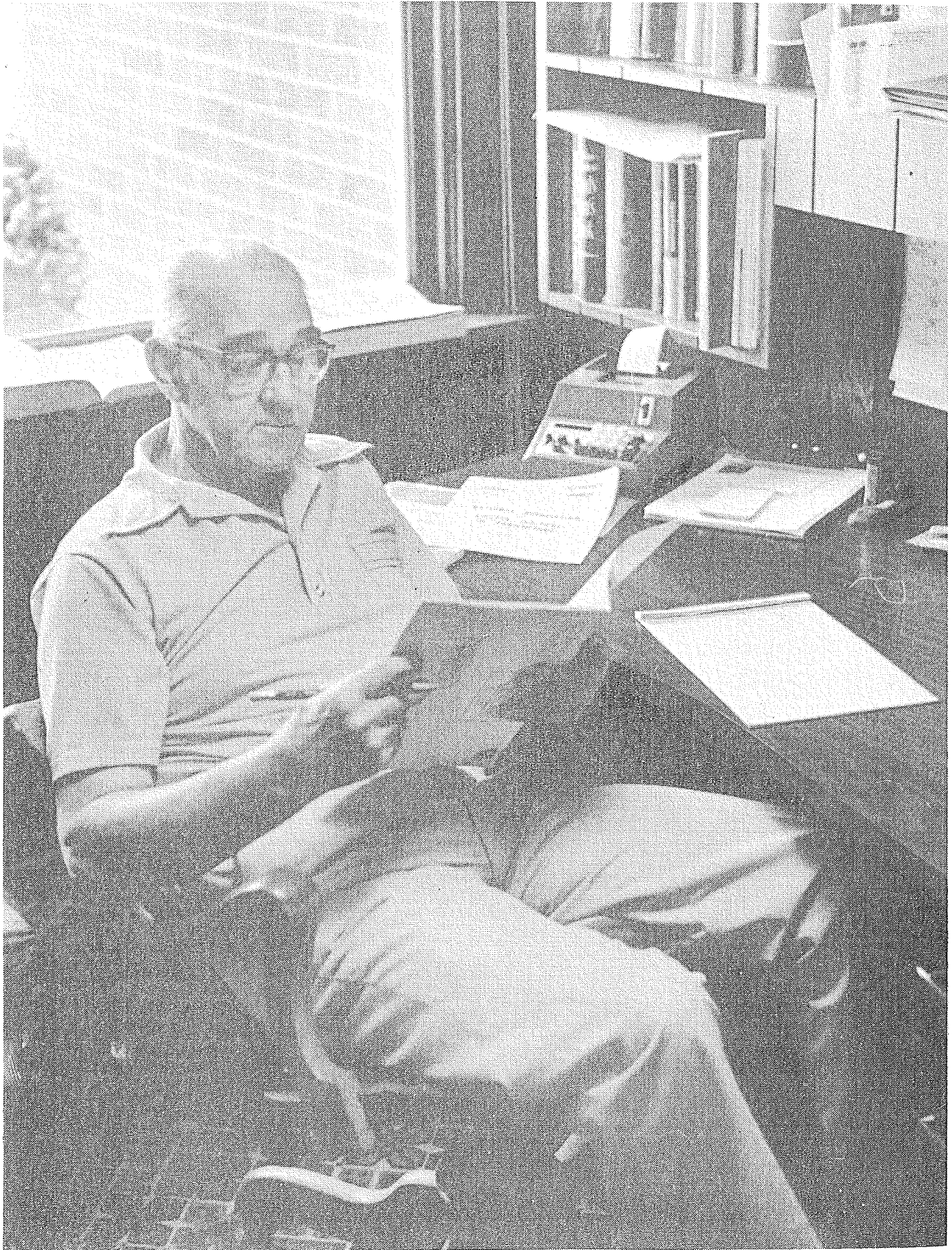


**1955 to 1979
history of the
national association of
colleges and teachers of agriculture**

NACTA

25 years
dedicated to
the improvement
of college teaching
of agriculture



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June, 1979

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At the left

Dr. G. Carl Schowengerdt, professor of agriculture emeritus, Southeast Missouri State University, in his office near Columbia, Mo, writing the history of NACTA. Dr. Schowengerdt, present NACTA historian, is a charter member of NACTA and has served as its president and in many other leadership roles. He wishes to acknowledge the constructive help of John Wright and Ralph Benton in reviewing the manuscripts prior to publication. Photo by Lee Meyer.

NACTA's History

CHAPTER I

G. Carl Schowengerdt

The National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture (N.A.C.T.A.) was organized March 12, 1955, at Central Missouri State College (now University), Warrensburg, Missouri. But the association had its beginning in a number of events which occurred years earlier. These events involved the establishment of grade schools, high schools, and colleges throughout the United States; and the interrelation of courses and credits (units) set up by the various schools.

Background

A hundred years ago, or so, when the United States was young and mostly rural, the one-room country school was the principal setting for grade school education. Since the U.S. was primarily an agricultural society, agricultural subjects were included in the grade and high school curricula. In many high schools, courses in agriculture could be substituted for certain courses in biology to meet the student's biological science curriculum requirements.

Since agriculture was important enough to be required in both grade and high schools, special preparation of teachers became necessary. Normal schools, state teachers colleges, and many private colleges specified that a certain number of credit hours (units of agriculture) be included for a B.S. in Education degree. This meant, of course, that teachers with expertise in agriculture were employed by the schools of higher learning to instruct students in agricultural subjects.

The establishment of at least one college of agriculture in each state, made possible by Federal Government Land Grants under the Morrill Act of 1862, was the main source, if not the only source, for gaining new and scientific knowledge in agriculture. The land grant colleges flourished and soon became autonomous.

The establishment of universities throughout our land meant that students had choices among institutions of higher learning. When students began to transfer from one college to another is obscure; but certainly it was shortly before the 20th century. When better methods of transportation were established (i.e., railroads, roads, cars, etc.) and modern communication systems developed (i.e., telegraph, telephone), students became aware of opportunities and possibilities in specialized education, so the wave of transfer students from one college to another began.

Transfer Problems

There were many problems with transfer students among the various institutions of higher learning. These included entrance requirements, course names, course numbers, credit hours per course, physical facilities, competence of instructors, course prerequisites, grade standards, grade points, grading systems, and others too numerous to mention.

Since there was no contiguity among the colleges and little communication, students transferring from one college to another received varying amounts of credit depending upon their advisors. Some students were given credit for virtually all previous courses, others received little or none, and still others were denied admission. This situation caused much confusion and some animosity among both students and college officials.

Another controversy, which was perhaps even more important, concerned the quality of teaching in private schools, state colleges, and universities (Colleges of Agriculture). The private schools and state colleges were criticized for poor teaching because many of their teachers lacked adequate teaching degrees, had poor instructional facilities, overloads, and numerous extracurricular activities. The universities (Colleges of Agriculture) were dedicated to research as well as teaching, and often a person trained in research had little or no training in the arts and practices of classroom teaching and, therefore, was poorly qualified for perhaps half of his duties. In too many cases, research took preference over classroom teaching. The laboratory instruction and many times the classroom lectures were left in the hands of graduate students. This practice raised many doubts among students and school administrators concerned with excellence of instruction. After fifty or more years of frustration and

misunderstanding of the student transfer problems, officials in high schools, state and private colleges, and universities began to look for answers.

