

THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

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TEACHING AGRICULTURE IS A RUGGED PROFESSION

On a recent Saturday morning a teacher of agriculture greeted me at the office with the statement—"I should have been born twins—this job of teaching agriculture is just too much for one man." This teacher came in to visit about plans for coming to summer school. He is interested in planning a program of study toward a Master's degree in the Graduate School at the University of Minnesota. He said, "I must keep growing if I want to keep going." That is a reminder of the inscription over the entrance to the State Teachers College at Newark, New Jersey. "Who dares to teach must never cease to learn."

Through study and creative thinking good teachers grow professionally—the others merely age in service. Success in teaching does not depend entirely on how hard a teacher works but on the kind of philosophy that guides his thinking. That is no doubt true of all teachers but it is especially true of agriculture teachers. Farming is an ever-changing, dynamic occupation and the teachers of agriculture must be students all the time in order to keep informed on new developments. Even the most recent facts learned as students may be out of date before the ink dries on the diploma. The modern complex pattern of social and economic rural living has brought new demands and new responsibilities as well as new opportunities to the leadership in rural education. Even with the best of undergraduate preparation teachers of agriculture enter upon their work with a large amount of technical and professional preparation yet to be obtained while in the actual process of teaching. Not only does the teacher of agriculture need to know the facts and approved practices of today—he must also through constructive thinking and creative imagination pave the way and set the pace for future development.

Teachers of agriculture are not only classroom teachers but also community leaders. In fact they are really community teachers because in order to be effective their programs of activities must be integrated with and coordinated with all the programs carried on by other agencies in the community. In addition to the work with high school students the agriculture teacher provides guidance, counseling, and instruction for out-of-school rural youth. The importance of the program of leadership and education for the out-of-school rural youth is given emphasis in a recent report of a statewide committee on higher education in Minnesota. This report under the title—"Unfinished Business,"

states that "The farm youth of Minnesota appear to be a 'forgotten group' in the state's educational program all along the way." The agriculture teacher is the logical person to assume a commanding role in developing a suitable program for these "forgotten" young people. While talking about forgetting, it must not be forgotten that in order to make the agriculture teacher's program complete evening school classes are organized for farmers and other adults who are interested in keeping abreast with the rapid progress in all phases of farming and rural life activities.

Teachers who have a desire to keep up-to-date on problems in technical agriculture and to make progress in professional growth must become critical students of the new social and economic problems not only of the local environment in which they work but of the world as a whole. Much improvement can be gained through reading, short courses, and conferences. But helpful as these are it is often a good idea to get away from the immediate environment for needed change in contacts and time for uninterrupted study and planning. And one might almost add relaxation. The summer school at the University of Minnesota provides unusual opportunities for teachers to do special work in the area in which they feel a need for professional improvement. Practically every department in the University of Minnesota offers courses and study opportunities for teachers. For teachers of agriculture there are many courses in agriculture, economics, education, sociology, and related sciences that should be of interest to teachers. The following are the courses listed for the agricultural education department. Opportunities are available for independent study on special problems of interest to individual teachers.

DESCRIPTION OF SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES

Department of Agricultural Education

First Session

3 weeks, June 17-July 3

6 weeks, June 17-July 26

Agri.Ed.82. Methods in Teaching Agriculture. Fundamentals of method in teaching agriculture in high school. Organizing subject matter of daily work; selection and manipulation of devices. Classroom and laboratory method. Specific plans for teaching secondary school agriculture. (3 cred.;

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THE STAFF
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sr.; prereq. 81; II MTWThF; 301 Hr.) Mr. Field.

Agri.Ed.121. Enterprise Analysis. A course intended primarily for teachers of agriculture and others who have had training and experience in planning farming programs. Emphasis is given to the farm management approach as a method in the development of farming programs (1-3 cred.; VI MTWThF; 301 Hr.) Mr. Peterson.

