

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Minutes

Ventura College
Ventura, California
March 17, 1971

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

Jerry T. Davis	Don Lehman
William DuBois	W. J. Maynard
Maurice Fleming	Ralph Nissen
Arthur Harwood	Warren D. Reed
Richard Johnsen	Robert Sapien
Leo Lamb	Robert Smith
Emile LaSalle	Fred Stewart
	Donald E. Wilson

Leo Lamb of Ventura College welcomed the group. New items were added to the agenda and Don Wilson reported on the status of vo-ag in California. There has been a 11.8% increase in vo-ag enrollment--the total is now approximately 32,000. Girl enrollment has increased by 37% while male students increase 7.4%. This year more federal money is available in Part B, but none of the other parts of the Vocational Education Act are funded. Other portions of the act may be funded by the state from Part B funds. \$20,500,000 will be allotted to school districts; letters are out now.

FFA membership is at an all time high of 16,200. California increased in membership more than any other state. The 43rd State Convention will be held in San Luis Obispo May 5-7. The program will vary somewhat from former years; the officers are prepared with a new format and expect an outstanding convention. The California delegation to the National Convention in October this year will also include a trip to Washington, D.C.

Ralph Matthews was unable to be present to give the report on community college programs. A new act, the Educational Personnel Development Act, makes available funds to carry on inservice training programs for teachers. Presently, a program is underway to assist teachers to acquire techniques to involve disadvantaged students with special needs in more FFA activities. Also, an EPDA program is underway to assist heads of multiman departments to become more effective administrators of multiman departments.

In the Ventura district, there are two community colleges each with agriculture programs. There is large enrollment in agriculture in both these schools. This is particularly so in animal science and ornamental horticulture.

Don Wilson reported on the status of the Agricultural Occupations Study which is being conducted at the University of California, Davis. A final draft will be completed in May. A report or copy of the draft will be made available to members of the Advisory Committee to discuss at the Fall meeting. Preliminary indications are that there are many jobs available in the related areas of

agriculture. Animal husbandry and forestry may be two areas in which job opportunities may be decreasing.

Bob Smith reported on agriculture in the southern end of the San Joaquin valley. The new farm program provides for a better outlook for the cotton industry. More money is available at a lower interest rate which will result in more optimism for agriculture. The water program has opened more and new areas for agriculture. The cost for development of new agricultural land is high. This high cost will help keep established production areas stable and active. More concern is given to marketing than ever before. Complete planning of new agricultural enterprises is absolutely essential. The grape outlook is good. New plantings are planned in large acreages. Many tree crops, particularly in nut varieties, are being planted in Kern County; and there is a great deal of eastern investment capital available for California agricultural enterprises. Water costs will dictate that some high return crop must be planted to pay costs and return a profit. On much of the new land being developed, water will cost about \$27 per acre foot.

Don Lehman reported that grapes may be planted in the northern Sacramento Valley. The recent drought is adversely affecting the grain and tomato crop. More moisture is needed. The best crop looks good, high in tonnage and sugar percentage. Tomato contracts are still a problem since the canneries are putting restrictions on delivery. There will be a considerable replanting of tomatoes due to cold weather. The tree nut crops look good despite the weather. There seems to be an apathy for running for school board posts. Not many are interested in running for the board positions; and in some areas, it is necessary to appoint members.

Burning of straw will probably continue with rice, but much barley and wheat straw is being boiled. There is an air pollution control board in the area, but control is still on a volunteer basis. Cooperation is good. There is no enforcement procedure at this time. The State Air Resources Board will probably put restrictions on burning in the near future and regulate all burning. Tests indicate that it is possible to burn without making too much smoke.

Fred Stewart reported that in a career day at Santa Paula, there was no individual who indicated an interest in production agriculture, but there was interest in the specialized agricultural areas. There was a substantial interest in all general vocational areas.

