

ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Organizational Meeting Minutes - December 13, 1984  
Illinois Department of Agriculture Building  
Springfield, Illinois

Dr. Paul Hemp, University of Illinois, serving as meeting moderator, called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with opening remarks and introduction of first three speakers. Those 79 present at meeting are listed in Appendix A.

William B. Schreck, Head Consultant, Vocational Agriculture, Department Adult, Vocational and Technical Education, Illinois State Board of Education, welcomed those in attendance and challenged them to become involved, find out what's going on, fit into program wherever able and help build a strong vocational agriculture program for the future.

James Gulinger, Vice President, Agricultural Education Division, American Vocational Association, and Vice Chairman, National Council for Vocational and Technical Education in Agriculture, reviewed the organization of the National Council and stated its objectives were (1) Serve as an advocate for local, state and national levels in agricultural education; (2) To involve industry in evaluating and developing quality instructional programs and processes; (3) To provide a forum to which the profession of agriculture education can address current issues and develop solutions to problems of common concern; (4) Provide and maintain a structure to search out supporting resources; (5) To identify and coordinate manpower necessary to carry out high quality programs in the field of agriculture education. Council identified four basic things it felt were critical to the nation (1) "Nation at Risk" report and its affect on vocational agriculture students opportunity to be involved in local programs; (2) Whether requirements for added English, mathematics, and science courses could have adverse affect on opportunity for young people to enroll in vocational agriculture; (3) Data collection on where do secondary and post-secondary graduates go in the field of agribusiness; (4) New technologies and new kinds of things coming into the profession and how those can be incorporated into the curriculum to better bring agriculture programs to a higher level than present.

Eldon Witt, Executive Director, Illinois Association Vocational Agriculture Teachers and Executive Secretary, Illinois Association FFA, explained past Joint Staff planning for organizing council and reasons agricultural organizations, businesses, and individuals were invited to this organizational meeting. He listed goals as (1) To gather together those individuals and organizations that are advocates of agriculture education, looking for support; (2) To involve agricultural businesses, organizations and individuals in agriculture education; (3) To provide a forum to identify agricultural education issues across state; (4) To think about future plans and ideas of what agriculture will be like in years to come; (5) To fill need for resource structure to provide proof and evidence that recommendations are the way to go. Looking at Council with unlimited size with a smaller group of working members on Board of Directors with Council meeting twice a year and Board meeting quarterly. Overall objective is interest in the student, to develop that student interested in agriculture education, interested in agriculture as a career, and give that student the best training possible. We believe there is an opportunity in agriculture for all students, all interest, and agriculture is so broad any student who expresses a desire to enroll in vocational agriculture, that opportunity should be provided.

Moderator Hemp explained, to clarify for all, reference to Joint Staff, as group that has met monthly for years to plan, recommend and discuss vocational agriculture programs in Illinois. Joint Staff is composed of teacher educators from Illinois, Illinois State, Southern and Western universities where agriculture teachers are trained, Vocational Agriculture Service, agriculture consultants State Board of Education, IAVAT/FFA office, and representatives IAVAT, IACCAI, IACCA and FFA.

Panel discussion to identify issues and concerns by those providing agriculture education and those on the receiving end of these education programs. Panel members and appendix listing issues and concerns of each were: Frank Dry, President IAVAT (Appendix B); Ted Mottaz, Immediate Past President, IACCAI (Appendix C); Joe Aggertt,

Past President, Illinois Young Farmers Association (Appendix D); Dr. Earl Russell, Head Agriculture Education, University of Illinois (Appendix E); Jeffrey Gregory, President, Illinois Association FFA (Appendix F).

Members of the reaction panel and their reactions to the issues and concerns of the previous panel and additional concerns and comments were as follows:

Larry Werries, Illinois Director of Agriculture. Might ask what is the role of Illinois Department of Agriculture in whole scheme? Some things the department has been involved with are: working with Agriculture Basics in Education in working with students at 5th and 6th grade level; Illinois Agricultural Youth Institute inviting 100 high school juniors for week of study during the summer; involved in initial funding of Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation; initiated for four major universities, grants for scholarship programs for agriculture students; worked with Soil and Water Conservation Districts providing train the trainer education sessions and with extension service to provide educational materials and promotional events in this area; The department is in a coordinating or intermediary role providing an in kind service toward the establishment of the Council and the department wants to be an integral part of the Council should it be established.