Agri.Ed.221su. Field Problems. Provision for study and development of special problems in the field of the student's individual choice. (3 cred.; ar.; 205 Hr.) Mr. Field, Mr. Peterson.

Agri.Ed.232. Research in Agricultural Education. Introduction to investigations in problems of teaching agriculture in the high schools. Experience in selecting problems, preparation of bibliographies, analyzing and interpreting data, and preparing manuscripts. Designed especially for meeting the Plan B research requirements. (3 cred.; ar.; 205 Hr.) Mr. Field, Mr. Peterson.

Agri.Ed.237. Adult Education in Agriculture. The organization, objectives and techniques for conducting part-time and evening schools for farmers and out-of-school farm youth. (1-3 cred.; III MTWThF; 301 Hr.) Mr. Peterson.

Second Session

6 weeks, July 28-August 28

Agri.Ed.54. Rural Education and Community Leadership. The rural school as a community center, techniques of obtaining community data and organizing educational and recreational resources. Functions of clubs, fairs, festivals, farmer participation in experiments and other features of a community activities program. (2 cred.; ar.; 301 Hr.) Mr. Peterson.

Agri.Ed.91. Supervised Teaching Experience. Observation and participation in learning-teaching process. Preparation of lesson plans and actual teaching under supervision of selected teachers, organization and

execution of the activities necessary to successful teaching. (5 cred.; ar.) Mr. Peterson.

Agri.Ed.104. Planning Programs. Long-time and annual plans for departments of vocational agriculture. Schedule of activities, analyzing results. (2 cred.; ar.; prereq. 82; ar.; 301 Hr.) Mr. Field.

Agri.Ed.221. Field Problems. Provision for study and development of special problems in the field of the student's individual choice. (3 cred.; ar.; 205 Hr.) Mr. Field, Mr. Peterson.

Agri.Ed.232. Research in Agricultural Education. Introduction to investigations in problems of teaching agriculture in the high schools. Experience in selecting problems, preparation of bibliographies, analyzing and interpreting data, and preparing manuscripts. Designed especially for meeting the Plan B research requirements. (3 cred.; ar.; 205 Hr.) Mr. Field, Mr. Peterson.

Teachers of agriculture who wish to attend three weeks of the summer session may do so from June 17 to July 3. The *Summer Session Bulletin* outlining course offerings may be secured by writing the Director of Summer Session, Administration Building, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.

A. M. FIELD

THE 24TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL CONGRESS AND FFA CONVENTION

Around 500 Future Farmers of America from Minnesota high schools will gather at the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture Campus on June 16-17-18 to participate in the first full-dress High School Congress since prewar days. Eleven agriculture contests have been scheduled in addition to the FFA band, public speaking, and chapter procedure competitions. Since this is the occasion for the official annual meeting of the Minnesota Future Farmers, the delegates will gather in business sessions during the three days to make decisions affecting the next year's activities.

In spite of the added burdens due to the increased enrollment, members of the University Farm staff have cooperated whole-heartedly to make this the best and most complete FFA Congress to date. Some of the events have been revised in an effort to make the competition more educational and to bring the contests more directly in line with the farming activities of Minnesota agriculture. Since Minnesota is fortunate in having some of the best agricultural talent in the country, the Future Farmers can look forward with keen anticipation to the 24th annual meeting. Some idea of the variety of events can be obtained from the list given as follows:

| <i>Contest</i> | <i>Superintendent</i> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| General livestock | Mr. Al Harvey |
| Dairy cattle | Mr. I. A. Schipper |
| Dairy products | Mr. S. T. Coulter |
| Crops | Mr. Dunham, Mr. Schmid |
| Horticulture | Mr. Phillips |
| Poultry and poultry products | Mr. Sloan, Mr. Shoffner |
| Farm management | Mr. Nodland |
| Potato varieties and diseases | Mr. Krantz, Mr. Eide |
| Farm mechanics | Mr. Christopherson |
| Meat identification | Mr. Anderson |
| Entomology | Mr. Mickel |

Each superintendent will have a student assistant who, in most cases, will be a future teacher of agriculture. Milo Peterson a member of the agricultural education staff, is charged with the administrative details of organization and administration of the Congress under the direction of the University of Minnesota Short Course Office. Dr. J. O. Christianson, a well-known Minnesotan, is director of the Short Course Office.