A Growing Need for Support

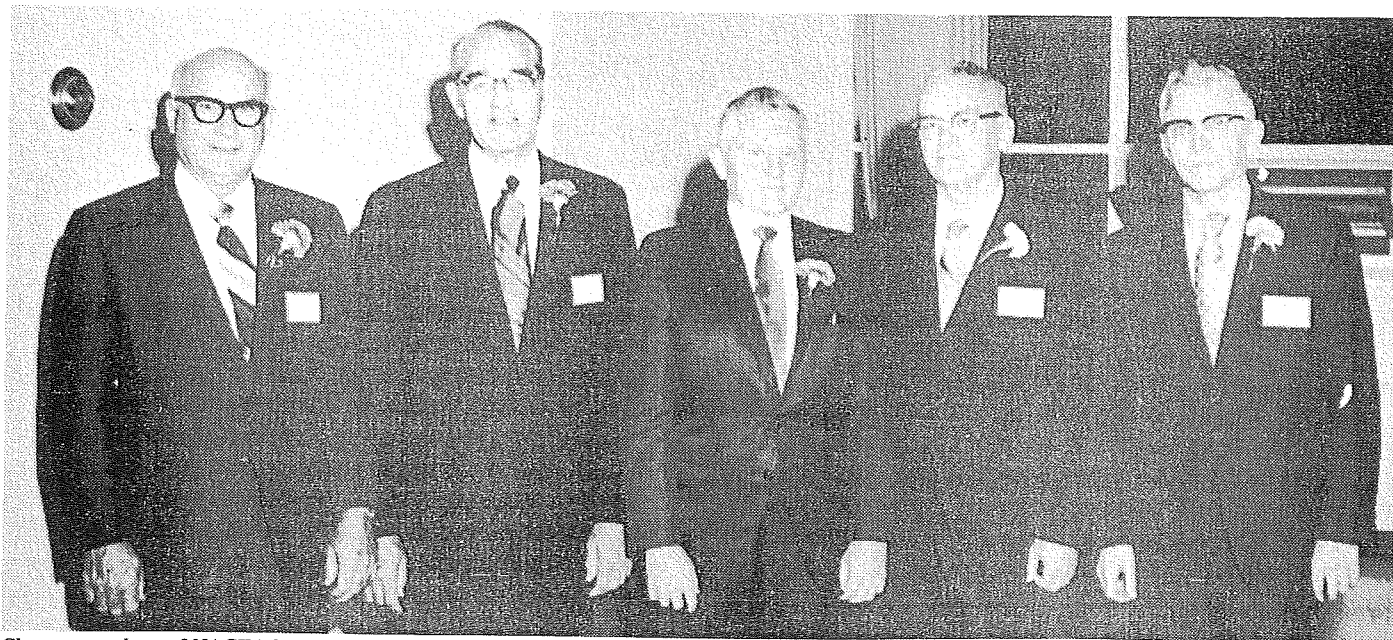
Members of the agriculture departments of various state colleges began discussing the student transfer and credit situation, but little was accomplished since there was no organization among agricultural faculties of the various state colleges. The administrators of these colleges gave little or no support to the agriculture departments, which were, in their minds, small insignificant parts of their institutions. The administrators' chief concerns were in education, sciences, history, and athletics.

The land grant colleges were neither sympathetic nor cooperative with the agriculture departments of state colleges. These departments were considered inferior and inadequate in both physical facilities, and instruction, even though 90 percent or more of the instructors in the agriculture departments of state colleges were graduates, with Masters and Ph.D. degrees from the colleges of agriculture of the land grant institutions.

From 1935 to 1955 meager attempts were made to alleviate the situation by discussions between individuals. However, they were unsuccessful and as Walter Cronkite would say, "That's the way it is" (was) March, 1955.

Notes

- ¹ For further information concerning the controversy among state, private and land grant institutions, see the "President's Address," by Dean M. Hayne Folk, Jr., Third Annual Conference Proceedings, Nacogdoches, Texas, 1957.
- ² The author is personally familiar with this controversy in Missouri because of direct personal involvement since 1929. It is quite probable that in virtually all states, the teaching and transfer problem followed the same pattern.



Charter members of NACTA honored during the NACTA Conference at Northeastern Colorado Junior College, Sterling, June 1971, were from the left T. R. Buie, Southwest Texas State; G. Carl Schowengerdt, Southeastern Missouri State University; Clyde Hyder, Tennessee Polytech Institute; Ralph A. Benton, Southern Illinois University; Conrad White, former head of the Department of Agriculture at Central Missouri State University and host of the first meeting of NACTA.

CHAPTER II

Shortly prior to 1955, William F. Brazziel, Jr., Assistant Professor of Agriculture, Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio, conducted some research pertaining to programs and teaching of Agriculture in Non-Land Grant and Land-Grant colleges. The letter of explanation states in part, "The enclosed questionnaire concerns a proposed study that will provide information which will prove of value to people concerned with programs of agriculture in Non-Land Grant colleges. Information concerning general education, laboratory facilities, staff, and course offerings has already been collected and tabulated. This instrument will collect information concerning student personnel services, regional services programs, and in-service training which, combined with data already collected, will present the first and only comprehensive study of the values of these programs."¹

In a letter accompanying another questionnaire, Mr. Brazziel wrote, "In view of these circumstances and your apparent interest, please allow me to propose a meeting of members of our group and perhaps the formation of an organization wherein problems unique to our department might be worked out, standards and criteria arrived at. . . ."

Mr. Brazziel continued, "As you can see by our map, Missouri or Kansas is our most central state in the distribution. However, I should like to hereby extend the invitation for you to meet here if you like and will gladly poll a consensus of dates and places if you will send your suggestions."²

These letters and questionnaires, of course, went out to most non-land grant colleges in the United States which had Departments of Agriculture. At this same time, the non-land grant colleges in Missouri had a loose organization of agriculture faculties of the various state colleges. Dr. Glen E. Karls, Head of the Department of Agriculture, Southwest Missouri State College (now university), Springfield, Missouri, was instrumental in this group's organizing and setting up some policies. These teachers were looking for some means by which they could reach a better understanding and more cooperation with the land-grant colleges.

When Dr. Brazziel's letters and questionnaire arrived, they seemed to be, at least in part, an answer to the many problems. Dr. Conrad P. White, Head of the Department of Agriculture, Central Missouri State College (now university), Warrensburg, Missouri, largely upon his own initiative, invited the then unknown national agriculture teachers to Warrensburg, Missouri.

It can be assumed that Dr. White and his staff were responsible for calling the first meeting and working out the first conference program. The letter of invitation states in part, "Plans are being made for the First Na-

tional Conference of Teachers of Agriculture in non-land grant colleges so that everything will be in readiness for Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, (1955) when you arrive on our campus.

"You can see from the program that we have plenty to do during the short time allocated for the meeting. We are hoping for good representation of the institutions that fall in the category of non-land grant colleges. . . .

"Please feel free to bring all of the members of your department; the president, or any other representative of your agriculture club, and the dean or any other representative of your administrative staff."³

The agenda of the first conference consisted mostly of self-evaluations, with efforts made to suggest some answers, and with much thought being given to determining our next moves. "Where do we go from here?"⁴

Friday morning, March 11, 1955, was spent largely in introductions by Dr. Conrad White, a welcome address by Dr. G. W. Diemer, President, Central Missouri State College; "Objectives of the Conference," by William F. Brazziel, Jr., Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio; and "Guidance in Agriculture," by Dr. John L. Schmidt, Associate Professor of Education, Counselor Trainer, Central Missouri State College. The afternoon and evening sessions were working groups, discussing the following:

- I. What are our functions?
- II. What is our program?
- III. What is our relationship with land-grant colleges?

Each member of the conference was assigned to a discussion group, thereby giving each a chance to express his opinions.

Saturday morning, March 12, 1955, the conference heard reports from the various groups. No small part of that morning session was the formation of a permanent organization. The nominating committee, composed of R.T. Wright, Maryville, Missouri, and T.R. Buie, San Marcos, Texas, presented for officers E.B. Knight, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute for president; Conrad White, Central Missouri State College, vice-president; and Ralph A. Benton, Illinois State Normal University, for secretary-treasurer. These men were elected by unanimous vote. Three district directors were then elected: Central Region, Dr. William F. Brazziel, Jr., Ohio; Southern, Dean M. Hayne Folk, Jr., Louisiana; and Western, Guy Hayes, Kansas.

Invitations for holding the 1956 conference were received from Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri; Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Illinois; and Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee. The executive committee was given the task of considering these invitations and making a decision for the next host school for the convention in 1956.

At the business meeting March 12, 1955, 11:30 a.m., President Knight reported that the executive committee

had voted to accept Central Missouri State College's invitation to return to Warrensburg, Missouri, for the second annual conference, at approximately the same time, the exact date to be announced later.

You will note by reading the minutes of this first conference that it was a **hard working conference**. Every member was on a work committee. "The committees worked until 4:00 p.m. at which time a tour of the campus was made. . . . Following the six o'clock dinner another business session was held. . . . Progress reports were given. . . . The session was adjourned and the groups again formed for further work."⁵ After these **work sessions**, there were many "bull sessions" in individual rooms until the wee hours of the night concerning the current teaching and transfer problems. Out of such meetings as these came some of the most beneficial and pertinent ideas for the conference. Note also that the next morning's session was scheduled for 8:00 a.m.

The following committee recommendations were adopted:

(a) The name of the association shall be "National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture."

(b) To coordinate and improve college teaching of agriculture.

CHAPTER III

The first executive meeting, aside from those at the regular NACTA Conference sessions, was held at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on May 6-7, 1955. This executive meeting was called for the express purpose to draw up a "suitable constitution" for the newly organized N.A.C.T.A.

Those attending the executive meeting were:

Dr. Hal B. Barker, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana

Dr. Ralph A. Benton, Illinois Normal University, Normal, Illinois, Secretary-treasurer

Dr. William F. Brazziel, Jr., Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio

Dr. M. Hayne Folk, Jr., Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana

Dr. Guy Hayes, McPherson College, McPherson, Kansas

Dr. W. Clyde Hyder, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee

Dr. E. B. Knight, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee, President of N.A.C.T.A.

Dr. G. Carl Schowengerdt, Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, who was host for the meeting.

The executive committee was called to order by Dr. E. B. Knight, President of N.A.C.T.A., who outlined the purpose of the meeting along with some ideas pertaining to procedures and methods for developing the constitution. He then called on Dr. G. Carl Schowengerdt who outlined the activities for the meeting, such as meeting rooms, lunch and dinner schedules, and free time. The group then went directly into a discussion concerning the formation of the constitution.

