some areas. There will be some agricultural damage as the snow starts to melt. The Dos Rios project is very controversial. This is a part of the California Water Development Project, and it will be continued. The State Water Project will need more money, and a bond issue probably will be required next year.

There are now fewer but larger dairy farms. It was noted that there are only eight or nine dairies left in Imperial County.

Willis Stribling, Merced: The weather is an important factor in what will be planted next year. There may not be many acres planted to sugar beets in Merced and Madera Counties because of the wet ground. Because of an early, wet fall, some of last year's cotton was not picked at all, and some of it was picked only one time. There was very little barley planted in that area this year, and much of what was planted was flooded out. No serious flood damage is anticipated this spring.

Tree crops do not look bad at this time. Enough sunshine did get through to set the new crop. In the sandy soil areas, plantings went on as usual. In heavy soil areas, no plantings were made. There may still be some plantings as late as May. It does not look like a good year in this respect. There may be some shortage in nursery stock for some areas for 1970 plantings. The production of ornamental nursery crops is continuing about as usual. Long periods of bad weather will have some effect, however, and the small nurseryman may not make it.

Richard Johnsen, Sacramento: The big challenge ahead is marketing. The production ideas are changing. Farms will be super in size in the future. Marketing is becoming more complex. More cooperatives and larger cooperatives are ahead for the future. A new idea may be to let the farmer do the processing and let big cooperatives do the actual marketing. Many large business organizations are going into farming, while large agri-business organizations are going out of farming. The number of cooperatives remains about the same at this time. Dollar volume is increasing slightly in cooperatives. The trend to less agricultural labor is continuing.

There is not a lot of significant agricultural legislation going on at this time.

Arthur D. Little Study

The Arthur D. Little group has completed the first and second phase of its program. The final report is due July 1, 1969.

Richard Johnsen

Mr. Richard Johnsen reported on legislation. There is not a lot of significant agricultural legislation going on at this time. Mr. Don Wilson reported on the Assembly Ketchum resolution. This resolution concerns the policy of the U.S. Office of Education. The policy would move the FFA out of the U.S. Office. Assemblyman Ketchum's resolution would ask them to hold up this action pending a congressional hearing.

The State FFA Foundation is ready to be incorporated now and should be in operation by July 1.

Ralph Nissen

Mr. Ralph Nissen reported on the Cal Expo. It was reported that the exposition would be open for a 19-day run in August and September. The show this year will be much the same as the operation of the old State Fair. The 4-H and FFA show should be a normal one this year. This is a temporary situation for the California Exposition and it is expected that the exposition idea will be worked out in the long run. It is hoped by the Expo Board that private industry will eventually buy the exposition and lease it back to the State during State Fair time.

FFA Developments

Regional FFA Leadership Training Workshop: The Regional FFA leadership training workshop will again be held this summer. The date for this will probably be during the first week of July. We are doing some work with the Council of Growers in getting agricultural information out to the public. Some audio visual material has been developed for use in elementary schools that has gained wide acceptance.

Scholarships: Twenty-four scholarships worth more than a total of \$10,000 are available for FFA members. Standard Oil, California Bankers, Valley Nitrogen, Santa Fe and Union Pacific make the scholarship monies available. There are six \$1,000 scholarships sponsored by Bank of America now available. These are continuing scholarships and are available to Vo-ag students each year. The scholarship recipient must enroll in an agricultural major. These recipients must indicate a desire to enter the agriculture teaching field or another agricultural related occupation.

Liaison Committee Study on Agricultural Occupations

Mr. J. W. Becket reported on the Liaison Committee study on agricultural occupations. The study has been going on for 1½ years and will have 1½ years left to go. There will be a great deal of data coming from the study which may be most useful after the study.

The major goal of the study was to develop a master plan for agricultural education in California. An effort has been made to determine types and kinds of jobs, qualifications, and the number of people employed in these agricultural jobs. Much of the data used is being collected by personal interviews with employers and employees. Ten counties have been selected to be surveyed. They represent about 50% of the agricultural income in California. Leaders in agriculture and agri-businesses were contacted to get an idea of the types of jobs that might be available in the next 5 to 10 years. Response to interviews has been good. Interviews in Stanislaus, Butte and Fresno counties are about complete and the results will soon be tabulated. The study is progressing according to schedule.

Teacher Training Institutions

Mr. Don Wilson reported that two new teacher training institutions have been opened. Fresno State College and Cal Poly at Pomona will conduct teacher training programs starting in September, 1969.

Election of Officers

An election of officers was held and Mr. Robert Smith was re-elected chairman with Mr. William Du Bois as vice-president and Mr. Richard Johnson as secretary.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held October 8 at the Merced Junior College.
The following spring meeting will be held in Imperial County.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Jerry T. Davis

Jerry T. Davis