One of the events which ranks as a perennial favorite with Future Farmers is the banquet which will be held in the Coffman Memorial Union. For this occasion an outstanding speaker has been secured and a program of entertainment has been arranged by Mr. Leo Knuti and Mr. Carl Albrecht of the State Department of Education. Recreational programs are also scheduled during the three-day Congress and these will be under the general supervision of Mr. Novotny of University Farm and Mr. Kortessmaki of the State Department of Education.

The opening assembly program which will be held Monday evening, June 16 at 7:00 p.m., is scheduled to get the Congress off to a good start. Dr. Mark Graubard, of the University of Chicago, will be the featured speaker at this event. Dr. Graubard has had a varied experience, the most exciting part being that of an observer at the Bikini atomic bomb tests. He will portray to the Future Farmers what atomic power means to them in terms of their present training and future development. This dynamic speaker is expected to be one of the highlights of the entire FFA convention.

Mr. Harold Sorkness will direct the Future Farmers Band this year. The band will provide a concert on the morning of the final day of the Congress. The band is one of the events which draws an enthusiastic response from the FFA members; this year will be especially appropriate since the national FFA band will be developed after a wartime lapse. Dr. Brunner of Pennsylvania State College is in charge of the band on the national level.

On Wednesday morning, June 18 at 10:45 a.m., the final assembly will be held at which time the awards will be presented to winners in the judging contests. Governor Luther Youngdahl will be the speaker at this pro-

gram. Governor Youngdahl's interest in education, and more particularly in education of farm boys, marks this event as outstanding.

Since this is the first postwar High School Congress in which the contests and judging events are to be revived on a full scale a review of the general rules is in order. Each participant must have been enrolled as a high school student of agriculture during the school year just ending. Any student is eligible to participate in any contest this year, but for future events members of winning teams will be ineligible for competition in the contest they won the preceding year.

All entries will be made up of three team members and one alternate, and each of the seven districts in Minnesota will be represented on a quota basis of one team for each five schools. District eliminations and allocations will determine the representatives to the state meet.

Awards for 1946-47 contests will be made as follows:

1. The high team in each contest will receive a plaque.
2. The four high individuals in each contest will be awarded medals.

This will amount to eleven plaques and forty-four medals to be awarded at the final assembly.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL JUDGING CONTESTS

All national judging contests for Future Farmers were discontinued during the war, but in answer to the demand from the states, they are being revived again this year. It is planned to make certain changes in the contests in order to make the activities more educational in nature. A special committee appointed by the Federal Office of Education has been at work on this problem.

General Rules and Regulations for All Contests

All certifications of entry for Dairy Cattle, Dairy Products, and Poultry Judging Contests must be sent to Dr. W. T. Spanton, U. S. Office of Education, so as to arrive not later than September 15, 1947.

All certifications of entry for the Livestock Judging and Meat Identification Contests must be received by W. T. Spanton, U. S. Office of Education, not later than October 1, 1947.

Every state entering any team must certify one person to serve as an assistant in the contest. These persons must be teacher-trainers, supervisors, or teachers.

The ranking of the teams will be indicated by the award of gold, silver, and bronze plaques and honorable mention certificates.

Individual animals in all classes will be numbered. Oral reasons will not be given for any of the classes.