A large part of the day was spent in open discussion of various items and safeguards that should be included, the form that it should take, priorities, purposes, and wording objectives.

Once the actual writing started, the constitution developed rather rapidly. This is a very important historical document and is, therefore, given in its entirety and in the original wording.

CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name.

The name of this organization shall be "The National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture." The letters NACTA may be officially used to designate the organization.

Article II. Purposes.

The purposes for which this organization is formed are as follows:

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 among members of the association in agricultural education.
4. Others.

Article III. Membership.

Section 1. Active members.

The active membership shall be composed of regularly employed teachers of agricultural subjects in a University, College, or Junior College who have paid the annual membership fee.

Section 2. Associate members.

Associate membership shall consist of the President, Dean, or other administrative officer of an educational institution offering courses in agriculture who is interested in actively supporting the NACTA. Associate members will not pay dues nor have voting privileges.

Article IV. Membership Dues.

An annual due will be assessed each member to be used in covering the expenses of the association. The amount of the due shall be determined at each annual business meeting.

Article V. Officers.

Section 1. Officers of this organization shall be president, vice-president, and the combined office of secretary-treasurer who shall execute the duties incumbent with these offices.

Section 2. In case of the demise or resignation of an officer, the executive committee shall appoint a qualified member to serve until the next annual meeting.

Section 3. Election of these officers shall take place at the annual meeting of the association by the majority vote of members present.

Section 4. The term of office for each officer shall begin immediately following the close of the present annual meeting and shall be for a period of one year.

Section 5. Officers of this association shall not succeed themselves in office.

Article VI. Executive Committee (Board of Directors).

Section 1. This committee (Board) shall consist of seven members, three of which shall be the officers of this organization, namely: the president, who shall be chairman of the executive committee (Board), the vice-president, and the secretary-treasurer.

Section 2. Four members of the executive committee (Board of Directors) shall be elected from the membership at large, one each from the Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern sections of the nation.

Section 3. The members of the executive committee (Board of Directors) shall serve for a period of one year, from one annual meeting to the next.

Article VII. Amendments.

Any proposed amendment shall be presented for consideration to the executive committee through the secretary-treasurer. Approval or disapproval of the amendments will be presented to the members for their consideration at the annual meeting. Adoption shall require a majority vote of members present.

BY-LAWS

Article I. Meetings.

Section 1. The National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture shall meet annually, or oftener if requested by the majority vote of the membership present at the annual meeting.

Section 2. Invitations will be accepted from members representing their school to serve as host to the annual conference.

Section 3. The executive committee (Board of Directors) shall consider the requests from schools and shall determine the place and the time of each annual meeting.

Article II. Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The President.

1. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over the annual conference of the National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture and over meetings of the Executive Committee (Board of Directors).
2. The president shall call one general conference each year on such date and at such place as shall be fixed by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee (Board of Directors).

3. The president shall have power to appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees.
4. The president shall act as the official representative of the association unless a representative is otherwise appointed.
5. The president shall obey and enforce the constitution and the by-laws of the association.

Section 2. The Vice-President.

1. In the absence of the president, the vice-president shall act in the official capacity of the president and take upon himself all the duties of that office.
2. In case the president is removed from office by any means the first vice-president shall act as the president until a new president is elected.

Section 3. The Secretary-Treasurer.

1. The secretary-treasurer shall act as a recorder of all business brought before the association and shall take a complete record of each meeting.
2. The secretary-treasurer shall keep a record of the reports of each committee.
3. The secretary-treasurer shall be held responsible and accountable for all the books and records of the association, and shall render a report at the annual conference or at the request of the Executive Committee (Board of Directors).
4. The secretary-treasurer shall carry on all correspondence which the Executive Committee (Board of Directors) deems fit.
5. The secretary-treasurer shall be bonded as shall be determined by the Executive Committee (Board of Directors). The association shall bear the expense of the bonding.
6. The secretary-treasurer shall act as custodian of the funds of the organization; collect dues; keep an accurate record of all receipts, bank deposits, and disbursements; and make an annual report on such matters at the annual conference.
7. The books and records of the secretary-treasurer shall be audited as shall be determined by the Executive Committee (Board of Directors).



The 1966 NACTA Conference in session at Southeastern Missouri State. Dr. Mark Scully, president of Southeastern Missouri State is

welcoming the group with G. Carl Schowengerdt, Hal Barker and F.E. Beckett at the speaker's table.

Article III. Committees and Their Duties.

Section 1. There shall be three standing committees: a Program Committee, a Public Relations Committee, and a Committee on Improvement of College Teaching of Agriculture.

The chairman of the Program committee shall be appointed after the site of the next annual meeting has been determined. The chairman will be on the staff of the host school or of some relatively close school to facilitate the arrangement of a program.

The Program committee shall arrange a program for the annual conference to include business sessions, educational and inspirational talks, panel discussions, etc., as it deems advisable.

The Public Relations Committee shall suggest ways and means of keeping the public informed of the purposes and programs of colleges offering agricultural instruction. Also ways of fostering the best possible relations with the Land-Grant Agricultural colleges. Furthermore, the committee shall serve to guard the interests of the small colleges in the educational field.

The committee on Improvement of College Teaching of Agriculture shall make such studies and suggestions as will facilitate the upgrading and improvement of agricultural programs, personnel, and teaching.

Section 2. The President of the National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture shall appoint three regular committees annually. The Nominating Committee; the Auditing Committee; and the Resolutions Committee. Other special committees may be appointed as necessary.

The Nominating Committee shall, after careful consideration of the membership, place in nomination the candidates for the various national offices.

The Auditing Committee shall examine the books of the treasurer.

The Resolutions Committee shall prepare a statement of appreciation and thanks to the host school and its staff; also any other statements of position or policy the committee thinks the association should take.

Article IV. Duties of the Executive Committee (Board of Directors).

Section 1. It shall be the duty and power of this committee (Board) to take immediate action in regard to conditions which may arise where it would not be expedient and possible or necessary to call a meeting of the association. In such cases the Committee (Board) shall, to the best of its ability, take action of which the association as a whole would approve.

Section 2. The Board shall formulate policy and initiate such research as will be beneficial to the members and schools represented in the association.

Section 3. Meeting of the committee (Board) shall be held upon notice from the president.

Article V. Dues.

Section 1. An annual due will be assessed each member to be used in covering the expenses of the association.

Section 2. The membership due shall be five dollars (\$5.00). This fee shall be paid to the secretary-treasurer of the National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture.

Section 3. The amount of the dues shall be determined at each annual business meeting.

CHAPTER IV

The second annual conference of NACTA, March 8, 9, and 10, 1956, Warrensburg, Missouri followed essentially the same order as the first. It was a **working** conference. The program was "loaded" with closely scheduled addresses, panel discussions, business sessions, subject matter forums, mixers, committee meetings, and the first annual NACTA banquet. This listing of events does not include the many late night "bull sessions" that went on in various rooms after the regular scheduled sessions adjourned. The work day began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at the end of a program scheduled at 8:00 p.m.

In his presidential address, Dr. E. B. Knight, first president of NACTA, stated "Over a long life of professional experiences, never before have I seen such a demonstration of selflessness and willingness to work for the common good. Our association cannot help but be professionally successful with such a nucleus of charter members."¹ Dr. Knight's prediction has proven 100 percent correct.

The 35 members attending the second annual conference came from 12 states including California, New Mexico, and Ohio. There were 18 members representing 11 states who sent in their dues for 1956 but did not attend the conference. Although this was a small group compared to the potential of some 200 non land-grant colleges with approximately 900 faculty, it did represent

a cross-section of the United States. The colleges and faculty represented here included state, private, and church institutions. Some already had well-organized agriculture programs with extensive equipment while others were looking for guidance in procedures and equipment for setting up an agriculture department.

After listening to four outstanding, informative, and inspirational talks by E. B. Knight, NACTA President; William F. Brazziel, Jr., Central State College, Wilburforce, Ohio; Howard C. Jackson, Deputy State Conservationist; and Howard Grogger, Soil Scientist, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Columbia, Missouri; the members proceeded with panel discussions built around college teaching problems.

Panel I. "How can the association be most helpful to the members?"

Moderator R. T. Wright, Northwest Missouri State College, Maryville, Missouri; W. Clyde Hyder, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee; B. W. DeVeau, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio; and W. W. Hoy, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri. Following remarks by each of the panel members, a general discussion brought out the following questions:

1. Could the NACTA serve as a clearing house for common problems?
2. Could an official publication be successfully used?
3. Could contests be used among the students in agriculture for motivation or intercollegiate activities?
4. Could each school present its objectives to a Central Committee where the objectives could be summarized and sent to the other members?

¹A complete list of members along with their addresses can be found in the proceedings of the Second Annual Conference of NACTA.

