Agricultural Education

Maurice Dankenbring, Sweet Springs, Missouri, recently selected Star Farmer of America

“One should not engage for long in a work with which he is not proud to be connected. If one cannot feel that his work is important, he should leave it and go into something for which he has a profound respect.”—F. D. Farrell.
The world is a very different place today than it was a few decades ago. While the world economy has continued to grow, so has the demand for natural resources. In some cases, this has led to over-exploitation of resources, causing environmental damage and social unrest.

Farming methods have also changed dramatically. Modern farming practices have increased crop yields, but they have also contributed to soil degradation and water pollution. In addition, the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides has led to health problems for farmers and consumers.

The agricultural sector is facing many challenges, including climate change, population growth, and the need for sustainable agricultural practices. Governments and organizations are working to address these challenges and ensure that food security is maintained for future generations.
Adapting Vocational Agriculture To Changing Conditions

C. L. LANE, Chief, Agricultural Education Service

Changing Rural Philosophy

We ARE not asking for a general withdrawal of agriculture as a subject from our schools, but for a change in its emphasis and for a change in our entire rural curriculum. We must look upon agriculture as a way of life, not just as a subject of study or a vocational course...The great need today is for an educational program that will provide the opportunity for rural children to gain the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in the complex world of today.

Stereotypical Vocational Training

The vocational education system was designed to prepare students for specific jobs. Students were assigned to different vocational programs based on their interests and abilities. However, this system did not provide students with the skills they needed to succeed in the modern economy.

The New Agricultural Curriculum

The new agricultural curriculum focuses on providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the modern economy. It emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability, rather than just providing students with the skills they need to succeed in specific jobs.

The Future of Vocational Agriculture

The future of vocational agriculture will be determined by the extent to which it is able to adapt to the changing needs of society. If vocational agriculture can successfully adapt, it will continue to be a valuable part of the educational system.

References


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When the farm is in a situation where the prices of feed and farm products are below the cost of production, the farmer must be willing to make necessary adjustments if he is to remain in business. If the farmer is not willing to make these adjustments, he will eventually have to give up farming and seek employment elsewhere.

The effects of the recent high cost of living on farm incomes have been greater than the increases in the prices of farm products. This has resulted in a decrease in the farm income of the average farmer.

It is important for the farmer to understand the principles of economics and to apply them to his farm business. By doing so, he can make the necessary adjustments to keep his farm in a position of financial stability.

The farmer should also be aware of the current market conditions and keep up-to-date with the latest agricultural news. This will enable him to make informed decisions about his farm operations.

In conclusion, the farmer must be willing to make necessary adjustments to keep his farm in a position of financial stability. By understanding the principles of economics and keeping up-to-date with the latest agricultural news, the farmer can make informed decisions about his farm operations.

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**Evening Course Outline in Farm Organization**

1. **Introduction to Farm Organization**
   - Purpose and role of farm organizations
   - Types of farm organizations

2. **Farm Credit and Management**
   - Farm credit systems
   - Farm management principles

3. **Farm Marketing and Economics**
   - Farm market trends
   - Farm economics and profitability

4. **Farm Policy and Legislation**
   - Farm policy objectives
   - Farm legislation and its impact

5. **Farm Labor and Workforce Management**
   - Farm labor issues
   - Workforce management strategies

6. **Farm Technology and Innovation**
   - Agricultural technology
   - Innovation in farm practices

7. **Conclusion**
   - Summary of key points
   - Final thoughts on farm organization
Nolan Screenings

A few years ago I spoke in the June issue of Vocational Agriculture of the future, the great need for training in vocational agriculture and the tremendous opportunities for the agricultural educators of the future. I want to take this opportunity to tell you more about the current status of vocational agriculture in this country.

The National Vocational Agriculture Council (NVAC) has been established to coordinate and promote vocational agriculture education. The NVAC is composed of representatives from various organizations, including the American Association of Agricultural Colleges and Universities, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and the National Association of Teachers of Agricultural Education.

The NVAC's primary objectives are to promote the development of vocational agriculture programs and to ensure that these programs are consistent with the needs of the agricultural industry. In addition, the NVAC works to improve the quality of vocational agriculture education by providing resources and support to educators.

In conclusion, vocational agriculture is an integral part of our nation's agricultural education system. As we continue to work together to improve the quality of vocational agriculture programs, we can ensure that our students are prepared for successful careers in the agricultural industry.

Afterthoughts

1. The future of vocational agriculture education is bright. With the support of various organizations and the NVAC, vocational agriculture programs have the potential to make a significant impact on the agricultural industry.

2. There is a need for more funding and resources to support vocational agriculture education. This includes financial support for programs, facilities, and equipment, as well as professional development opportunities for educators.

3. Vocational agriculture education must continue to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of the agricultural industry. This includes incorporating technology and new educational tools into the curriculum.

4. The NVAC is a crucial organization that works to promote and support vocational agriculture education. Its mission is to ensure that vocational agriculture programs are consistent with the needs of the agricultural industry and are of the highest quality.