Eligibility of Contestants

1. Participation in each contest will be limited to one team of three boys from each state.

2. Teams or individuals will not be permitted to compete in both the FFA and 4-H Club contests.

3. Boys who meet the following requirements are eligible for the FFA events.

- a. Any boy who is under 21 years of age at the time of the national contest, who has never participated in any national or international judging contests previously, who has not had more than four years training in any approved vocational agriculture course of less than college grade, and who is at the time the team is selected by the state, a bona-fide FFA member enrolled in an all-day class in vocational agriculture and carrying at least three units of regular school work may enter any judging contest to represent his state. If, by chance, one or more members of the team should be enrolled in an agricultural college at the time of the national contests he or they will not be declared ineligible.

Time and Place of Contests

The dairy cattle, dairy products, and poultry judging contests will be held at Waterloo, Iowa from September 30 to October 5, 1947. The livestock and meats contests are scheduled for Kansas City, Missouri from October 18 to 22, 1947.

FFA Chapter Procedure Contest

When Minnesota Future Farmers of America assemble at University Farm in June for the first postwar full-fledged High School Congress and FFA Convention, one event that will be watched with interest is the Chapter Procedure contest. This activity is conducted as a companion piece to the Public Speaking contest and each fills an important place in the training of the future citizens of Minnesota. Teams representing each of the seven FFA districts in the state will compete for honors in Green Hall auditorium at University Farm during the afternoon of June 17. This contest recognizes the need for ability to conduct meetings in an orderly and efficient manner in a democracy where every person has the right and the responsibility to make his ideas known.

Chairman of the contest will be Mr. Loren Stover, Vice President of the Future Farmers of District 2. Mr. Stover is from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and is an active FFA member. Assisting Mr. Stover will be Vice Chairman Allen Hauge of Jackson, Minnesota. Mr. Allen Hauge is Vice President of the District 4 Future Farmers of America.

As judges of the Chapter Procedure contest the committee in charge have secured the services of three very capable and experi-

enced men. They are Mr. Harry Peterson, Secretary of the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives; Mr. Gary Wiegand, Farm Service Director of Radio Station KSTP; and Mr. Gerald McKay, Visual Aids Specialist at University Farm. All three of these judges are former teachers of agriculture.

FFA Public Speaking Contest

The 1947 Public Speaking contest of the Minnesota Future Farmers of America is expected to be one of the outstanding events of the State Convention. Interest in public speaking has been increasing as the value of this activity has become more evident. More and more Future Farmers are realizing that if they are to promote the cause of better farming and a higher level of farm living they must be able to present their case in an effective manner. Participation in the public speaking contest is one of the best methods of preparing for future citizenship whether or not the participant achieves first place in a contest.

Mr. Marvin Christianson, Vice President of District 1, Future Farmers of America, will be Chairman of the public speaking event this year. Mr. Christianson is from Halstad, Minnesota. Acting as Vice Chairman will be Mr. David Jepson of Renville, Minnesota, who is Vice President of the Future Farmers of District 3.

A panel of three judges will make the decisions and placings in the Public Speaking contest. These three men have been selected on the basis of their experience and ability and each contestant can be assured he will receive expert and impartial consideration. The judges are Mr. Leland J. Melrose, Publicity Director of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation; Mr. Lawrence "Larry" Haeg, Farm Service Director, Radio Station WCCO; and Professor Ralph G. Nichols, Chief of the Rhetoric Division, College of Agriculture, University Farm. Each of the judges has had extensive experience in dealing with agricultural problems as well as in public speaking.

Agricultural Education Club Program

On Wednesday morning, June 18, the Future Farmers assembled at University Farm for the State Convention will attend a program presented in Green Hall auditorium by the Agricultural Education Club of the University of Minnesota. This club is composed of men who are training to become teachers of agriculture and are, therefore, much interested in the 1947 High School Congress. Mr. Layton Hoysler, president of the club, announces that a program of music and short discussions have been planned. Among the topics that will be discussed are "Why I Came to the College of Agriculture," "Student Activities at the University of Minnesota," "Student Government at University Farm," and "When You Come to College."

MILO J. PETERSON