5. Could NACTA use an evaluative committee which would visit other schools and give some type of rating?
6. How can amicable relations be best maintained among member schools and the land-grant colleges?

Panel II. How to improve college teaching.

Moderator: W. T. DeWees, Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Illinois; Conrad P. White, Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri; E. E. Puls, Southeastern Louisiana College, Hammond, Louisiana; and S. M. Dell, McPherson College, McPherson, Kansas.

The panel discussed this subject from the following viewpoints:

A. Introduction to the Problem

1. Modern and up-to-date teaching of today is a vastly more complex and professional undertaking than teaching in those same institutions of previous generations and is constantly becoming more so.

B. Improvement of Instruction — (In agriculture)

1. Good teaching is a direct learning process by which desirable changes of a relatively permanent nature are brought about within the learner as the result of the instruction. This should result in the development of desirable attitudes, interests, ideals, appreciations, habits, and effective abilities.

2. Generally speaking there are four steps in teaching procedures: (1) Preparation, (2) Presentation, (3) Application, and (4) Evaluation.

C. Classroom Facilities

1. Good classroom facilities are important to good teaching.

2. A person can tell how a class functions by observing the classroom. The room sets the atmosphere of learning.

3. Too often an agriculture classroom is located in an out-of-the-way place and is unattractive.

4. The trend today is toward the general type of classroom which can be used for different kinds of classes (except science laboratories). A laboratory-lecture type room is a good arrangement.

5. Rooms are being equipped to be used for showing visual aids.

6. A single library should be decentralized and an agriculture departmental library established.

D. Laboratory Facilities

1. Appropriate and adequate laboratory facilities are necessary in order to do an effective job of teaching.

2. College owned farms used effectively are an excellent laboratory.

Panel III. Our Responsibility in Public Relations

Moderator: Hal Barker, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana; G. Carl Schowengerdt, Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; L. E. Laubaugh, Illinois State Normal University; and John A. Wright, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana.

A. Introduction to the subject

1. There is a tremendous variation among colleges teaching agriculture in their responsibility to the public, depending upon (1) location, (2) size of staff, (3) attitude of staff members toward public relations, (4) time available by staff members, and (5) the personality of staff members involved.

2. The public includes everyone. Members of this panel categorized the public as follows for discussion purposes: (1) our present students, (2) our prospective students, (3) parents of prospective students, (4) others who have influence on prospective students, (5) alumni and (6) prospective employers of our students.

B. Various public relation programs discussed

1. Plan of visiting high schools in college patronage areas.
2. County contact work.
3. "The Contact" a public relations bulletin.
4. Special Events — Parents Day.
5. Use of mass media.

Panel IV. How to Use the College Farm as a Teaching Aid

Moderator: J.E. Conry, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee; J. C. Green, Stephen F. Austin College, Nacogdoches, Texas; and Lester Zimmerman, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana.

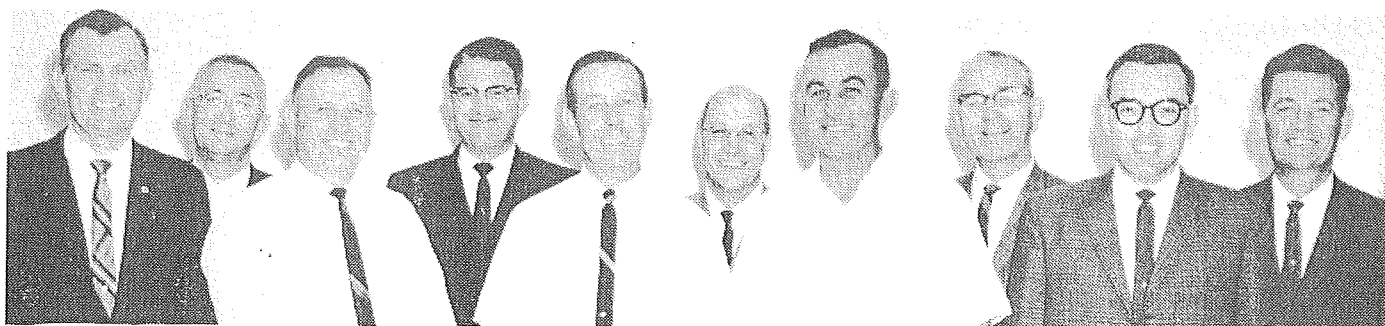
A. Use of the College Farm as a Teaching Aid

1. The way to do the job
 - a. In each syllabus of courses taught, select some particular topics that are applicable and practical to use for the farm project.
 - b. Make definite plans for space and equipment to be used as teaching aids.
 - c. Teacher should make a definite plan of procedure and assign specific jobs to individual students. Definite references and studies should parallel these assignments.
 - d. Results must be checked and graded as objectively as possible.
 - e. A listing and discussion of various college farms and their uses followed.

Business Sessions

Aside from the regular routine business of the organization, several outstanding decisions were made that charted the future course of NACTA.

One. Report of a study by Dr. Benton, secretary-treasurer, concerning the number and locations of all non-land-grant colleges teaching agriculture in the United States. The locations were indicated on a large wall-size map. It showed 180 colleges and universities (94 Senior and 61 Junior). These colleges employed a total of 882 men teaching agricultural subjects. An additional 25 schools contacted did not respond to letters of inquiry. The potential membership for NACTA is approximately 1,000. A tabulation of schools and instructors showed an unequal number in the various divisions. Benton's study



The 1966 NACTA Executive Committee, front row; Keith Justice, Abilene Texas Christian College, president; Donald O. Robinson, Arizona State University, Tempe, vice president; Ervin S. French, president of Northeastern Colorado Junior College; Hilbert Kahl, chairman, Northeastern Colorado Junior College Division of Agriculture, secretary; Gordon Steward, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute,

treasurer; Back row; George Iig, California State University at Fresno, director of Western Region; James L. Davenport, Arkansas State College, director of Southern Region; Franklin E. Eldridge, University of Nebraska, director of North Central Region; G. Carl Schowengerdt, Southeastern Missouri State, historian; Neil Sandstedt, Northeastern Junior College.

and mapping of the different non-land grant colleges in the U.S. was the basis for delineating the four regions, namely, eastern, southern, western and central.

Two. The Constitution of NACTA

The main item of business at the second executive committee meeting held in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on May 6-8, 1955, was to write a suitable constitution and by-laws for NACTA. This was done and the tentative constitution was presented to the conference for study, adjustments, and ratification. After much discussion and few changes, the constitution and by-laws were adopted. (NOTE: If it can be assumed that there is no organization until a constitution is adopted, then this marks the official beginning of NACTA.)

Also note that the name of this organization shall be "The National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture." It will be seen later (1963) that the name was changed to "The National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture." The reason for this change will become apparent later in this treatise.

Three. Evaluation Score Card for College Agriculture Department¹

In developing this score card, an attempt was made to standardize the teaching facilities and upgrade the degree objectives and teaching expertise of a college faculty. This score card could be used as a guide line for agriculture departments and also as a tool for convincing the college administrators that departmental facilities, classrooms and personnel should be improved. This document could at least be a "norm" by which each agriculture department could gauge itself.

One is certainly "treading on thin ice" when attempting to single out certain outstanding men of this conference. It becomes doubly difficult when each and every member had an assignment, and each carried his responsibilities to a final conclusion. However, it seems apropos to identify a few leaders who possessed strong character, sound judgment, and a keen insight for the future. Such a list would include:

1. Dr. Ralph A. Benton, Normal, Illinois
2. Dr. William F. Brazziel, Jr., Wilberforce, Ohio
3. Dr. Burton W. DeVeau, Athens, Ohio

4. Dr. M. Hayne Folk, Jr., Ruston, Louisiana
5. Dr. Glenn Karls, Springfield, Missouri
6. Dr. E. B. Knight, Cookeville, Tennessee
7. Dr. Carl Schowengerdt, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
8. Dr. Conrad C. White, Warrensburg, Missouri

The author hastens to express his profound apologies for omitting any deserving names from this list and wishes to congratulate all those attending the conference for a job well done.

¹ The evaluation card is in the "Proceedings of the Second Annual conference, March 8-10, 1956.

CHAPTER V

This conference combined "good-old-Southern" hospitality, humor, serious business, and hard work all rolled into one. To set the "tone of the conference" J. C. Green, Stephen F. Austin College, Nacogdoches, Texas, and some of his friends persuaded the Texas Highway Rangers to play a little trick on President M. Hayne Folk, Jr. Hardly had Mr. Folk crossed the state line into Texas when he was pursued by a Texas Ranger, stopped, and given the "third degree." After being accused of many infractions of Texas laws, he was given a Texas Ranger escort to Nacogdoches; but instead of stopping at the Ranger Station, they proceeded to the Hotel Fredonia, where the NACTA conference was held. There President Folk was received by a welcoming committee. This, to say the least, relieved considerable tension and anxiety for the President.

