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FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM STUDY  
1965-66 School Year

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A grant request was approved in July 1965 for a one-year study of the agricultural education curriculum for the junior and senior high schools of Florida. The study was designed to afford a group of agriculture teachers an opportunity to work cooperatively with the teacher education and supervisory staffs in the development of an improved instructional program for in-school students of vocational agriculture. It was explicitly stated that this study was not intended to culminate in a program of instruction designed to prepare all graduates to enter related agricultural occupations. It was, however, desirable that a program be developed that would primarily offer in-school vocational agriculture students an

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opportunity to develop basic skills and understandings necessary to equip them to progress as students in post-high school courses of study and on-the-job training programs which are designed to fully prepare them to work effectively in production and other agriculturally related occupations.

#### Phase One

Thirty-two teachers met on the campus of the University of Florida, August 2 - 13 for ten days of organized intensive study of the in-school vocational agriculture program of instruction. The efforts of this group during these ten days had a two-fold purpose. First, review and change as necessary the course of study which was developed and given to all vocational agriculture teachers in Florida during the fall of 1964. Second, through analysis determine the modules of instructional units appropriate for each of nine selected agricultural occupation clusters. These nine clusters are not considered to be inclusive of all agricultural occupations but to be representative. They are:

1. Providing supplies for agricultural producers
2. Maintenance and marketing of agricultural equipment
3. Livestock processing marketing and distribution
4. Occupations involving services to field crop producers
5. Dairy processing, marketing and distribution
6. Poultry processing, marketing and distribution
7. Citrus harvesting and marketing
8. Ornamental horticulture occupations
9. Forestry and conservation occupations.

#### Materials Developed

An analysis and evaluation of the materials which were developed during the workshop in August, 1965 resulted in the compilation of the following three kinds of publications:

1. Basic course of study for Vocational Agriculture I and II (ninth and tenth grades)
2. Course of study for Vocational Agriculture III
3. Courses of study for nine agricultural occupation clusters.

#### Phase Two

The second phase of the Curriculum Study was follow-up meetings with small groups of participating teachers during the months of October, November, and December. The Area Supervisor, Study Coordinator, and other staff personnel met with these small groups. The course materials which were developed are being used during the 1965-66 school year by the participating teachers. Members of the staff are working cooperatively with each of these teachers in the further development, evaluation and use of these courses of study for the various grade levels.

It is anticipated at this time that another series of meetings in small groups will be held during February and March of 1966. Next summer the total study group will meet on the campus of the University of Florida to evaluate, discuss and make decisions about the course outlines which they have been using in a further effort to identify the most appropriate curriculum for junior and senior high school vocational agriculture programs.

Teachers of vocational agriculture in the State not participating in the study were asked to:

1. Continue using the 1964 Basic Course of Study for Agriculture I and II;
2. Use all or parts of the Course of Study for Agriculture III, as they felt it best benefitted their instructional programs; and
3. Contact their Area Supervisor for information about securing a copy of one or more of the nine courses of study for agricultural occupation clusters which might be appropriate for use in their instructional program during the 1965-66 school year.

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