5. As we continue to work towards these goals, we must remain committed to the importance of vocational agriculture education and its role in preparing students for successful careers in the agricultural industry.
Future Farmers of America

The Vernennes, Vermont, F. F. A. Chapter Gets Under Way

In September, during the second week of school, Vernennes Chapter, Vermont, met for its first meeting. The hall was attended by one hundred boys and girls. The event was very entertaining and enjoyable for all.

As to money making, which was not the chief aim, the boys did not fare badly. The net profit was $15. An admission fee of 5 cents was charged which netted over $4.00. Cakes and doughnuts were sold at one booth; see-saws and cake were sold at small tables. At another booth the hungry crowd purchased popcorn balls. At still another, some might be seen a penny by throwing baseballs into a bucket.

However, the most popular attraction was the side-show hall in one of the dressing rooms. Here was a collection of the Wonders of the World, including: a human being without a body; the perfect woman; the famous man; half human, half woman; and the largest woman in the world.

The work of planning, preparing, and running the fair was all done by the students. Not only did the members learn many things but they had the satisfaction of seeing their efforts rewarded.

In November the P. F. A. of Vernennes sponsored a school program. Regular classes were conducted for two days, an assembly program was presented. At this time the P. F. A. carried out a request, as outlined in the manual, and also initiated the Green Thumb.

The project is to grow vegetables. The boys have been very successful, handsome boys but not the best of the world. While not perfect, their vegetables are of good quality, surprising and fresh in the marketplace in which they are sold.

As this meeting, in addition to the regular attendance of about 200, there were 500 guests. The entire group seemed to get a kick out of the vocational education they enjoyed.

As we go to press, word comes that Blue Boy is dead. Watch for write-up in next issue.

Jeffers Honored at Vocational Banquet

P. F. B. Banquet, Monday evening at 7:30, the P. F. B. of the Father-Son Mother-Daughter Future Farmers of America was the center of attention. Bay, Kansas, Jeffers, the head of the vocational department, was the guest speaker.

The banquet was held in the school auditorium.

Jeffers is a recent graduate from Kansas State College, but has been associated with the vocational department for the past two years. He is a man of vision and leadership, and has made a decided impact on the students.

The banquet was a success and the students enjoyed listening to Jeffers' speech. The evening concluded with a dance where everyone had a good time.

Why Be A Farmer?

(Winning Speech in Public Speaking Contest at Kansas City)

ALBERT W. RICHARDSON, Reading, Massachusetts

Chairman, Honorable Judges, Ladies and gentlemen:

I stand here today before you all, my fellow students and state, and I am about to declare it: why should I be a farmer? Why am I a farmer? Why should I be a farmer? I ask you, as I stand here, in this room, and in this world, why should I be a farmer?

My family, my friends, and my teachers have all told me that I should be a farmer. They say that it is a good job, that it is a profitable job, and that it is a job that will provide for my future. But, I ask you, why should I be a farmer?

I believe that the key to understanding why one should be a farmer lies in understanding the significance of food. Food is a basic necessity for all living things, and without it, we cannot survive. The reason why we should be farmers is because we need to provide for our food. We cannot rely on others to provide for us, and we must be able to provide for ourselves.

The other reason why we should be farmers is because it is a job that provides for our future. By being a farmer, we are able to save money and build a nest egg for the future. We can also provide for our family, and ensure that they have a bright future.

The third reason why we should be farmers is because it is a job that provides for the environment. By farming sustainably, we can help to protect the environment and ensure that it is healthy for future generations.

In conclusion, I believe that the reasons why one should be a farmer are clear. We need to provide for our food, we need to provide for our future, and we need to ensure that the environment is healthy. Therefore, I believe that everyone should be a farmer.
the end toward which all effort is directed, and herein lies one of the best arguments in favor of farming. Underneath the myriad purposes which form the motive power of men’s activities, lurks more or less deeply by the necessity of providing for everyday existence, lies the hope of accumulating at some time sufficient surplus to indulge the desire of almost every man’s heart to own a piece of land upon which to plant what he may choose, to watch the growth under his constant care, and to gather whatever harvest may be produced. There he is “lord of all he surveys,” and his success depends directly upon the degree of intelligence and industry he brings to his work. All his labor has a direct bearing upon the comfort and contentment of him and his family. He is, in effect, the guiding influence of a little kingdom, a kingdom, as Longfellow, in his “Evangeline,” said, “... Darkened by shadows of earth, but reflecting the image of Heaven,” where everyone is bent on contributing to the welfare of all. If farm life can rightly be made the goal of man’s later years, how far greater will be the blessing of contentment that will come to him who chooseth this work at the outset of his career.

From a Radio Talk by Rev. Carroll Freeman, a Former Vocational Agriculture Pupil of Virginia

WE of York County are indeed thankful that we have an organization of Future Farmers in our community, under the splendid leadership of C. E. Kirchmier, our teacher of agriculture. He has shown to our citizens that the need of our community, the need of our state, the need of America, is a better trained country youth, who is willing to serve, to cooperate, to work for the greatest good of the greatest number of people.