At the evening meeting, Thursday, March 28, 1957, "Following Dr. Boynton's welcome, Mr. Green asked NACTA President Folk to come to the front of the room together with Texas Ranger Pete Rogers, the Governor's representative to the Conference, who presented Mr. Folk with a beautiful Texas 'ten-gallon hat' as a gift from the state of Texas, the hat to be worn at all times while presiding over the NACTA Conference."¹ No conference ever had a more distinguished looking President.

¹ Proceedings of the Third Annual Conference, NACTA, Stephen F. Austin State College, Nacogdoches, Texas. p. 7

At the two previous conferences at Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri, the conference rooms had tables, but no lecterns. This made it difficult for a speaker to read his notes and data. This situation prompted Dr. G. Carl Schowengerdt, Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to make a portable lectern which could be placed on any table. This lectern was made ready for the third annual conference. As is often the case, one "brain storm" leads to another, so G. Carl Schowengerdt made an appropriate gavel for the use of the presiding officer at the conference.²

Having completed the gavel, another "brain storm" hit. It was reasoned that surely in Texas, with all of its size, ten-gallon hats, and fantastic, incomprehensible stories, it would be downright embarrassing to be saddled with such a small, insignificant gavel. Who could get anyone's attention with the likes of that? Therefore, the Texas Gavel was "constructed." It took considerable engineering and research, but once on the "drawing boards" its development and completion was rapid. "The mallet is 12½ inches long, 7½ inches in diameter with a handle 3 feet long."³

The portable lectern, gavel, and name plate was presented to Mr. E. B. Knight, the first president of NACTA, who in turn presented it to Mr. M. Hayne Folk, Jr. It has been traditional since for the outgoing president of NACTA to present this gavel to the incoming president to signify the installation of the new president along with the newly elected officers.⁴

After the ritual of presenting the gavel, G. Carl Schowengerdt asked for Mr. J. C. Green, the chairman of the program committee to come to the front. After an appropriate explanation, Mr. Schowengerdt took the Texas gavel from its box and presented it to Mr. Green. It was a total surprise not only to Mr. Green but to the entire conference. "The oversized gavel presented to Mr. Green called forth much laughter and good fun."⁵

To many of the "damn Yankees" it was their first experience with Southern foods and traditions. The first morning all members ate in the Hotel Fredonia dining room, and each one ordered his own breakfast. When the plates arrived, they invariably contained a gourmet that was not listed on the menu. The Yankees protested "This is not my plate," "I did not order this." Waitress: "Those are grits; here you get them if you want them or not. I suggest you eat them." Well, most of us did, with some reluctance, but soon found them most appetizing. These, and other somewhat trivial moments, started the

conference with togetherness and in a very relaxed atmosphere, that did not deter participants from the serious business at hand.

Chairman J. C. Green introduced Dean M. Hayne Folk, Jr., President of NACTA, who gave his presidential address. His address was entitled: "The History and Purpose of the National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture."⁶

Dean M. Hayne Folk, Jr., stressed in his address, among other things, the events leading to the formation of NACTA, its purposes, objectives, and its future program. Special emphasis was given to the purposes of NACTA "(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."

One statement from this presidential address indicates the serious dedication of the persons in this conference and the two previous ones. "I doubt that any group of men ever met with a more serious purpose in mind or ever worked harder to formulate an organization that means, or will mean, so much to colleges teaching agriculture."⁷

The truth of this statement is becoming more apparent as the organization has widened its influence and perspective throughout the years.

The serious business of the conference began Thursday evening, March 28, 1957, when the President called attention to some important criteria concerning the future of NACTA. Perhaps a few "quotes" would serve to outline the address.

1. "Before attempting to give the history and purpose of the NACTA, I would like to give you some of the background of events which led to the need of such an organization."

2. "Non land grant agriculture was the first agriculture and had its beginnings in the time of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin."

3. "At a meeting at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on May 6, 1955, the executive committee formulated a proposed constitution and by-laws which was adopted, with minor changes, at the Second Annual Conference in Warrensburg, Missouri on March 10, 1956."

4. "This year, there have been six standing committees — Program, Public Relations, Improvement of College Training, Publications, Intercollegiate Contests, and Agricultural Curricula. . ."

A Placement Service Committee was formed at this conference which "can be of much service to members of the NACTA and colleges by helping colleges obtain qualified staff members and by putting staff members who desire to change locations in contact with vacancies in their major fields." For some reason or other, this Placement Service Committee did not have many calls for teacher placement but was available for those who wished to use its service.

Following the presidential address, a "mixer" gave everyone an opportunity to become acquainted and reac-

²The mallet part was made from osage orange (hedge) wood and the handle turned from walnut. Both these were made from "scratch," the wood being cut from the Schowengerdt lot in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

³Proceedings of the Third Annual Conference, NACTA, Stephen F. Austin College, Nacogdoches, Texas, p. 7

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

⁶The entire address can be found in Proceedings for the Third Annual Conference, NACTA, pp. 7-11.

⁷Ibid.

quainted with charter members and to reminisce about past conferences.

The Friday morning session (March 29, 1957) was a panel discussion concerned with the subject, "Recruiting Agricultural Majors." The panel members were Dr. Glen Karls, Chairman, Southwest Missouri State College; Dr. W. I. DeWees, Illinois State Normal University; Dr. E. E. Puls, Southeastern Louisiana College; Howard D. Corbus, Western Michigan College; B. T. Allen, Eastern New Mexico University; Dr. Burton W. DeVeau, Ohio University; W. Clyde Hyder, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute; and Dr. T. R. Buie, Southwest Texas State Teachers College.

The panel addressed itself to several aspects of recruiting agriculture majors. What is the trend in agricultural enrollment in the various states? For the most part the trend was downward. Some reported "Enrollment holding steady," but none indicated an increase.

The panel members had previously sent out questionnaires to determine enrollment problems. A summation of these questionnaires pointed very definitely to the problems and indicated some possible activities to increase agriculture student enrollment. This was a long, spirited discussion and was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon was then served in the campus cafeteria.

The first session on Friday afternoon was an address by William O. Trogdon, agronomist, Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. The remaining portion of the afternoon was given over to committee reports.

Saturday morning's first session was a business meeting. Following the routine business items, President Folk called for the report of the nominating committee: Dr. G. Carl Schowengerdt, Chairman; G. L. Allen; and W. Clyde Hyder. Dr. Schowengerdt proposed the following men for officers:

President — Dr. Burton W. DeVeau, Ohio University
Vice-President — Dr. T. R. Buie, Southwest Texas State Teachers College
Secretary-Treasurer — Dr. Ralph A. Benton, Southern Illinois University

Dr. Schowengerdt moved that the report be adopted and that a unanimous vote be cast for those nominated. The motion was seconded and carried. Regional Directors selected were J. Wendell Stucki, Ricks College, Rexburg, Idaho, Western; James D. Hamilton, Austin Peay State College, Clarksville, Tennessee, Southern; and H. O. Corbus, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan to fill the unexpired term of President-elect Dr. Burton W. DeVeau.

The Committee on Improvement of College Teaching, E.F. Low, Chairman, W. Clyde Hyder, Dr. G. Carl Schowengerdt, J. L. Sullivan, Dr. John A. Wright, and R. T. Wright gave their report. It was a lengthy report and contained many suggestions for means, methods, and facilities for improving instruction.

At the second annual conference there were suggestions and discussions concerning an "Intercollegiate Contest." Stanlie Spangler, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri, presented his committee

report. According to the questionnaire survey, Mr. Spangler concluded "that there was not yet enough interest to justify continuing efforts to promote such contests." Mr. Spangler's report was accepted and that the committee on contests continue work for another year. The committee consisted of Stanlie H. Spangler, Southwest Missouri State College, Chairman; Hal Barker, Louisiana Tech.; W. Clyde Hyder, Tennessee Tech.; F. B. Houghton, Northwest Missouri State College. This committee did continue to work out the problems of intercollegiate contests and the first contest was held at the fifth annual NACTA Conference at Berea, Kentucky, March 5-7, 1959.

One of the more interesting and thought provoking reports was that of the curriculum committee. It was "an individual one rather than a composite committee report."⁹ It was a presentation and explanation of the new changes in agriculture curriculum being established at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, as given by Dr. Burton W. DeVeau. This was among the first new concepts of change in the field of agriculture in which only technical courses were involved to one which allied fields were involved. . . "the word agriculture as it relates to all its fields is a misnomer."¹⁰ To name it appropriately, it should be called "Agribusiness," "Busagriculture," or "Agriculture-business." Such courses could determine how students can be trained to fit into our society and economy.

It is interesting to note that shortly after this third annual NACTA Convention, there was a change in the agriculture curricula throughout the United States. There was a national "swing" to a more "rounded" education rather than a narrow, specific type. This era saw the development of "general education," business accounting, business English, correlation courses of botany, zoology, chemistry, and physics as related to agriculture. The NACTA went on record as endorsing courses of General Education or Basic Studies, and especially in programs of Public School Teacher Preparation. One can only surmise how much of this change was due to the NACTA influence.

