

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Minutes

State Education Bldg, Room 118
Sacramento, California
October 7, 1970

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Bill DuBois. Roll was called and those present were:

Jim Becket	Jack Lawrence
Jerry Davis	Don Lehman
William DuBois	Ralph Matthews
E. David Graf	Ralph Nissen
Ted Gregg	Warren Reed
Dennis Hampton	Robert Sapien
Arthur Harwood	Robert Smith
Richard Johnsen	Wesley P. Smith
E. M. Juergenson	Fred Stewart
Milton Kidd	Donald E. Wilson

Wes Smith welcomed the group. Minutes were approved as mailed and no additions were made to the agenda.

Don Wilson reported on the status of vocational agriculture in California. He reported a "settling action" since the 1968 VEA amendments. Funds to schools are increased somewhat over previous years. Schools now have the prerogative of spending the funds they receive on any phase of their vocational program. The staff in the field has been working with districts to firm up plans for the agricultural programs. There were 108 position changes in the agricultural teacher staff in the state. About 50 teachers were trained through the regular teacher training programs. In addition, it was necessary to add 23 interns to fill vacancies. It looks like there will be an increase in the number of students enrolled in vocational agriculture.

Ralph Matthews of the California Community Colleges office indicated that the new credentialing program will increase the total number of credentialed teachers. The credential may be given in specialized areas which may be both a blessing and a disadvantage. Some of these people being credentialed may not have the methodology needed to properly prepare the students for learning. The numbers in enrollment are on the increase by 10 to 15 per cent. Sixteen new agriculture teachers were placed this year. A new curriculum on forestry has been developed and new staffing has brought the staff up to the necessary level.

Warren Reed discussed the environmental control program considered at the March Advisory Committee meeting. A special committee was called together in June to get advice in this area from people who have expertise in this area.

Questions were asked of the panel of experts concerning the need for instruction in the area of environmental control. It appears that the number of people needed in conservation education will increase; however, the total number needed in sub-professional jobs is not known. The opinion seemed to be that there were some people already in these jobs who might be considered overtrained for the particular job. The training needs for people employed in these occupations were not completely determined. It appears that people trained in these areas need to know how to take samples and test these samples. At this time it did appear that these people were not being trained in agriculture; however, it may be necessary to do so in the future. There is a need to provide units on environment in our regular vocational agriculture curriculum. It is felt that there is not now a need to develop a special program to prepare students for jobs in these areas; it was indicated that we should give consideration to developing units for the ongoing instructional program as soon as possible. From the survey taken on the question of the bureau developing a special program, it was felt that this possibility should continue to be scrutinized and something could be done if the need arises.

Jerry Davis reported on the FFA. The final membership last year was 15,077; an increase of about 3 per cent. The FFA has been extremely active during the past year. Over 1200 took part in the State finals judging activity and over 700 attended the State Convention. One hundred fifty members and advisors will attend the National Convention in Kansas City. The last major activity of the year will be a goodwill tour by the State Officers. The State FFA foundation is about ready for operation. Final steps are being completed for the legal incorporation of the foundation as a non-profit organization.

Jim Becket reported on the agricultural occupations study. The study is in its third year. November 30 will be the target date for completing the study. Jim suggests that this study should be a topic of discussion at the spring meeting. Thirteen hundred employers in 10 counties have been surveyed. Twelve hundred of these were used in the report. About 700 were from the production area of agriculture and 500 were from related agricultural areas. The industries indicate a lack of training on the part of employees. Evidently there is a need to get the industry together with education to determine what preparation should be given. In addition, 4500 individuals were interviewed in 344 job categories. Information on the number of jobs existing has been slow to come in. There is indication that most of the jobs will increase in number for both farm and off-farm occupations.

The topic of ROP/ROC agricultural programs will be included on the agenda for the March meeting.

Ralph Nissen reported on the rice industry in California. There is a carry over which is in government hands. It creates a lot of problems in storage. There is a good crop this year and there may be storage problems as well as a price problem. The Cal Expo show budget for next year provides for a 4-H/FFA show but will not provide for the open division. It appears that the State funding for livestock shows in the future will be a questionable item. The industry should begin to speak-up if they want to save open livestock shows.