Therefore, with this in mind, he is devoting his time and energy with our youth: to creating more interest in the intelligent choice of a farming occupation; to creating and nurturing a love of country life, such things as the beauty, the healthful influence of home and school grounds; to providing recreational and educational entertainment; to promoting thrift, through the establishment of savings accounts; to establishing the confidence of the farmer boy in himself and his work; to developing local leadership.

During these days of social unrest, of agricultural discontent in some parts, of the disappearance of the love of labor as the source of joy in life, we need young men who can lead our people out of their isolation into the world, who can bring order out of chaos, who can show to the world that the success of an individual is not determined by stocks and bonds, money and real estate, by the abundance of things which he has, but by the service he has rendered his fellow man.

Serve, young man, and your life will be a success, you will climb the highest mountain and dig the deepest mine.

Serve and you will become the language of all people and understand the heart-throbs of every individual. Serve, and you will be following in the footsteps of the One, who two thousand years ago stepped out of the glory of the skies into human want, companionship with men who toiled, walked the dusty highways of the common life, and stood among the multitudes crying, “I am among you as one that serves.”

We look to you, Future Farmers of America, to help bring about a new era, to change our people from a self-centered to a world-cultural goal.

Boys, do not be discouraged if at times you find the road rough and the hills steep, but press on. A goal won without a struggle does not bring satisfaction. Struggle and progress, striving and fighting, pushing out and putting forth, all, are the things that count. The longing and desire drives us on, maybe not to the goal, but to life.

“Be strong! We are not here to drift, we have hard work to do and loads to lift; shall not the struggle face it! The God’s gift, be strong, be strong! It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong; how hard the battle goes, the day how long, faint not, fight on! Tomorrow comes the song.”

Future Farmers of America, your possibilities are immeasurable. There are still worlds to conquer — — — — — — Pull off your coat and collar. Get to work, and push and holler, and you’ll put Future Farmers on top.

Every booster boasting. Not a roster roosting. And you’ll never, never stop.

Future Farmers of America as Rural Service Clubs

THE cities are filled with service clubs, such as the Rotary, Exchange, Kiwanis, Lions Club, etc. Some of these clubs have junior service clubs for boys of high school age. They are all good and play a very important part in the social and civic life of the cities. Why cannot the Future Farmers of America function as a junior service club for rural youth? In fact, that is what the F. F. A. is doing in many places. Although the F. F. A. does not mean as a “knife and fork” club, I see no reason why the fellowship about the banquet table could not be made a more common event, with valuable social and recreational features. The Future Farmers Chapter does have committees through which it serves the school and community in the interest of agriculture and rural life. It does have a state and national organization, with splendid programs of service. It seems to me that the F. F. A. could well pattern after some of the excellent activities of the old and established service clubs of America — A. W. N., The Fan Mill, Illinois.

From California

ANDERSON Future Farmers have a good time and make money for the club treasury at the same time by staging an annual harvest ball. The affair is entirely invitational, and everybody in the community turns out. This year over $100 was added to the club treasury with which to pay dues, etc. Who said “big bad wolf?”

Marysville Future Farmers started something when they invited their plan- ni bers and to a banquet. Good can was the punch, and good fellowship was in the order of the evening. It is hoped this banquet will pave the way for a permanent F. F. A. alumni organization that will lead the way and show the young ‘uns how to shoot.

The Bakersfield chapter recently cooperated with the high school P. T. A. in a project tour. Thirteen cars with more than 50 persons made the 88-mile circuit, visiting each type of project carried on by the Future Farmers. At the conclusion of the trip at the school farm, the visitors stayed until dark, they were so interested.

From Indiana

The F. F. A. Chapter at Kedron, Indiana, took over the management of a small orchard. The boys did all labor and furnished half the sap materials, receiving one-third the fruit. Valuable experience was gained in pruning, fertilizing, spraying, harvesting, and marketing.

A community service project planned and conducted by this chapter has proved popular and successful. The boys test seed corn for farmers and for themselves by the rug doll method. The charge has varied from 75 cents to 60 cents per 100 cars. Money earned goes into the funds of the chapter. From 12,000 to 4,000 cars have been tested annually. — J. B. Oyar, Adviser, Kedron, Indiana.

Two Sales

I ATTENDED this sale and also one on the adjoining farm the week before. Both sold cows. In appearance the cows were much alike. In the first sale they averaged $85.50. In this sale they averaged $87.50.

SALE NOTICE

This is a credited herd of cows that have been on record for 2 years. These cows run from 365 to 456 pounds butter fat a year. These cows have been under supervision of our vocational agriculture teacher, Wm. Shively, Monrovia, Indiana.

I have never seen so much interest in an ordinary farm sale crowd. Actually the crowd around so close that the sale had to be stopped until they would back away. That is what quality will do.— R. W. Gregory.

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