This was the first conference in which there was a definite planned arrangement made for a conference banquet, which was included in the program. Aside from a most interesting address by Mr. C. L. Schmucker of Beaumont, Texas, on "Let's Go in Agriculture," recognition was given to outstanding members and performances. The annual NACTA banquet was to become traditional.

The financial status of NACTA continued to improve. At the end of the second annual conference, the Association's balance on hand (February 29, 1956) was a minus \$5.68. This was under-written by the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Ralph A. Benton, until further income was obtained. This year (March 26, 1957) the Association had

⁹William O. Trogdon's address can be found in the Proceedings of the Third Annual Conference.

¹⁰Proceedings from the Third Annual Conference, p. 33.

¹⁰Ibid.

a total of \$295.00 credits, \$138.52 expenditures, leaving a plus balance of \$156.48. That's improvement.

The writer should be remiss if he did not call attention again to the outstanding Southern hospitality and courtesies afforded the Association members at the conference. It was a truly stimulating occasion.

At this stage in the scheduling of the annual meeting there was no pattern or continuity in where the next meeting would be. E. D. Moore, Arkansas State College, (Jonesboro) Arkansas, attending the meeting for the first time, was so impressed with the NACTA program, its ideals and attitudes, that he immediately called his president to obtain permission to have the conference at Arkansas State the following year. J. C. Green, Nacogdoches, also issued an invitation to the Conference, but the members voted to accept the bid from Arkansas State as the site for the 1958 annual conference.

CHAPTER VI

The fourth annual NACTA Conference, as did prior ones, focused its attention on a main topic around which the discussions revolved. As stated in Dr. Burton W. DeVeau's presidential address, "This year curriculum is our theme. . . We may have all the students we could possibly use but if our various curricula are haphazardly arranged and steeped in tradition or if our teaching is just average, we will not accomplish our objective of producing well-trained agriculturalists."¹

In accordance with this "curriculum theme," the special speakers, panel discussions, and individual considerations dealt with some aspect of the subject at hand. A listing of the various topics will show how closely the curriculum study was followed.

Mr. Arch Ford, State Education Commissioner of Arkansas, "The Deficiencies of Prospective College Students."

Panel, Dr. E. E. Puls, Southeastern Louisiana College, Chairman, "Curriculum Problems — What's Ahead for Agriculture Curricula Building."

Panel, John T. Carter, University of Houston, Chairman, "The Role of Curriculum Activities and Total Student Development."

Report, E. B. Knight, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Chairman, "Improvement of College Teaching — Some Trends in College Teaching of Agriculture."

Panel, William F. Brazziel, Jr., Southern University, Chairman, "Professional Growth Through A Professional Organization."²

Reports and discussions by the various panel members showed that they had done their homework well. Information concerning the subjects under discussion was obtained from returned questionnaires from many schools, individuals, and business organizations and from true experiences of many agriculture departments of non land grant colleges.

Space does not permit a full listing of all the conclusions; however, a selected few might be apropos.³

1. Poor reading ability, low comprehension, and poor study habits.
2. Inadequate counseling in high school.
3. Industry wants: (1) effective personality, (2) participation in campus activities, (3) high marks.
4. Co-curricular activities are encouraged but not overdone.
5. Teach responsibility and leadership.
6. Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities develop a wider acquaintance among students, staff, administration, and business men.
7. An increasing amount of attention is being given to areas pertaining to the training of students for employment in the business related to agriculture.
8. The college farm is an effective tool in teaching the various subject matter courses.

Boiled down, what has been expressed in all of the discussion on curriculum and improvement of teaching is shown in the following statements:

"Believing, as we do, that all schools exist mainly to prepare youths for a life of good citizenship and occupational competency, we must constantly keep alert to such changes and shape the courses we teach — and curricula also — to fulfill our obligations to those we serve."

"College teachers of agriculture should avail themselves of every opportunity to improve their teaching ability through such means as graduate work on advanced degrees, refresher courses, travel, and attendance at state and national meetings related to their professional fields."

"Realizing that even college professors sometimes need advice and constructive suggestions looking toward course improvement, let us use staff analysis, employer opinion, the views of our graduates and other measures to evaluate our teaching methods and our course content."⁴

The business sessions of the Fourth Annual Conference of NACTA disposed of the routine and special matters of the organization. Dr. Burton W. DeVeau, president, presided. The Nominating Committee, H. D. Corbus, chairman, nominated the following to office for 1959:

President - T. R. Buie, Southwest Texas State Teachers College

Vice-President - J. Wendell Stucki, Ricks College

Secretary-Treasurer - Ralph A. Benton, Southern Illinois University

1) President's address — Proceedings, Fourth Annual Conference NACTA, Jonesboro, Arkansas, March 20-22, 1958.

2) A complete list of all panel members, along with their addresses, (and actions taken by NACTA on each discussion) can be found in the Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Conference of NACTA, Jonesboro, Arkansas, 1958.

3) Ibid.



The first meeting of NACTA, March 11 to 12, 1957

It was moved by M. Hayne Folk, Jr., seconded by W. Clyde Hyder that a unanimous vote be cast for those nominated. The motion prevailed.

Regional directors elected were: Western, Laurie Pearson, Ricks College; Central, G. Carl Schowengerdt, Southeast Missouri State College.

Dr. Feaster Wolford of Berea College, Kentucky, invited the members of NACTA to Berea College for the next convention in the spring of 1959.

Leroy J. Young, Southwest Texas State, reported on Agricultural contests. Following the report, the first Student Agricultural Livestock Judging Contest was held at a NACTA convention, at Berea College in 1959.⁵

It was also moved by Leroy J. Young, seconded by John D. Schatz, that a membership contest be established for 1959. It was proposed that the total states be divided in half with the losers obligated to buy a dinner for the winners. The motion prevailed, but the contest was never implemented.

John A. Wright, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, restated his committee proposals regarding the NACTA publication. These proposals were discussed at length and all were agreed upon, including the suggestion that the name "Newsletter" should be discontinued and replaced by "Journal." It was moved by G. Carl Schowengerdt, seconded by Feaster Wolford, that these proposals in total be accepted and the Publications Committee have the responsibility to carry them out.⁶ The motion prevailed.

President Burton W. DeVeau brought up the matter of NACTA dues for 1959. In keeping with the sixth proposal of the Publications Committee and recommendations of the Executive Committee, dues will be set at \$3.00 beginning January 1 and ending December 31, 1959. The \$3.00 will include a year's subscription to the

NACTA Journal. In addition, the annual conference registration fee will be \$5.00 for those attending. Host school staff members are to be exempt from the \$5.00 fee.

The third annual financial report of NACTA from March 26, 1957 to March 20, 1958 showed:

Balance on hand March 26, 1957	\$155.64
Total 1957 Membership Dues	280.00
Advance Memberships for 1958	30.00
Total Credits	465.64
Expenditures	161.54
Balance on hand, March 19, 1958	\$304.10

This may not be the most outstanding balance in the world but it shows considerable frugality and thrift compared to the financial statement of the first conference in which there was a deficit of \$5.68.

John D. Schatz, Southwest Missouri State College, stated that in his opinion there was a need for a national organization or society of agriculture majors in non-land grant colleges for promoting and honoring scholarship and moved that such a national scholastic society be organized. E. B. Knight seconded the motion. Schatz was appointed chairman of a committee to investigate further the possibilities of such a society to be sponsored by NACTA. This motion led to the formation of Delta Tau Alpha.⁷

President Burton W. DeVeau expressed his appreciation to the NACTA Conference members and then

4) Ibid.

5) A more detailed history of the Livestock Judging Contest will be given later.

6) A detailed history of the "Newsletter" and "Journal" will be given later.

7) The full details of organizing Delta Tau Alpha will be discussed later.



15, at Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Mo.

called upon President-elect T. R. Buie to take charge of the meeting. Dr. Buie also expressed his appreciation to the conference and asked their cooperation for the following year. He then announced the chairmen of committees chosen for 1959. The fourth annual NACTA Conference was subsequently adjourned.

CHAPTER VII

The idea of some kind of publication for N.A.C.T.A. was conceived at the first meeting at Warrensburg, Missouri, in 1955, but no firm actions were taken. At the second annual conference, however, "the following men would serve as chairman of the different committees for 1956: . . . Publications—C.R. Pearce, Warrensburg, Missouri. . . ." There is no record of who the other members (if any) of Mr. Pearce's committee were. We can assume Mr. Pearce was acting alone in 1956. This is substantiated by the report given the following conference at Nacogdoches, Texas. "Mr. E. F. Low, Central Missouri State College, reported for his colleague, C. R. Pearce, chairman of the Publications Committee, who could not be present. . . ."

"I would like to apologize for not having a publication ready for distribution at this meeting. . . I will endeavor to give a few points on our publication or bulletin which ever we might prefer to call it, or by some other name and that brings me to the point of what shall we call it?"