John Beatty, Board of Directors, Illinois Farm Bureau. Need to point out to high school agriculture students the many opportunities in the service areas of agriculture in addition to the production area which has been highlighted for years. Thought financing might be brought out more. Have faith in this kind of group being pulled together and sees a future for this kind of an organization.

Louis Hathaway, Training Service Department, Deere and Company. Sees attitude displayed here as kind needed to accomplish an attitude adjustment of those involved and affected in all areas of agricultural education. Need industry involved more actively to accomplish goals. Need to make agriculture # 1 in eyes of all but in perception of world. Second statement that study is needed to know where agriculture graduates are going and happy progress is being made toward that end. Support of legislators and dollars is needed and we need to convince them of this plight. Mandated curriculums have caused strain on vocational programs but caution that we do still need some basic learni skills mandated to go along with vocational education. Everyone needs to be a public relations person and make up the public relations department for vocational agriculture education. Agree that we should never stop learning and adult education is needed to keep workers technically updated. Need to convince legislators that we need to upgrade salary levels to keep and recognize good teachers. Agree that without FFA organization American agriculture would be somewhere back in the 1940's. Hopes Council does form because it is sorely needed and it has the right attitude and that it can impart this attitude to others, if it has help and commitment of people here.

Marvin Damron, Principal, Kewanee High School. Vocational agriculture teacher makes or breaks the whole thing that is being talked about in this meeting. He or she makes it right in the classroom and what happens there. The technical things in ag classroom may not be the most important things, but things about life and the example set by the teacher may be more important for the student. Have some friends among principals and superintendents, but there are a lot that do not know what is going on in agriculture program. Individuals in agriculture departments need to work with them so they know what is going on and the positive things that are and can be done for the school and community by the agriculture program. These personal things are extremely important and they were kind of left out in the previous panel discussion. A good agriculture teacher is going to maintain his job in regionalization, if he has a good classroom and good community involvement. Collective bargaining will be a problem for vocational agriculture teachers in keeping extended contracts. Secondary teachers need to stand up and be heard and counted on what they see as needed in a regional delivery system and take leadership rather than leave it to others.

Steve Pigg, President, Illinois FFA Alumni. The Alumni is mainly a support group for vocational agriculture and FFA. With changing image of vocational agriculture from a production agriculture to a agribusiness curriculum, alumni have been involved in helping teachers stay current in technical changes and supporting and assisting teacher at anytime in instruction. Alumni have been busy with in-put in legislation concerning vocational agriculture education, especially at national level. With the concern of declining enrollment, with the involvement of administration and school board, local

program has begun a junior high agriculture program.

Dameron: Helping kids has to be main direction of vocational agriculture program. Some talk about their agriculture program as dumping grounds. If principal, superintendent or counselor ask you to take a student in your class, its because agriculture has the means to work with any level of ability, and teacher needs to be open to take student and work with him or her regardless of ability. Agriculture program needs to be able to accept students at any time of the year to take students who have failed elsewhere and make them successful. Agriculture teacher needs to have another teacher who is a recruiter in the seventh and eighth grades, as a practical way to recruit.

Hathaway: Agriculture programs not a dumping ground, but an opportunity to provide a student basic learning skills. It is disturbing to see numbers game where we see how many can be put in a class. The numbers game is a bunch of bunk when accepted to get funding, but extends program to where it cannot provide basic learning skills needed for a career. Industry is interested in providing support but need to be nudged by your promotion to become actively involved in your organization and programs.

Beatty: Need to prepare students for employment; not all are going to get a college education, not all will be leaders in organizations or place of work, but service areas are valuable to the whole agriculture economy and are overlooked many times in preparing vocational programs.

