

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

October 8, 1969
Merced College
Merced, California

PRESENT

Advisory Committee Members

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| William I. DuBois | Leland Ruth |
| Arthur H. Harwood | (for Richard Johnsen) |
| Milton L. Kidd | Robert E. Sapien |
| Don Lehman | Robert Smith |
| Ralph A. Nissen | Fred M. Stewart |

Bureau Staff Members

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| J. W. Becket | G. A. Hutchings |
| H. H. Burlingham | E. M. Juergenson |
| J. T. Davis | J. F. Lawrence |
| E. D. Graf | R. E. Matthews |
| D. L. Hampton | W. D. Reed |
| | D. E. Wilson |

Guests

Gary Clausen
Les McCabe
Martin Stipp

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Smith at 9:50 a.m.

Introduction - D. E. Wilson

Mr. Wilson introduced all those present.

March 1969 Minutes

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

Growth in Vocational Agriculture

Mr. Wilson reported that there is evidence of additional growth in vocational agriculture this year. Eight to ten per cent has been indicated. At this time, this is only a guess. However, the heavy placement of agriculture teachers is indicative of this growth. A growth of 22 new positions was experienced this year. At present, there is a large enrollment of prospective teachers in the vocational agriculture teacher training programs.

Operations of the Bureau of Agricultural Education

The second item on the agenda was an explanation of the operations of the Bureau of Agricultural Education for the benefit of the four new members who were present. Mr. Wilson outlined the duties of the ten members of the Bureau staff and explained the organization of the seven regions. The Bureau's relationship with the community colleges is primarily a cooperative one and no longer is a line responsibility.

Mr. Burlingham outlined the function of the teacher preparation program. It is an integral part of the total vocational agricultural program. The California teacher preparation program is unique in its organization. In California, we have approximately 500 agriculture teachers in our program. Preparation and certification are the two major areas of concern with the teacher training centers. The general requirements for all agriculture teachers are the same. A Bachelor of Science degree is required by secondary teachers before they enter a fifth year of preparation in the teacher training institutions. A minimum of two years' occupational experience is required of teacher candidates. Certification is done through the State Department of Education. The teacher training program in California is both a pre-service and in-service program. Each candidate makes a personal interview with a Bureau staff member before he enters the final pre-service program of preparation. In-service education preparation is an important part of the total teacher training program. Workshops, conferences, and meetings are held regularly during the year. Regional supervisors assist in this portion of the program. An annual skills week is held at Cal Poly each summer. Usually 120 to 130 teachers attend the activities of this week.

In the last few years, a program to help fill the teacher vacancies has been developed. This has been termed an "internship". In this program, a person with a bachelor's degree will fill a teaching position and work toward the completion of his credential requirement. A unique part of the regular teacher training program is the payment to student teachers of a small stipend while they are doing practice teaching on a high school campus. Some in-service training is now being done through a cooperative agreement between the teacher training departments and industry. The teacher will take a job with industry for college credit and learn while he is working. More of this may need to be done.

Statewide Study of the Agriculture Industries

Mr. Becket reported on the statewide study of the agriculture industries to determine what jobs exist or may exist and what will be the educational requirements in agriculture for the future. Interviews have been going on for about a year with agriculture industries. At this time, 4,100 people have been interviewed in 1,100 industries. Interviews have been done in ten counties which are representative of California agriculture. In addition to personal interviews, a questionnaire will be mailed which will include many more people in various job classifications. Hopefully, a summary will be ready by February.

Information from the study will be available by June, 1970. A valuable part of the study will be a classification of various jobs available and information concerning requirements of the job.

Agriculture Program at Merced Junior College

Mr. Clausen, head of the agricultural faculty at Merced, explained the agricultural program at Merced. They now have 175 students in the day program and 200 students in the evening program. There are four full-time instructors now in this program which started in 1965. There are 45 different courses available at Merced College. In addition to the four full-time teachers, there are four part-time teachers in various agricultural areas. In the Merced District, there are seven feeder schools. There is an agricultural student club which is very active on campus. The agriculture faculty is expanding and a new agriculture mechanics facility is soon to be constructed. There is a 50 acre area available for experimental work. There seems to be a potential of about 225 students for Merced Agriculture Department.

Session Adjourned

The session adjourned to look over the agriculture facility at Merced Junior College.

Session Reconvened

The session reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

Five-Minute Reports

MILTON KIDD, MODESTO - A change is taking place in the milk marketing business. The milk pooling law relaxes the quota method of sales and permits some expansion by producers. Feed prices are up a little, but that is no serious deterrent to dairy men.

There are some problems with the state water plan now and there is a slow-down in development. The low interest rate on state bonds is largely responsible for this. There is some hesitation in purchasing state bonds. The Dos Rios project is temporarily held up for a continued study. The Sierra Club is currently objecting to the building of the Dos Rios Dam. Recreation on new projects is popular and this will continue to be a part of the state water plan. Eventually there will be water dumped or added to the Colorado River from out-of-state sources.

