

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
ST. PAUL CAMPUS, ST. PAUL 1

August 26, 1954

Mr. Erling O. Johnson  
Superintendent  
Mankato School  
Mankato, Minnesota

Dear Superintendent Johnson:

I wish to thank you very kindly for your efforts in scheduling the meeting yesterday at the Burton Hotel. We felt that it was a most worthwhile and productive session. We hope that it gave you and Mr. Kalin some concrete ideas as to how your area vocational school can function in the field of Adult Education in Agriculture.

Within the next few days I plan to visit with you to complete arrangements for the conference of educational leaders in Mankato, Minnesota on September 15.

Please feel free to call on me at any time for help in getting the cooperative farm management service started in your school.

With best regards.

Very truly yours,

  
Lauren Granger,  
Coordinator  
Cooperative Farm Management Service

LBG/meh

## REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

### AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

BURTON HOTEL, MANKATO, MINNESOTA  
12:15 P.M. Wednesday, August 25, 1954

The theme of the conference dealt with the expansion and promotion of vocational agricultural education through the Minnesota area vocational schools, emphasizing farm management and adult education programs.

In attendance at the meeting were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School and Position</u>
G. R. Cochran	St. Paul, State Supervisor of Agriculture Education
Lauren Granger	St. Paul, Coordinator Farm Management
✓ Erling O. Johnson	Mankato, Superintendent of Schools
F. G. Kalin	Mankato, Director of Vocational Education
Floyd Lueben	Austin, Director of Vocational Education
R. Paul Marvin	Faribault, Vocational Ag Instructor
Robert C. Miller	St. Cloud, Director of Vocational Education
Stan Nelson	Thief River Falls, Adult Ag Instructor
Edward O'Connell	St. Cloud, Vocational Ag Instructor
Charles M. Painter	Austin, Vocational Ag Instructor
Harry Peirce	Winona, Vocational Ag Instructor
Milo J. Peterson	U. Farm, Head Dept. of Ag Education
C. W. Pope	Thief River Falls, Director of Voc. Education
Harold G. Sandhoff	Mankato, Vocational Ag Instructor
S. K. Wick	St. Paul, Asst. State Director of Voc. Ed.

The meeting was opened by chairman, Mr. S. K. Wick, who explained and developed the philosophy of the area school program in relation to agricultural education. He stressed particularly the point that area schools would and should try to aid smaller districts in promoting and developing their programs, especially in those areas in which the smaller districts would encounter difficulties due to lack of equipment and facilities. Mr. Wick pointed out that in recent years the area vocational schools have endeavored to meet this objective by sponsoring and conducting farm shop clinics in cooperation with the automotive departments throughout the state of Minnesota, and he further pointed out that farm management appeared to be another area in which the vocational schools could contribute to agricultural education.

Dr. Milo Peterson next explained the origin and development of the Minnesota farm management program. He stated that the program originated in 1948 and has developed and grown steadily since that time. He further emphasized that in his opinion the best way to teach adult farmers was through farm management. He further emphasized that he thought the area schools could do a real service to ag education by adopting and developing the farm management program that is now being operated through the University of Minnesota. He felt that there was a need for this program because the number of farmers that were taking advantage of the service was growing constantly, and that unless the public schools recognized the need and did something constructive about meeting the need, then the possibility was good that other agencies, such as the University farm schools or the extension service would take over the program which he felt rightfully belonged to the public schools.

Mr. Granger explained that there are now about 200 farmers throughout the state of Minnesota who are enrolled in the farm management program and that the University facilities were now taxed to capacity and would not be able to take care of the additional enrollment that is anticipated will develop as this program becomes more firmly established in the state.

Mr. Cochran explained how he thought the program might be financed, stating that adult education programs were reimbursed 75% through state and federal aids and the remaining 25% was taken care of locally. He mentioned that there might be some technicalities involved in the farm management program if it rendered a service directly to instructors and not to the farmers. He also mentioned that the itinerant instructor law now in effect for certain areas of vocational training may be a means of financing this program. He pointed out, however, that the law would have to be amended so that its coverage would be extended to include agriculture.

Superintendent Johnson felt that it was important that local agricultural teachers in the areas of vocational schools approve of the program and request the program before it is implemented. He also mentioned that the conditions of financing the program should be clarified and further developed.

Mr. Painter explained the Austin farm management program. He stated that the Austin Area Vocational School was developing a farm management program to service the Austin community along with schools in the Austin Area Vocational School territory. He explained that preliminary meetings have been held to develop this program and that an operating procedure had been developed which has received favorable reaction. This procedure was passed out to all members attending the conference.

Mr. Kalin stated that the Mankato Area Vocational School was interested in expanding its educational program in all areas of service, mentioning particularly that the area program was now strong in the field of trades and industries and that more attention should be given to the other services such as agriculture, homemaking and distributive education, recognizing of course the differences and needs of local communities and areas. He further stated that the Mankato Vocational School would do all in its power to implement the farm management program as soon as it was clear that the agricultural instructors, the farmers affected by the program, and the community understood and expressed a want for the program.