"It seems to me that we should have a committee to work out a few points and these items passed on by the delegation.² Mr. Pearce then listed fourteen points

(questions) concerning the publication which should be thoroughly discussed by the conference. The report continues, ". . . that the chair chose one without experience on publications. There should have been definite committee members chosen also. . . I have had a lot of food for thought and the two or three starts I made to get out a publication were full of interesting experiences but a little more than I could do with my other duties."³

At the last meeting of the Third Annual Conference, President-elect Dr. Burton W. DeVeau called upon the secretary to read the appointments to the various standing committees. Among these was the first *Publications Committee*. The members were — Dr. John A. Wright, Chairman, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana; W. Clyde Hyder, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee; Christian Fisher, Southeastern Louisiana College, Hammond, Louisiana; Clarence R. Pearce, Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri; Dr. W.W. Hoy, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri; and James E. Elliott, Southwest Texas State Teachers College, San Marcos, Texas.

This publications committee published Volume 1, No. 1, NACTA NEWSLETTER, in November, 1957. It was a 6" x 9" - 8 page letter, and written primarily by the members of the committee. It was a good publication containing not only articles by various members but comments on "Hospitality — Southern Style," gleanings from the 1957 Convention Speeches, Some National Legislation affecting N.A.C.T.A. Members, and Placement Service."

1. *Proceedings of Second Annual Conference, N.A.C.T.A., 3/8/1956.*
2. *Proceedings of Third Annual Conference, N.A.C.T.A., 3/28-30/1957.*
3. *Ibid.*

A few quotes will express the concern, dedication, and difficulty confronting the committee with this first publication. "We are trying to publish this issue of the NACTA NEWSLETTER on a shoestring. . . The work in publishing a newsletter is almost prohibitive, though its value can hardly be measured . . . the mechanics of compiling and mailing will always be difficult. However, since the initial effort has now been made, let neither lack of interest nor procrastination prevent its REGULAR appearance! . . . it is a signal accomplishment to me to get this first issue PRINTED (rather than mimeographed)...May this be the poorest issue we ever have."

At the next N.A.C.T.A. Convention (March 20-22, 1958) Dr. E. B. Knight, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee, was elected chairman of the Publications Committee. Dr. Knight edited the NACTA NEWSLETTER for two years, and in 1961, Dr. John A. Wright, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana, became the new editor. An article on the return of Dr. Wright had this comment, "Dr. John A. Wright of Louisiana Tech is returning to active teaching duties after a leave of absence which permitted him to complete his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University. Dr. Wright will be well remembered by veteran N.A.C.T.A. members as the initial Editor of the NACTA NEWSLETTER . . . The present Editor predicts that under the capable hand of Dr. Wright the JOURNAL will show constant improvement."⁵

In order to finance some of the early issues of the NACTA NEWSLETTER and JOURNAL, various members prevailed upon commercial concerns and private individuals to underwrite an issue. Many companies and some individuals responded, enabling the JOURNAL to remain current on its obligations. For those donations, the N.A.C.T.A. is deeply grateful.

At the business meeting of the Fourth Annual Conference of N.A.C.T.A., the Publications Committee made six proposals to drastically change the format of the NEWSLETTER and to put it on a more businesslike basis. "Among other things it was pretty generally agreed that the name NEWSLETTER should be discontinued and replaced by JOURNAL. It was moved by Dr. Schwengerdt, seconded by Mr. Wolford, that these proposals be accepted and the Publications Committee given the responsibility of carrying them out. The motion prevailed.⁶ Beginning with Volume II, Number 1, the publication has been the JOURNAL OF THE NACTA. It has been published quarterly since that time. Dr. Wright served as editor for fifteen years and the JOURNAL did indeed increase in "constant improvement" and has become the only scientific publication dedicated wholly to the improvement of the teaching of agriculture.

4. The Journal of the NACTA, August, 1960, Volume III, Number 1.

5. Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Conference, N.A.C.T.A., March 20-22, 1958.

6. Ibid.

7. Journal of the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, Volume XVIII, Number 4, December, 1974.

In 1972, Dr. Wright was granted a \$300 stipend, subject to annual review and a life membership to N.A.C.T.A. He has an article in the JOURNAL entitled "A History of NACTA JOURNAL."

Jack Everly, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, was named associate editor in 1971 and became editor with the March issue 1975. The JOURNAL has been enlarged and still further improved under his leadership.

CHAPTER VIII

The first four or five years of N.A.C.T.A.'s existence were the "growing-pain" years. These juvenile years posed many questions and some answers about concerns, goals, and aspirations of the organization. They were the formative years. With the purposes, goals, and objectives established, N.A.C.T.A. began to bring in ideas and organizations to complete these objectives.

One such organization was Delta Tau Alpha. The idea of a subsidiary student honor society to N.A.C.T.A. had been "kicked around" in some of the "bull sessions" and private conversation for several years prior to 1958. This (1958) seemed the time to put some ideas into practice.

At the business session of N.A.C.T.A., Friday afternoon, March 21, 1958, Dr. Burton W. DeVeau, President, Ohio University, presiding, Dr. John D. Schatz, Southwest Missouri State College was given permission to speak from the floor. "He stated that in his opinion there was a need for a national organization or society for agricultural majors in the non-land-grant colleges and universities for promoting and honoring scholarship in these schools, and he moved that such a national scholastic society be organized. It was seconded by Dr. Knight. In the discussion that followed it was mentioned that some schools had already contacted officials of Alpha Zeta but had been informed that their students were not eligible to become members (only students in land-grant-colleges were eligible). Further discussion indicated a desire on the part of the delegates for such an organization for their students. The motion by Mr. Schatz was voted upon and carried. Mr. Schatz was appointed chairman of a committee to investigate further the possibilities of a scholastic society to be sponsored by the N.A.C.T.A. His report and proposal was to be made at the next annual conference.

During the following year Professor Schatz prepared a draft of a proposed National Constitution and By-Laws and presented it to a business session of the Fifth Annual Conference of N.A.C.T.A. at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, held March 5, 6, and 7 of 1959.

Several colleges brought student representatives to work with Professor Schatz to perfect the proposed Constitution and By-Laws, developing a trial document to be

followed during the 1959-1960 School Year. The students chose the name DELTA TAU ALPHA which was to have the common meaning of DEDICATED TO AGRICULTURE. It was then decided to take the trial Constitution and By-Laws back to the respective campuses and organize as many chapters as possible for installation at the first National Convention to be held in Springfield, Missouri, March 17, 18, and 19, 1960.

At the Bera College Conference the following National Officers were elected to serve during the organizational year:

PRESIDENT: Harry Lanpher, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri.

VICE-PRESIDENT: J. Lowell Loadholtz, Berry College, Mount Berry, Georgia.

TREASURER: (Left vacant — no funds to care for)

REPORTER: Lyle Youngberg, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri.

HONORARY SCHOLASTIC SOCIETY CHAIRMAN: Prof. John D. Schatz, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri.

The first annual National Convention of THE HONOR SOCIETY OF DELTA TAU ALPHA was held in conjunction with the N.A.C.T.A. Convention at Southwest Missouri State College in Springfield, Missouri, March 17, 18 and 19, 1960. There were seven chapters chartered at this convention. An installation ceremony was held before the joint delegate bodies of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE and THE HONOR SOCIETY OF DELTA TAU ALPHA, March 19, 1960. The colleges having student groups who had applications for chapter charters approved and charters granted in their ceremony are listed below in alphabetical order:

Charter DTA Chapters

1. Arkansas State College, State College, Arkansas
2. Austin Peay State College, Clarksville, Tennessee
3. Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
4. Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri
5. Southwest Texas State College, San Marcos, Texas
6. Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville, Tennessee
7. Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio

At this first National Convention the National Constitution and By-Laws were revised by correcting the problems experienced during the trial and organizational year. As revised, the CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS were approved for printing into booklet form. The foundation was thus completed for THE HONOR SOCIETY OF DELTA TAU ALPHA."¹

At the first National Convention of D.T.A. (1960) eight ideas were submitted as proposed emblems. A committee was appointed to select three of the emblems for final vote by the Convention. The emblems chosen were

made into official jewelry for D.T.A., and all members are permitted to wear the lapel pin, tie tack, or key pin. Honorary members must have the word "Honorary" inscribed on his (or her) jewelry.

The first National Convention of D.T.A. also provided for individual membership and National Chapter Charter Certificates, and at the second National Convention Membership Certificates for Members-at-Large were approved. All members initiated and all chapters chartered at this convention received certificates with the word CHARTER superimposed across the front.

