

Why a National NACTA Organization?

Presented to

Junior College Section—CATA
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by

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National Association of Colleges and
Teachers of Agriculture

I requested permission from Mr. Jensen, chairman of the Junior College Section, to appear here on this occasion to talk with you about the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

For those who may not be familiar with the purposes or objectives of NACTA, let me state them briefly:

- 1) To coordinate and improve college teaching in agriculture.
- 2) To make available college instruction in agriculture to the greatest number of people.
- 3) to encourage and promote research in agriculture among members of the association.

Most of you cooperated in supplying information on the NACTA questionnaire which I mailed out in November of 1962. When I compiled the data from these questionnaires a majority favored a December meeting. Because the State College Trustees asked each of the colleges to make a projected study of their curriculum needs for the next ten years it was necessary to abandon the idea of holding a December meeting. Now, I would like to suggest that you consider the possibility of forming a regional NACTA organization. Since the question of time always seems to be a factor I would suggest, to begin with, that you consider the desirability of tying in a regional NACTA meeting with this CATA annual meeting.

Some of you may wonder why such a regional meeting should be held. One of the reasons for organizing on a regional basis would be to work on problems common to our area. Another would be to elect a set of regional officers to carry out the business meetings. You may also wish to elect a delegate to represent the State at the National NACTA meeting since obtaining funds for out-of-state travel presents a problem for all California schools.

If one full day of your Junior College meeting could be set aside for NACTA business we might kill two birds with one stone and eliminate the need for establishing another meeting date.

I am sure the State College people recognize the need for maintaining a close working relationship with both CATA and the Bureau. You have decided on a Junior College Section so you can concentrate on problems that concern each of you. I do believe that there is a definite need for all of us concerned with college teaching to have an organization that will permit us to work more closely in solving some of the current problems. Excellent relationships exist between the junior colleges, the state colleges, and the university because of our Tripartite Committee and the State College-University Liaison Committee. These two agencies serve a wonderful purpose in coordinating some of our activities and permit us to work on some common problems, but we have never concerned ourselves in these meetings with the general subject of improving college teaching. It should be noted here that neither of these committees provide an opportunity for full participation of staff from either the state colleges or junior colleges.

One of the real needs as I see it for such an organization would be to work on subject matter at both the lower and upper division level. It would seem to me that the basic principles in our introductory courses should be pretty much the same and be structured so they provide the proper building blocks for upper division offerings. We are all concerned with the proper kind of facilities such as libraries, farm shops, classrooms, and adequate animal and plant science facilities. The problem of counseling, dealing with the foreign student, honors programs, research, student placement, extra curricular activities, and recruitment are other topics of mutual concern. There are, of course, many more. I am sure it is obvious to everyone here that unless we band together an non-land grant schools we will never make ourselves heard at either the regional or national level.

I have observed during my 3-year acquaintanceship with NACTA that a great deal has been accomplished in getting recognition of our programs in the land grant schools. A very fine

arrangement has been worked out so that the president of the land grant college association attends the national NACTA meeting. The regional directors of NACTA are invited to attend the Resident Instruction meetings of the Deans of Agriculture where a clear picture can be obtained of what the land grant schools are doing. I was amazed at how similar our problems are and how much alike the topics were when I sat in on the meeting at Corvallis, Oregon, in April following my attendance at the national NACTA meeting at Hays, Kansas. Dr. Poffenberger, Dean of Agriculture from the University of Maryland, met with and spoke to the group; so did Dr. Eldridge, Dean of Agriculture from the University of Nebraska, and Dr. Beck,, Dean of Agriculture from the University of Kansas. I cite this to illustrate the fact that the non-land grant schools are being recognized and that the Universities across the nation realize that it is to their advantage to work closely with the state colleges and junior colleges.

The president of NACTA and two of the regional directors met with a committee of three from the land grant colleges at the Farm Foundation in Chicago in April to review common problems. Dr. Kellogg who has been hired by the Carnegie Foundation to conduct a study of the land grant colleges offering agriculture has been contacted by our NACTA president and urged to include the 2-year and 4-year colleges in his study so a more complete picture of what is really happening across the nation may be determined. Dr. Knapp, who is Dr. Kellogg's assistant, has been filled in to a limited extent on some of our non-land grant programs in agriculture. Only through group organization will we be heard. It is up to each of us to have enough interest in our profession to help support the objectives and purposes of NACTA.

The Association reduced its dues from \$10.00 a year to \$2.00 a year per member, or in case of institutions with 15 or more faculty they may buy an institutional membership for \$30.00 per year. This should make it possible for everyone to belong. We are most anxious to develop a journal that will carry reports of applied research or scientific papers, and even general information about what is happening in the various regions. I really do not know how we can expect to keep from being taken over by our fellow co-workers in the biological sciences or the physical sciences unless we band together and get our subject matter problems squared away so we can more adequately defend what we are doing. There is a need to establish some criteria for determining the need for additional programs in agriculture in the junior colleges or state colleges here in California. If we fail to get together and work on these problems then we can hardly blame anyone else for what may happen to us in the future. I sincerely urge each of you to give serious thought to these suggestions and I would hope that some formal action might be taken during this week so I might be able to report what your

actions have been at our next annual meeting to be held at Huntsville, Texas, April 1964.

So that everyone will have the names and addresses of the national officers of NACTA for the 1963-64 school year I am including them here:

President:	Dr. T. J. Stanly Francis T. Nichols State College Thibodaux, Louisiana
Vice President:	Lloyd Dowler Fresno State College Fresno 26, California
Secretary- Treasurer:	Dr. Hal B. Barker Louisiana Polytechnic Institute Ruston, Louisiana
Editor, NACTA Journal:	Dr. John Wright Louisiana Polytechnic Institute Ruston, Louisiana
Western Regional Director:	Daniel Robinson Arizona State University Tempe, Arizona
Eastern Regional Director:	Dr. Burton DeVeau Ohio University Athens, Ohio
Central Regional Director:	Dr. Lee Baker Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, Michigan
Southern Regional Director:	Dr. Keith Justice Abilene Christian College Abilene, Texas

The national Constitution of NACTA is included in the March 1963 issue of the NACTA Journal. I urge each of you to familiarize yourself with this material.

Your courtesy in permitting me to meet with you on this occasion is indeed appreciated. Now, I will be glad to try to answer any questions that you may have regarding NACTA.

Job Dope

For information contact Dr. Carl Schowengerdt Southeast Missouri State College Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Position Wanted:

Dairy herdsman and farm manager presently employed seeks new position. Details obtainable from Dr. Carl Schowengerdt or directly from Mr. George L. Bloomingburg, Route 6, Benton, Kentucky.

Instructor Wanted:

Dr. Carroll Wilson, Head of Department of Animal Science at McNeese State College, Lake Charles, Louisiana needs an instructor in animal husbandry. The position would require that a person teach some basic animal husbandry courses, production courses, and work with and train the livestock judging teams. Salary and terms may be learned from Dr. Wilson or Dr. Carl Schowengerdt.