The rest of the members contributed many fine comments and questions towards developing the discussion objective throughout the afternoon. Mr. Granger and Mr. Painter, in behalf of the adult agricultural education committee, suggested that another meeting be held in Mankato to discuss this same topic on Wednesday, September 15. This meeting would include primarily the southern half of the state and would have in attendance besides educational personnel, representative farmers, bankers, legislators, and others interested and affected by the program.

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:30 P.M.

F. G. Kalin  
Recorder

Report of meeting between Area Vocational School and Agricultural  
Education Personnel, St. Paul, Minnesota April 28, 1955

I. Purpose of meeting - to discuss the present and possible future functions of the Area Vocational Schools in the Cooperative Farm Management Program in Minnesota.

II. Participants:

Mr. S. E. Wick, Assistant Director Vocational Education, State Dept. of Education.  
Mr. G. R. Cochran, Supervisor, Vo-Ag. Education, State Dept. of Education.  
Dr. Milo J. Peterson, Head, Agricultural Education, University Farm.  
Mr. Frank Kalin, Director, Mankato Area Vocational School.  
Mr. Floyd Lueben, Director, Austin Area Vocational School.  
Mr. Stan Nelson, Vo-Ag. Instructor, Thief River Falls Area Vocational School.  
Mr. Charles Painter, Vo-Ag. Instructor, Austin Area Vocational School.  
Mr. Del Hodgkins, Vo-Ag. Instructor, Mankato Area Vocational School.  
Mr. Lauren Granger, Coordinator, Cooperative Farm Management Service.

III. Proceedings:

1. Mr. Wick and Mr. Stan Nelson reported on the developments at the Thief River Falls Area School. The following items were noted:

- a. The Thief River Falls Area School will analyze the farm records for all schools in Northwest Minnesota starting with the business year 1955.
- b. All schools will be charged \$22.00 per enrollee regardless of number of farmers enrolled.
- c. The analysis will be done on work sheets identical to those used by Dr. Truman Nodland at University Farm.
- d. Mr. Nelson plans to publish the area farm management data before the farmers start their spring cropping work.
- e. All data collected by Mr. Nelson will be made available to the Agricultural Economics Department, University Farm, St. Paul.
- f. Mr. Nelson has spent considerable time this winter explaining the farm management program to school officials, civic groups, adult farmer classes and vocational agriculture teachers in Northwestern Minnesota. Approximately 100 farmers have enrolled in the program for 1955 in Northwestern Minnesota.
- g. Mr. Nelson explained how his own local farm management class of 33 farmers was helped approximately \$10.00 per farmer by the local banks, PCA, Farm Cooperatives and Chamber of Commerce.

2. There were discussions about Agricultural Economics and the regional analysis center at Morris, Minnesota. The following items were covered:

- a. Agricultural Economics desires at least 125 farm records at Morris for 1955.
- b. Morris has approximately 45-50 records for 1954.
- c. It was mentioned that Agricultural Economics was not satisfied with the present small number of enrollments in Southern Minnesota. Dr. Pond has indicated that his department may concentrate their total effort in the Morris area for 1955.

- d. It was suggested that Mr. Granger contact the Morris Station and get their approval to have men from the area vocational schools visit at Morris soon to observe a regional farm records analysis center in action.
3. Mr. Kalin and Mr. Lueben expressed a desire to discuss the possibilities of their area schools serving as farm records analysis centers for the Cooperative Farm Management Service in 1955 and in future years. The following points were discussed:
  - a. Would vocational agriculture teachers in their section of Minnesota desire such a service from the Mankato and Austin Schools? Mr. Hodgkins and Mr. Painter agreed that the vocational agriculture teachers would like such services.
  - b. When should Mankato and Austin plan to start this records analysis work? It was agreed that the business year of 1955 would be the most satisfactory starting time - especially if the Agricultural Economics Department at University Farm would transfer the 1955 enrollment fees from Southern Minnesota to the schools at Austin and Mankato.
  - c. What enrollment fee should be charged to farmers from the schools in the Austin and Mankato areas? It was agreed that the \$22.00 fee for all 1955 enrollees was best. Future fees might be lower if costs were found to be less than \$22.00 per farmer.
  - d. Dr. Pond and his staff have indicated their availability for guidance and counsel in developing the pattern of regional analysis centers.

(Mr. Cochran arrived at this phase of the meeting. He had attended the funeral of Mr. Walter Beneditz.)

- e. It was agreed that the management data would be analyzed in the same manner as has been done at the Agricultural Economics Department, University Farm. All data would be made available to Dr. Pond and his staff for research uses.
- f. It was suggested that the Mankato and Austin schools encourage their farm management agriculture instructors to contact other vocational agriculture instructors in their region in order to help build enrollments in the management program.
- g. It was suggested that definite boundaries be established for the regions to be served by each area vocational school in the farm management work. This includes all area vocational schools in the State.
4. Plans were made to schedule a meeting of the leaders of the Cooperative Farm Management Project very soon to discuss the possibilities of how the Mankato and Austin Area Vocational Schools could best function as farm records analysis centers. Mr. Cochran suggested a meeting shortly after May 16, 1955.

Lauren Granger - Recorder