

D. E. Wilson

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

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 1970  
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
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March 11, 1970  
Central High School  
El Centro, California

Meeting was called to order by Don Wilson at 8:30 a.m. at the El Centro High School Agriculture Department. The meeting was turned over to Kenneth Holmes, Director of Agriculture at the El Centro High School. Ken gave a background and history of the Agriculture Department and explained his Ag program. Ken has been at El Centro since 1946. His present unit was constructed in 1959 at a cost of \$90,000. Facilities include some surrounding land for laboratory use. The total program of instruction is designed to fit the agriculture of the area. The program emphasizes the importance of specific work skills, particularly how to work, start, and finish a job. The Agriculture Mechanics program emphasizes small and large engine mechanics, welding, and tractor skills.

The FFA program is an important part of the total Agricultural program. The chapter is well financed through its own fund raising activity and is in sound financial condition. Members take part in many activities and do well in competitive events. Ken finished the explanation of his program with a tour of the Agriculture facilities.

The meeting was adjourned and reconvened at the Chamber of Commerce office in town. Chairman Bob Smith called the meeting to order and introduced members. Those present were:

Advisory Committee Members

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Graham Allen          | Robert E. Sapien  |
| (for Richard Johnsen) | Robert Smith      |
| Arthur H. Harwood     | William I. DuBois |
| Milton L. Kidd        | Don Lehman        |

Bureau Staff Members

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| J. W. Becket | W. D. Reed   |
| J. T. Davis  | D. E. Wilson |
| M. Fleming   |              |

October 1969 Minutes

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as mailed.

Status of Vo-Ag Program - D. E. Wilson

Don Wilson reported to the council on the status of Vo-Ag program. Enrollment is up by 14% in Agriculture. The overall 14% increase includes a 40% increase of girls enrolled. The new programs - Ornamental Horticulture, Conservation, and Recreation may be partially responsible for the increase in enrollment. There is a need to train and place at least 4,000 students a year to fill the need for people in production agriculture alone. Our program does not meet this requirement at this

time. This figure does not include the number needed in the related occupations. Funding for Vocational Education is not clear at this time. Congress has not appropriated funds so that school districts can count on specific amounts. Congress continues to support Vocational Education but funding is difficult. There will continue to be a shortage of teachers. This year there are fifty-three teachers in the training process and the need will probably be for seventy teachers.

It appears that the Vo-Ag program should be broadened to include instruction in Environmental Management and Control. There is a large portion of this area which is closely related to Agriculture. It is important that people with a knowledge of Agriculture be included in Environmental Management programs.

It was moved by Don Lehman that the Bureau develop a plan for including in the Vo-Ag instructional program Environmental Control and Management. This plan to be reported back to the council at the October meeting. Motion passed.

#### Definition of "Agriculture"- J.W. Becket

Jim Becket reported on the research being done relative to job areas in Agriculture. From the study, a new definition of Agriculture is apparently needed which will be more inclusive of the total picture.

#### Status of Industry - Brief Reports by Committee Members

At this point each member of the committee reported on the situation within their segment of the Agricultural complex.

BUD HARWOOD reported that the new emphasis on pollution will demand that they find new uses for their sawdust which will no longer be burned. The lumber industry is doing research on methods to use the sawdust in production of new building products. In some European countries farm by-products such as flax straw is being used to manufacture fiberboard products. There may be some use for sawdust, rice straw, and orchard prunings in this respect. Managers are needed to manage and utilize the forestry land from an ecological standpoint. There have been a lot of mergers in the timber industry. Better management has not always resulted from the mergers. The lumber market is slow because of lack of building which has resulted from the tight money policy and high interest rates. If building really took off, the industry would be hard pressed to meet the demand.

MILTON KIDD - Water development has slowed down in the state. The Army Engineers have allocated funds to start construction of a dam on the Merced River. Financial pressures have caused the slowdown. Financing needs to be worked out to encourage the expansion and development of water projects. If the state financing interest rate is raised the finance picture should be better.

The dairy industry is in a good position at this time. The industry is growing and the outlook is healthy.

BILL DuBOIS - The irrigation problem in the Imperial Valley is complex and causes major concern among Agriculturists in the area. The Colorado River continues to increase in salt content. This causes major problems all along the river. The water now contains about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons of salt per acre foot. This water will not percolate into the tile drainage system, and after evaporation the salt remains in the soil. This causes a decrease in the value of land. The economic picture of Agriculture in the Imperial Valley is not good at this time.

Large organizations that have moved into Agriculture have been able to make more efficient use of equipment. They get more and better use of the equipment they own by planning continued use. These organizations have not cut down on the number of people hired. They tend to lease land rather than to purchase and to rent equipment not used for long periods of time.

GRA ALLEN reported for Richard Johnsen on activity in cooperatives -- something needs to be done to tailor production and marketing. The producer must understand more about the marketing system and procedure. Efficient marketing will be the key to survival for many producers in the '70s. Education in marketing for all producers will become more important. Probably more changes in marketing will take place now since large companies are moving into Agriculture. Legislation will be more important to farmers in the future. They must stay abreast of legislative change.

BOB SAPIEN - The Ornamental Horticulture and Landscaping industry is booming. There will be more leisure time available for the general public. Unions are bargaining for 32-hour work weeks and 3-day weekends. Recreation facilities will need to be increased and more people will be needed to manage these facilities. There is a great demand for people to work in the Ornamental Horticulture industry. The unions are most influential in creating change in the industry. California leads the nation in the Ornamental Horticulture industry and is furnishing people with know-how for other states.

DON LEHMAN - The rice industry is in a depressed state at this time. Allotment decrease of 25% will cause problems for producers. Rice units now sell for \$4.50 per unit. Small rice producers are selling units to larger producers and are going out of production.

gar beets are under allotment again this year.

Recreation is a complimentary operation to the farmer producer. Many ranches are moving in this area. Managers will be needed to develop this complimentary operation.

Tomato contracts are becoming more restrictive to producers and will cause more problems for the producer in the future.

The NFO is very active in the Sacramento Valley area. Dues have increased to \$75 per year and they are becoming a factor to be reckoned with.

BOB SMITH - The economic situation for Agriculture in the Kern County area is bad. There is serious concern about the future of the cotton industry in California. Development of synthetics is one of the causes of the problem.

#### Membership on Committee of Vo-Ag Youth

Discussion was held concerning the addition of Agricultural youth to the committee. It was the concensus of the Council that they be involved in development of programs of curriculum but not be appointed to the Board.

#### Election of Officers

The election for officers of the Council was called. Bill DuBois was elected to act as new Chairman, and Richard Johnsen was elected to serve as Vice Chairman. Bud Harwood will be the new Secretary.

#### Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Sacramento on October 7.

#### Adjournment

Large organizations... efficient use of resources... people hired... equipment not used for long periods of time.

THE AIAA reported for District... needs to be done to better production and marketing... will be more important to farmers in the future.

DR. BAKER - The Research... will be more... for 15-day work weeks and 7-day weekends... and the University people with know-how.

THE AIAA... will cause problems for producers... out of production.

...again this year.

Research is a... necessary operation to the future... will be needed to develop this... operation.

The... have been increased to... factor to be retained.

The... in the... area is... about the future of the... industry in California.

...of 1964

The... the addition of... youth to the... of the Council that they be involved in development of... to be appointed to the board.

...of 1964

The... of the Council was called... will be the new Secretary.

Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in... on October 15.