Ventura County population has increased dramatically, but this hasn't hurt agriculture yet. The land is expensive and taxes are excessive. However, it is still possible to make money in agriculture. Rent is 20% or a minimum of \$175 per acre, but water is only \$6 per acre. This year's crops look good. Sugar beets are increasing in acreage and returns are up. The citrus business, especially lemons, is good. The orange situation is very poor, however, from the long range prospect. Orange land has gone from \$7,000 an acre to \$2,500 per acre. The marginal grower is probably on the way out. Land in the Oxnard plains is going into high return crops such as celery. The sod business also is good. In Ventura

In Ventura County you cannot do agricultural burning without a permit. The land conservation act has had a large impact in the county. The value of assessed land in the act is 30 million. This will adversely affect school districts. The labor situation in the county is exceptionally good. Tomato pickers receive \$1.75 per hour. Tractor drivers receive \$2.50 per hour.

Bob Sapien reported that the labor situation as far as unions are concerned is poor. Many people are out of work but can't get into the union. Bob thinks that the union involved is damaging to private enterprise. In the OH industry, the ornamental tree growing is becoming very important with a fantastic market. The OH industry is growing tremendously.

Ralph Nissen reported that the rice industry has an experimental program going to discover how to get rid of rice hulls. Burning will not be the answer because of the ecological concern. Ralph thinks that more work needs to be done in high school vocational agriculture classes in the area of irrigation. There is a large demand for workers in this area, especially with irrigation districts. Cal Expo is in better shape this year as far as FFA and 4-H is concerned. The industrial arts program is out however. There will not be an open livestock show at Expo this year.

Dick Johnsen reported that agriculture was together on the labor problem now. Assembly Bill 964 (Carey) may give relief in labor situations. It provides for an election by workers to determine if they want to be represented and by whom. There is probably no hope for a federal law for two or three more years. The boycott situation is developing some interesting problems. The unions are now going to the headquarters in the case of the large brand names and are getting action more quickly than by local boycott.

Growers in some commodities are seeking acreage control. Canning cling peaches is one example.

Dick thinks that curriculum should contain more emphasis on marketing. Another important area that needs to be covered in curriculum is labor relations so that students at least know the problems.

Bud Harwood reported that the wood products industry was in a boom at the present time and the wood industry is in a good economic position. The "ecology kick" by the public is causing some problems in the wood products industry. This is because of a lack of understanding by the general public. In the industry there is no longer allowed any outside burning. Mendocino County is attempting to eliminate all outside burning. It is possible to burn and eliminate smoke. The public needs to be educated concerning the total picture of environment pollution; or in the long-run, agriculture will suffer greatly. Much of the issue is emotional and may not be supported by fact. Bud suggested that practical ecology be included in the curriculum.

Bill DuBois reported that there is a move to control lettuce acreage--this may come in the future. Dr. Robert Rex has conducted a study concerning the geo-thermal potential of the desert area. This may permit low-cost production of electricity by steam from dulled steam wells. The process may require many small

plants instead of a few large ones. The water from this operation must be developed and made available. The possibility of agricultural water through this source is tremendous. The possibilities of geo-thermal development can be of great assistance to the economy of the Imperial Valley. Vocational programs in the Imperial Valley will need to train people to operate the system if it develops.

ROC/ROP PROGRAMS

Don Wilson explained ROC/ROP programs. The law which originated the program makes it possible for districts to levy as much as 15 cents tax without vote. The idea is to expand vocational programs to serve more students. The program is loosely controlled and may be misused in some cases. A list of tentative guidelines for ROC/ROP programs was provided. These guidelines may go to the State Board of Education for adoption.

APPOINTMENTS TO CREDENTIALS COMMISSION

A list of the members of the commission was handed out. A brief on each of the members was attached.

ELECTION OF 1971-72 OFFICERS

Bill DuBois opened the nominations for officers of the committee. Richard Johnsen was nominated to the office of president, Bud Harwood was nominated to vice president, and Don Lehman was nominated to the office of secretary. The slate was elected unanimously.

Wednesday, October 6, 1971, was set as the time for the next meeting. The staff will determine where the meeting is to be held. Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.