Gordon Ropp, State Representative, Normal, member State Advisory Council for Vocational Education gave remarks. Federal law is changing make up of Advisory Council and there will be only 13 people on new Council; will not necessarily be advisory anymore for it is going to have some authority and very close ties with State Board of Education. A representative from agriculture is one of the thirteen positions. The legislature just passed \$75,000,000 to go from amnesty program to schools through the school aid formula for all education in Illinois. May have cart before the horse; need to start young people becoming involved wanting to find a vocation, some kind of a marketable skill, that they have, and then feed on that in order to attain that skill, follows reading, writing, math and the other kinds of skills. No one particularly likes mandates, but is it not important that the student be prepared in some way to extend his mental capacity, his physical capacity, in some kind of a vocational program, as he pursues his opportunities in life when he graduates from a skill educational program. This may even mean mandates in certain areas, such as students that are going to be truant should receive some kind of vocational skill training. In present prison system there are three alternatives, (1) go on and get General Education Dipolma; (2) take a vocational skill, or (3) do nothing. Propose the do nothing choice be eliminated.

Concerns, issues, questions and remarks from audience:

Concern of tax structure for education in Illinois and impact it is going to have on vocational agriculture programs.

To be effective, Council (1) has got to try to influence people with information and (2) should be broad based, representative of Illinois agricultural programs with educational professionals ex-official to make sure it is perceived as a grass roots group.

How do we change the image of agriculture on a mass basis; can be done on one to one basis okay.

Each person has to do his part in explaining the image of agriculture.

Image of agriculture not what we want, but look at it now compared to what it was a few years ago.

Must be careful not to give people asking question idea we are not concerned.

All need to be public relations people with a plan (real goals, published presentations, whatever needed) rather than just good samaritans.

Do we need to look at structure at high school? Could competency test be used or skills required to advance or graduate? Is the four year stigma of getting through high school a holdup?

More increased requirements for students has increased number of kids dropping out of school.

Could summer be used more constructively for educational purposes?

Problems with mathematics skills; where does it develop; where should basics be developed so these skills can be increased at the high school level.

Need an improved educational philosophy in parents; need to develop idea education is fun.

Agriculture teachers need to support mathematics, English, etc. in their programs and need to support and work on improving them in their classroom instruction.

Len Harzman called attention to Vocational Agriculture Fact Sheet in packets that was compiled by Paul Hemp. (Appendix G) Harzman reviewed proposed constitution and by-laws for Leadership Council. (Appendix H)

Paul Hemp reviewed plans to appoint Board of Directors for Council and asked that letter of commitment to organization of Council in packets be completed by those in attendance indicating one of four choices toward commitment to Council. (Appendix I)

Closing remarks by Eldon Witt: Teacher is the key to success of vocational agriculture programs. Student is important, can we afford 25% not graduating. Carl Perkins Bill reflects legislators feelings at federal level questioning funding to maintain programs but preference toward funding for implementing. Agriculture educators and others must be on positive side and adjust programs. Three things agriculture population has done and will continue to do (1) defend country, (2) feed our population and the world, and (3) must educate our youth.

Possible future meeting dates given were: Leadership Council Board of Directors meetings - January 31, March 7 and full Leadership Council meeting April 4 or 11.

Hemp adjourned meeting at 1:02 p.m.

John H. Feddersen  
Secretary Pro-tem

ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
Organizational Meeting Attendance - December 13, 1984

William B. Schreck, Head Agriculture Consultant, Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield

Thomas Wiles, Agriculture Consultant, Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield

Ronald Reische, Agriculture Consultant, Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield

Larry Werries, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Springfield

Larry Aldag, Marketing, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Springfield

Randy A. Grove, Division of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Springfield

William R. Oschwald, Director, University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, Urbana

John Campen, Manager, Illinois Corn Growers Association, Bloomington

Lloyd Burling, President, Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, St. Anne

Noreen Frye, Director of Product Marketing, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Springfield

John A. Beatty, Board of Directors, Illinois Farm Bureau, Bloomington

Glen Phillips, Director Young People's Activities, Illinois Farm Bureau, Bloomington

Dr. Len Harzman, Executive Secretary, Illinois Young Farmers Association, Western Illinois University, Macomb

Joe Aggerdt, Illinois Young Farmers Association, San Jose

Jim Shearl, Manager, Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Urbana

Harold Reitz, Potash and Phosphate Institute

Tom Moore, Executive Vice President, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield

Dale Ruckman, Farm Credit Banks of St. Louis, St. Louis

Tom Melton, Vice President of Marketing, DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics, DeKalb

John Croft, Member Relations Associate, GROWMARK, Inc., Bloomington

Bob Hopping, Director, Education and Development Division, GROWMARK, Inc., Bloomington

Jim Williams, Associate Director Public Relations, Country Companies, Bloomington

Mike Adams, Farm Director, WLDS Radio, Jacksonville

Michael L. Perrine, Farm Director, WJIL Radio, Jacksonville

Dorothy K. Matthews, Reporter, Illinois Agri-News, Jacksonville

J. Gordon Bidner, Funk Seeds International, Bloomington

Louis Hathaway, Training Service Department, Deere and Company, Moline

Rodell Beatty, Illinois Farmers Union, Springfield

Joyce Matthews, Vice President, Illinois Women for Agriculture, Nokomis

Jean Ibendahl, Agricultural Basics in Education

Calvin Ibendahl, Agricultural Basics in Education

Jim Fay, Agricultural Basics in Education

Dr. H. Edward Breece, Chairman, Department of Agriculture, Western Illinois University, Macomb

Dr. Earl Russell, Chairman, Division of Agricultural Education, University of Illinois, Champaign

Dr. Edward W. Osborne, Assistant Professor, Division of Agricultural Education, University of Illinois, Champaign

Dr. Paul E. Hemp, Professor Emeritus, Division of Agricultural Education, University of Illinois, Champaign.

Jerry D. Pepple, Visiting Assistant Professor, Division of Agricultural Education, University of Illinois, Champaign

Charles Olson, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana

Lynette Marshall, Resource Development, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana

Dr. Reginald Henry, Chairman, Department of Agriculture, Illinois State University, Normal

Dr. Thomas R. Stitt, Professor, Agricultural Education and Mechanization, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Dale Law, Specialist Animal Science, Vocational Agriculture Service, University of Illinois, Urbana

William P. Hunter, Specialist Agricultural Economics, Vocational Agriculture Service, University of Illinois, Urbana

Pamela A. Wolfe, Metro Agriculture Horticulture Teachers Association, Villa Park

Ellen Summerfield, Principal, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Chicago

Gordon Ropp, State Representative 88th District, Normal

Marvin Damron, Principal, Kewanee High School, Kewanee

Jim Guilinger, Vice President, Agricultural Education Division, American Vocational Association, Sycamore

Eldon E. Witt, Executive Director, Illinois Association Vocational Agriculture Teachers and Executive Secretary, Illinois Association Future Farmers of America, Roanoke

John H. Feddersen, Associate Executive Director, Illinois Association Vocational Agriculture Teachers and Associate Executive Secretary, Illinois Association Future Farmers of America, Roanoke.

Frank M. Dry, President, Illinois Association Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Marengo

Donald R. Prather, Vice President, IAVAT, Clinton

Dan Faber, District II Director, IAVAT, Stanford

Steven E. Myers, District III Director, IAVAT, Lewistown

Eldon R. Aupperle, Section 3 Chairman, IAVAT, and Executive Director, Illinois Community College Agriculturalists, Kewanee

Russ Leman, Section 5 Chairman, IAVAT, Roanoke

Allen Dietz, Section 6 Chairman, IAVAT, Sycamore

Matt Wilson, Section 7 Chairman, IAVAT, Somonauk

Charles E. Cyr, Section 8 Chairman, IAVAT, Peotone

Richard Ronna, Section 12 Chairman, IAVAT, Pekin

James Craft, Section 15 Chairman, IAVAT, Bluffs

Jo Ellen Seaman, Section 16 Chairman, IAVAT, Arthur

Richard Schertz, Section 19 Chairman, IAVAT, Moweaqua

Brad Lacey, Section 20 Chairman, IAVAT, Kansas

Jeffrey Gregory, President, Illinois Association FFA, Moweaqua

Jeff Maierhofer, Vice President, Illinois Association FFA, Marseilles

Tammy Bailey, Secretary-Treasurer, Illinois Association FFA, Louisville