

AATEA MEETING OF THE CENTRAL REGION

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A number of topics of interest to AATEA members were discussed by the teacher education group during the 1962 Conference for the Central Region. The group went on record in favor of the following:

1. The proposal to establish a council for teacher education within the A.V.A.
2. Delaying the program for selecting the outstanding teacher educator in agriculture until a cash award is secured.
3. Reaffirming the action of the AATEA Executive Committee with reference to opposition to the establishment of a third teacher training institution for agriculture for Illinois.
4. Development by AATEA Executive Committee action a statement of policy with reference to matters such as the establishment of additional teacher training institutions, their approval and accreditation and similar matters of professional concern with which the Association has not yet established a firm policy.

Among the other topics discussed was recruitment practices. The comments revealed that Deans of Colleges of Agriculture have been actively recruiting students for their colleges. Subject matter departments in Colleges of Agriculture tend, in some cases, to draw off top agricultural education majors or potential majors because they come into contact with them, whereas agricultural education departments do not come into contact with students majoring in the subject matter fields. Career days are used effectively although not as much as in the past. The vocational agriculture teachers are the major source of students. The effect of attitudes of teachers on recruitment is very marked. Dr. Ralph Bender suggested seeking active participation by the NVATA in a recruitment program.

Dr. R. J. Agan described a Freshman seminar of one hour per week which is used in Kansas as a means of contacting freshman students. Prof. C. V. Roderick described participation by the Agricultural Education staff of Missouri in an all-college orientation program. Dr. H. M. Byram explained the course which is required of all Agricultural Education students in the freshman year which is also elective for other students in the College of Agriculture.