Bob Smith reported a poor economic picture in the San Joaquin Valley. There is a great deal of opportunity and responsibility for vocational agriculture in training workers. The size of operations in Kern County is increasing greatly. Many of the large operations are owned by people with no background in farming. Much money is being invested in these large operations even though the income opportunity at this time is not great. It is of more importance now that students develop good job attitude. This is a challenge for agriculture departments, and they should consider this aspect of job training. The wine grape industry now is attracting new large producers.

Richard Johnsen reported that there are two major issues on the minds of most legislators. These are the labor situation and the surplus or marketing situation. The marketing situation is serious. Part of this is because of the loss of market areas to the European economic community. People are investing heavily in large agricultural commodity areas. Some serious problems are developing because of surpluses. The farm labor situation is getting a lot of attention now and may be overshadowing the more serious problem of marketing. Some large operators are trying now to tie up or guarantee market outlets before the crop is planted. There will be a shift of growing certain commodities from one area to completely new areas.

Milton Kidd reported that the dairy industry has enjoyed a favorable situation this year. The market for dairy products is good, but the labor situation is problematical. Good dairy workers are hard to get. The State water program is continuing on the basis laid out many years ago. It is experiencing temporary difficulties but will be eventually completed.

Bud Harwood reported that a recession has been evident in the wood products commodities. The future looks good, however, because of the increase in building. There is a need to find a substitute for wood fiber products since timber products cannot supply the future needs. Large companies are moving into the timber industry, and these companies are not necessarily good for the industry. The large companies are cutting too heavy in some area. Management decisions appear to be sometimes made on the basis of the short-term outlook and influenced by the stock market, rather than on a sound long-range timber production basis. The forest service does require that reseedling take place, but maximum growth is not keeping up with cutting. The livestock industry is leaving the north coast area and large holdings are being broken up for sale. Recreation is taking over from the large land holding and livestock industries.

Don Lehman reported that there was some difficulty in getting rice to mature. The yield and production is high with an over 70 sack dry yield. There is still a large amount of tomatoes unharvested. Prunes produced very high this year; however, the size and quality is down. It looks like there will be no restrictions on sugar beets next year and there will be a good crop. The duck and pheasant year will also be good this year.

Fred Stewart reported that Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties' agriculture looks good. Tomato tonnage is down, but there was a high carry over last year. The price should be better next year. There is a good yield from sugar

beets this year with 40 tons per acre yielding 15 per cent. The orange industry faces some major problems in the future. Much new acreage is being planted. Orange acreage is on the market now for \$3,000 per acre and is not moving. The labor situation is pretty good. Agriculture must raise the price for labor or we will lose good people. We have to pay competing prices. Unionization may not be disastrous for agriculture. We should take a more progressive look at the labor situation. The biggest problem in agriculture is that farmers will not work together. A marketing order is needed in the tomato industry.

Robert Sapien reported that maintenance and continuing service in the ornamental horticultural and landscape industry was moving forward at a fantastic rate. The recreation aspect of these industries is moving forward at an even faster pace. Many more people are needed in these industries. The union labor situation is not too bad. However, there is no uniformity in union labor demands, and this is a bad aspect of unions. There will be a good demand for two-year junior college graduates in the landscape industry.

Bill DuBois reported that there was still a problem in the deterration of Colorado River water. The salt content of the water has caused a loss in production in many crops. Agriculture has not been able to add the cost of labor to their products. If they could do this, the unionization of agricultural labor would not be a bitter pill. The large processors have done this, and so the unionization of their labor has not been too much of a bother.

Don Wilson reported on Assembly Bill 122 (Ryan). This has, in effect, removed credentialing from the Department of Education and formed a credentials commission to handle all certification and credentialing. Members of the commission will be appointed soon.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17, in the Santa Barbara area. The time and exact location of the meeting will be arranged with Fred Stewart.

JTDavis/clh
10/21/70