

# AREA COORDINATORS REPORT

FRED SORENSEN, Chairman - Thief River Falls, Minnesota

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Charles Painter, Leo Keskinen, Gordon Ferguson, William Guelker, Mike Cullen, Ed O'Connell and Ralph Smith.

CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORY MEMBERS: G. R. Cochran, Dr. Milo J. Peterson, Dr. P. Paul Marvin, and Stanley W. Nelson.

Meetings were held in September, October, December, January, March and May. Area Vo-Ag Coordinators conference meetings called by Mr. Cochran were considered as committee meetings since the entire committee was involved.

The objectives of the committee were to study, coordinate and help develop the vo-ag program in Minnesota. The Vocational Agriculture program has as its main objective the training of present and prospective farmers for proficiency in farming.

The following activities (listed by area of work) were carried out by the group or are presently under consideration:

### A. Farm Management

1. The Mr. Farmer brochure was completely revised and with the sponsorship of the MVAIA and the Area Vocational-Technical Schools was made available to interested persons. The brochure was designed to stimulate interest and participation in the Vo-Ag Farm Management program.
2. Committee members have spent a considerable amount of time studying the feasibility of electronic farm record analysis. One of the systems studied appears to have considerable promise.
3. Committee members, in cooperation with University personnel, are also in the process of evaluating various phases of the record and analysis program to determine where changes are needed. This is an attempt to avoid unnecessary work and to provide the vo-ag instructors and their cooperating farmers with more useful information.
4. Farm Management workshops were conducted at seven locations throughout the state.

### B. Farm Mechanics

In service training sessions and workshops for vo-ag men in the area of farm mechanics were conducted in all areas of the State. These were conducted with the help of the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Implement Dealers Association and the Area Vocational-Technical School staffs.

### C. Young Farmer Committee Work

Committee members have assisted in setting up Young Farmer Committees around the State. Jack Sorenson of

the Farmers Home Administration staff has been cooperating on this project. A number of young families have received assistance from young farmer committee in getting started in farming. There appears to be a real need for this kind of help by young couples desiring to farm.

### D. Teaching Materials

1. Three of the area centers have made farm accounting problems available for high school use.
2. Work sheets and supplemental analysis data have also been developed to aid in the teaching of farm management. These have been made available to vo-ag departments throughout the year.

### E. Other Activities

1. Several coordinators write monthly newsletters to ag-man in their area. These carry timely tips on farm management and help keep teachers informed on topics of current interest.
2. One of the area schools is starting a class in farm management under the Manpower Training Act. The purpose of the course is to up-grade the managerial level of the farmers involved and thereby increase their earnings to the point where they will be considered fully employed.
3. Consideration of the CED report on vocational education and Agricultural Education in particular was another matter of concern to the committee. We commend G. R. Cochran for his rebuttal to this report and the work he has done to present all of the considerations rather than half truths.

### F. Studies For 1963-64

A number of special studies are being considered for the coming year. They are:

1. Developing methods for enterprise analysis.
2. Developing, testing and refining lesson plans that can be used by single teacher departments.
3. The relationship between classroom and individual instruction.
4. The relationship between size of business and earnings.
5. A comprehensive study of farm reorganizations that have taken place as a result of farm management instruction.

The committee wishes to thank Bill Guelker for the work he has done as secretary of the committee.