RALPH A NISSEN, WILLIAMS - The rice industry in California is in a favorable situation. There is no major surplus or carry-over. However, there is a large crop in California this year, and it may be necessary to depend on exports.

Mr. Nissen reported that the Cal Expo is financially more sound than in previous years. The FFA and 4-H shows were successful, which helped the overall Expo situation. It is presently felt that there will be a return to the open livestock show next year. There are still many problems to be worked out on maintenance and operation. It is possible that FFA show dates will be moved back one week.

ARTHUR H. HARWOOD, BRANSCOMB - Mr. Harwood discussed the tree-growing and wood-processing business. The economy of this business is bad at present. Whenever the construction business is down because of tight money, it is felt quickly in the wood-processing business. The price of lumber is down now, as the building and construction industry is almost at a standstill. Something needs to happen to help stabilize the wood projects industry. It will be necessary in the near future to utilize more of the waste wood instead of burning it. The price of grape stakes is up now to the level of quality lumber.

ROBERT E. SAPIEN, LOS ANGELES - Mr. Sapien reported on the landscape agricultural and horticultural industry. A public information program is needed because of the newness of this industry. Many large development projects are now including a landscape architect on their staff. This opens up new jobs for landscape people. There is a great demand for California plants in many states. The landscape gardening and nursery business is booming. Gardening is largely contracted now and maintenance may soon be on an annual contract bid basis. The business is becoming highly sophisticated and the industry is becoming largely concerned with unions. There is a demand for technically-trained people, particularly at the junior college level. The industry must do something to improve salaries to attract better qualified people. There is a good demand for high school students with landscape or gardening skills. Machinery maintenance is needed more by high school students.

LELAND RUTH (reporting for Richard Johnsen, Sacramento) - The Assembly Agriculture Committee has several hearings scheduled on specific agricultural problems. It looks like there is a great deal of legislation in the schedule on milk and dairy products. In the 1970 session, the agricultural industry will have to keep close watch on legislation. Air and water pollution will create much legislation which will apply to agriculture. State unemployment insurance rights may soon be available to all full-time agricultural workers.

FRED M. STEWART, SANTA PAULA - The citrus industry had considerable damage from last year's weather conditions. The lemon industry in the Ventura area was in good shape this year. Over 1,000 acres of citrus were lost in last winter's floods. The tomato industry in the state has many problems. Major canneries have imposed limits on tonnage. Acreage was curtailed, tonnage was cut down, and the price was not good. There was an over supply of tomatoes this year. Labor will continue to be a major problem. More technically-trained students are needed in machinery operation and maintenance. Urbanization is still a major threat to agriculture. The tax rate is too high to maintain an agricultural enterprise.

DON LEHMAN, COLUSA - Mr. Lehman reported that agriculture is being forced into a broad base specialization or specialization in a diversified agriculture. We can no longer afford to specialize in a single crop because of the complex marketing situation. More education is needed in the mechanics of agriculture.

The prune crop was short this year. The prune industry will demand higher quality fruit. The small producer will have to mechanize to improve quality. Students in agriculture need to understand government agricultural programs. More instruction is needed in this area.

WILLIAM I. DU BOIS, EL CENTRO - An experiment in beef cattle feeding is now taking place in the Imperial County. Cattle on reticulators are being fed. The reticulator is an instrument put into the stomach of the animal to stimulate rumination. This will cut down on the need for roughage.

There is an infestation of the pink bole worm in the cotton crops of Imperial County. Leaf perforators and loopers are also a problem. Consideration is being given to growing a cotton crop only in alternate years. This step may be necessary to save other crops in the Imperial Valley. Water quality is a problem for Imperial County farmers. The salt problem is now a major concern. Operation intercept has caused some problems to farmers, but it has the backing of the farmers.

ROBERT SMITH, SHAFTER - There is still a high demand for good labor to do machinery maintenance and operation.

New Vocational Education Act

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Matthews reported on the new Vocational Education Act.

Each district must submit an annual plan for vocational education in the district. Vocational monies to the district will be given for the total program and not be earmarked for specific vocational subject matter programs. Federal vocational money has been earmarked for vocational education in special programs such as "handicapped" and "disadvantaged". Programs for the handicapped and disadvantaged will receive special consideration. The community colleges will receive about 47 per cent of the federal vocational money.

Adult Training Program

There has been a request from the fertilizer industry for an adult training program. The industry will identify the adults for the program and hire them. The adult will attend the training program for one-half day and work with industry for one-half day. At this time, no specific class has been set up.

Suggestions from Committee Members

It was suggested by Mr. Stewart that students take more field trips to view and keep in mind what is actually being done in agriculture.

Mr. Sapien suggested more emphasis on local advisory committees. They can more closely relate what is going on in the industry to what should be going on in the classroom.

SB 1820

SB 1820 has been signed and will be fully implemented by 1971. It mandates that every local school district with vocational education will have an advisory committee and that this advisory committee shall include vocational education students. Various areas of the state will also have advisory committees. These

committees will be responsible for a master plan of vocational education for their areas.

Future Meetings

The spring meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11, at El Centro High School.

Adjournment