

## AATEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Responsibility of Teacher Educators For Organizing and Administering the Off-Farm Related Occupations Program in Agriculture

Beginning the 31st of May, 1965, a three-day area vocational education conference was held at Washington State University, Pullman, on off-farm agricultural occupations. Dr. Glenn Z. Stevens, Consultant from the Center for Vocational and Technical Education, Ohio State University, James Christiansen, graduate assistant, Ohio State University, and William Becker, teacher, Janesville, Wisconsin served as resource personnel for this conference.

During the course of the conference five committees were appointed to determine the responsibility for organizing and administering the off-farm related occupations program in relation to (1) local school administration, (2) state supervisor staffs, (3) local agriculture teachers, (4) teacher educators, and (5) industry. The committees were composed of a cross-section of all conference participants and there was not a majority of one group on any of the committees.

The following is a list of nine items proposed by the committee dealing with the responsibility of teacher educators for organizing and administering the off-farm related occupations program in agriculture. It is the writer's opinion that these items are worth consideration of all teacher educators in agriculture because it will take the full cooperation and effort of all staff members connected with vocational agriculture in order to bring to our students the full potential of the off-farm related occupations program.

1. Each teacher educator should become familiar with the off-farm related occupations program as soon as possible. This can be accomplished through literature, workshops, contact with national leaders and association with distributive education leaders.
2. Teacher educators should share with the state supervisory staff the joint responsibility of informing the local teachers of the advantages, disadvantages and possible potential of the off-farm related occupations program.
3. Teacher educators should work jointly with supervisors in promoting, supervising, and guiding pilot programs in off-farm related occupations in order to demonstrate and test the possibilities of these programs.
4. Teacher educators should promote intensive workshops in the organization and operation of off-farm related occupations programs on a local or district level. These workshops should involve persons from agricultural industry, labor, school administration and the Employment Security Agency. Prior groundwork must be done in the districts where the workshops will be held with the participating individuals.
5. Teacher educators should provide wholesale information in regard to off-farm related occupations for those responsible for conducting the local programs. An example of this information would be the legal aspects which are peculiar to each state and in some cases to each district.

*Journal of the American Association of  
Teacher Educators in Agriculture  
Volume 5, Number 1, pp.1-2  
DOI: 10.5032/jaatea.1964.01001*

6. Teacher educators should conduct and guide research at their various institutions to promote and increase the efficiency of off-farm related occupations, and actively seek federally funded grants to conduct this research.
7. Teacher educators should promote, through local teacher participation on the district level, the re-evaluation of the local curricula in vocational agriculture. If an off-farm related occupations program is found to be beneficial the curriculum should be adjusted to meet this objective. Through these district workshops, materials which have been developed in other areas can be evaluated, sifted and adapted to local conditions.
8. Teacher educators should provide instruction and guidance on the undergraduate and graduate level to prepare trainees to successfully conduct off-farm related occupations programs. Student teaching centers should be selected where the cadet will gain experience in off-farm related occupation programs.
9. Teacher educators should provide or promote intensive short courses in teaching methods for the purpose of preparing layman instructors who will help provide instruction for the off-farm related occupations programs for youth and adults not enrolled in a high school curriculum.

Dwight L. Kindschy