"Relationships"
by
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This year's series of monthly luncheon conferences marks a new step in the policy of this unofficial, voluntary group.

Before cooperation or coordination can be carried out it is necessary for us to appreciate the position and the job of the other fellow. Thus the committee was under the necessity of reviewing or having reviewed all extension projects by all departments doing extension work in the College. This has been a long job and a necessary task. I believe all of the departments and individuals who participated in these past meetings are to be commended on the clear and concise way in which they presented, on the scope, on the objectives and the cooperation involved in the various projects.

Need for Coordination

The day of individual, isolated, separated specialists projects, is past. The Federal Department of Agriculture has recently, January 1, this year, established a special administrative, coordinating project, called County Agricultural Planning. This project was created and financed largely by the United States Department of Agriculture and today we have five Assistant County Agents in five selected Wisconsin counties for the purpose of giving special assistance to the County Agent in doing in the field a job of coordination between all federal agricultural agencies.

Director Clark in our first meeting pointed out the question of relationship between the federal Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture insofar as finances was concerned. We get practically eighty per cent of our Extension funds in Wisconsin from the federal government, and twenty per cent from the state, and there is constantly before us the question of meeting federal requirements as well as state objectives in agricultural extension work.

Some Considerations

This group has attempted first to get a picture of what Extension projects there are and the cooperation existing between them. The job is not completed, however. In fact, it is hardly begun and I should like to suggest specifically some things that might be considered by the new committee in furthering the objectives of this program. These are:

1. That a County Agent, a Home Agent and a Club Agent be selected to attend one of these luncheons and to indicate how in his judgment and from his experience these specialists might better assist him in carrying out his county agricultural program of work. Does he need more bulletins? Does he need more specialists' help at meetings, conferences, in planning and carrying out projects? Will assistance in publicity matters, will assistance in coordination of the various agricultural interests in his county be of assistance to him?
2. We have in Wisconsin a Council of Agriculture which includes in its membership practically all of the existing farm organizations in the state. Since Extension workers in this group meet periodically with the local organizations included in this Council, it might be well worth-while considering having the President or the Secretary of this Council appear before this group and indicate how in his judgment we might be of further assistance to them in planning their programs.

3. There is need today to bring the Extension Service men into the planning of our Experiment Station Field Day programs. In the past the administration of Station Days has been left largely to the resident Director who has been principally concerned with research. The attendance at these Field Days has passed beyond the ability and the time of one man to plan and carry through. Perhaps much more might be made out of our summer Field days if a committee of specialists in Extension work were to carefully plan the programs for these stations.

4. In the past recent years the question of College of Agriculture exhibits at the larger exhibitions in the state, particularly at the State Fair, has been left to Rasmussen and Jorns to develop and carry out. There should be coordination between the interests of the teaching groups in the College, the Extension group and the Experiment Station group in order that a complete picture of these three facilities of the College be presented.

5. At the last Extension Workers conference a question was raised as to what had been done in the development of a routing or booking agent for Extension people. I believe there is a wide difference of opinion as to the advisability of having such a personnel or office. Would not this be the proper place to bring this up for impartial discussion? Could not the experiences of other states that have at present a booking agent be worthwhile to consider?

6. The question of publications particularly is a vital one to specialists. Specialists should keep in mind that elaborate, highly illustrated publications on expensive paper naturally cost much more than do plainer publications.

7. How can specialists be best used — as speakers at meetings, in assisting County Agents and County Agricultural Committees in planning their programs of work, in holding schools for Agricultural Conservation Committee men, for Farm Security Administration County Supervisors, for Soil Conservation Project men and Smith-Hughes teachers, — with a small Extension force in the College and with a large number of county workers in the state in many different agencies handling many different projects. It would seem that the ability, experience and judgment of the specialists could be used to better advantage in training these people rather than in holding individual small subject matter meetings.