The original National Constitution and By-Laws provided for a National President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter. Dr. John D. Schatz, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri, served as Honorary Scholastic Society Chairman and was appointed by the National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture. At the 1960 D.T.A. Convention the offices of National Treasurer and National Reporter were eliminated and positions of National Executive Treasurer and National Faculty Advisor were created.²

At the outset D.T.A. Conventions were held at the same time and in conjunction with the Annual Conventions of N.A.C.T.A. Some time was set aside at each N.A.C.T.A. Convention to hear a report from the D.T.A. This kept the N.A.C.T.A. members informed of the progress of D.T.A. and also gave opportunity for mutual discussion and guidance for the organization's future. Members attended the annual N.A.C.T.A.-D.T.A. banquet where all awards were presented to the recipients.

After several years³ D.T.A. discontinued its annual convention at the same time as N.A.C.T.A. The reason given was that students were not able to attend a convention in June since most of them were out of school and had summer jobs. However, D.T.A. was supposed to send at least one representative to the N.A.C.T.A. Convention and bring a rather detailed report on D.T.A. activities. This practice was discontinued after a few years. Currently, excellent liaison is provided by the Delta Tau Alpha National Adviser serving on the NACTA Executive Committee.

Corbus Award

Mrs. H.D. Corbus, widow of the late H.D. Corbus of Western Michigan University, made available a sum of money to be used in establishing a memorial to Professor Corbus. The Executive Committee accepted the gift and

1. From The Honor Society of Delta Tau Alpha, A Statement of History, printed April, 1963.

2. More detailed information concerning D.T.A. can be found in Delta Tau Alpha, A Statement of History, and in Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Conference of N.A.C.T.A.-1959.

3. At this writing the author has found no data to substantiate the years when these changes were made.

4. Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Conference N.A.C.T.A., Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri, March 17-19, 1960, Page 7.

recommended that it be used to secure a trophy or plaque to be awarded each year to the outstanding Delta Tau Alpha Chapter, N.A.C.T.A. Honorary Scholastic Society.⁴

The National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture's honorary scholastic society, **Delta Tau Alpha**, has flourished during the past seventeen years under the able leadership of Dr. John D. Schatz, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri; Dr. M. R. Krumnow, San Houston Texas Teachers College, Huntsville, Texas; and Dr. Glen Rydl, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas; Professor Ed Moore, Arkansas State College, State College, Arkansas; Dr. Cecil Gregg, Southwest Texas State College, San Marcos, Texas; Professor J. N. Smith, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri; Dr. William E. Meyer, Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; and others who gave voluntary assistance to this young organization.

CHAPTER IX

The first Constitution and By-Laws written for N.A.C.T.A. states that the name shall be "The National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture." However, within a few years it became apparent that this name did not encompass the entire potential of N.A.C.T.A.'s clientele. In order, therefore, to widen the scope — "Dr. E. E. Puls, Southeastern Louisiana College, at the 1960 annual conference at Springfield, Missouri, suggested that the name of N.A.C.T.A. be changed in order to permit the solicitation of institutional memberships.

The executive committee, meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, June, 1961, unanimously approved the suggestion and that the matter be placed before the general membership at the annual meeting in 1962.

The change which the committee suggests is so slight that many members will scarcely be able to recognize the difference, yet it is sufficient to aid the envisioned new role of our organization. The proposed name is **THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE.**"¹

At the business session of the 8th Annual Meeting at Fresno State College, Fresno, California, (March 18-20, 1962) Dr. Roy Joe Stuckey, Director, Department of Agriculture, Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio, moved to change the Constitution of N.A.C.T.A. in order to change the name to **THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE** so as to provide a school membership fee of \$25. After much discussion, it was moved by Dean Burchett, Orange Coast College, to table the motion. His motion prevailed.

The discussion pertaining to the name change of N.A.C.T.A. was finalized at the 1963 Annual Conference

at Ft. Hayes State College, Hayes, Kansas, when the members voted favorably on the motion which was tabled the previous year. The initials remain the same, but the alteration made possible institutional membership. Provisions for institutional membership in N.A.C.T.A. automatically gave each member of the staff of that institution an individual membership in N.A.C.T.A. with all the rights and privileges of membership.

This slight change in the name of N.A.C.T.A. has served the organization well through the years. It has given N.A.C.T.A. access to many institutions such as libraries, college agriculture departments, some commercial organizations and perhaps others. Institutional memberships put the *Journal* in the hands of many more persons than otherwise would have been the case.

1. N.A.C.T.A. Journal, Vol. V, No. 2, Nov. 1961.



NACTA's 24th President, O. J. Burger, of the University of California at Fresno, pointing to the golden opportunities ahead for the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture as the organization moves into its 25th year.

CHAPTER X

It will be remembered that the **National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture** (NACTA) was born in March, 1955, through frustration, misunderstanding, non-cooperation, lack of communication, pride, and ignorance among the various institutions of higher learning in the United States. NACTA began as an entity unto itself trying to solve its own problems.

This concept of a separate entity "going-it-alone" was short lived however since NACTA soon realized that **Improvement in the Teaching of Agriculture** was not confined to non-land grant colleges alone, but encompassed all institutions offering instruction in agriculture. Therefore, very early in its inchoate existence NACTA envisioned an all-inclusive organization which would improve the teaching of agriculture in all institutions of higher learning — an *in toto* instruction improvement program movement.

At the second annual NACTA Conference, therefore, two guests from the Soil Conservation Service of Missouri spoke to the membership. This was a very successful attempt by the NACTA program committee to introduce Land-Grant college background to the faculties of NACTA schools. Since that time at all successive annual conferences, state education leaders and Land-Grant college faculty and administrators have been invited as guests and/or speakers.¹ These guests speakers and panel participants at the annual NACTA conferences contributed greatly to the improvement of relations between NACTA schools and the Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture.

Undoubtedly the Land-Grant College personnel invited as guests to the annual NACTA conferences and those who participated in its programs were influential in bringing NACTA's ideas and goals to the attention of the Land Grant Colleges. "At their annual meeting in 1957 the American Association of Land-Grant Colleges and State Universities (AALGCSU), Division of Agriculture, appointed a committee on **Relationships with Non-land grant colleges Teaching Agriculture**. (Note - this was just two years after NACTA was organized.)

Perhaps the person foremost in initiating and enlisting the cooperation among the institutions of higher learning is Dr. Roy Joe Stuckey, Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio. His interest and work with the Land-Grant Colleges led to the following report on Land-Grant and Non-land grant schools, by the Resident Instruction Committee on Policy. (RICOP)² "Many of us are aware of the effort initiated by Dr. Roy Joe Stuckey to work with representatives of the Land-Grant Colleges to study relationships between Land-Grant and Non-land grant schools."

1. DeVeau, Burton W., Director, Eastern Region. "Our Improved Relations with Land Grant Colleges." NACTA Journal, 1963, Vol. VII, No. 1, p. 12. Also Proceedings of Fifth Annual Conference - NACTA. Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, March 5-7, 1959.

2. NACTA Journal. Vol. V, Aug. 1961, No. 1. pp. 12-14.

The following paragraphs are quotes from a report from RICOP Committee on Relationships with Non-land grant Institutions Teaching Agriculture and dated November 9, 1960. **THE SITUATION**. Deans, directors and faculty of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities should be fully aware that many students are pursuing an education in agriculture at numerous non-land grant colleges as well as Land-Grant Colleges. The best interests of agriculture will be served only as these students obtain the highest quality education consistent with their aims and abilities. It seems logical to believe that such an educational goal can be achieved more completely on a nation-wide basis through active cooperation of all institutions offering college training in agriculture. Although cooperation does exist among these institutions, it probably can be improved. The Land-Grant Colleges have been teaching agriculture longer than most Non-land grant institutions and have worked together for many years through the appropriate branches of the AALGCSU. It seems appropriate that our association should take the initiative in promoting complete cooperation among all institutions teaching agriculture and publicly announce this as our policy."³

On the basis of Dr. Stuckey's contacts, a meeting was held by representatives of both groups. The members of this representative group were: F. N. Briggs, California; N.O. Peacock, Tennessee; P. R. Poffenberger, Maryland; S. B. Shirky, Missouri, and F. E. Eldridge, Nebraska, Chairman. NACTA members were Burton De Veau, Ohio University; M. Hayne Folk, Jr., Louisiana Polytechnic Institute; Glenn Karls, Southwest Missouri State College; Dan O. Robinson, Arizona State University, and Roy Joe Stuckey, Wilmington College. (Dr. Henry Brunner, U.S. Office of Education and Dr. David Knapp, attended.) The function of this committee was to discover the role of Non-land grant college Departments of Agriculture and to recommend ways in which all colleges offering agriculture could cooperate.

Dr. Burton W. DeVeau, Director, Eastern-Region NACTA was invited to speak at the November 11, 1958, annual meeting of AALGCSU in Washington, D.C., on the topic "A Look at the Land-Grant Agricultural Colleges by a Non-land Grant Staff Member."⁴ Dr. DeVeau's discussion was exceptionally well received and probably was the "ice-breaker" which led to complete cooperation between the Land-Grant and non-land grant colleges teaching agriculture.

Through the efforts of Dr. Roy Joe Stuckey, Wilmington College, Ohio; Dr. Henry Brunner, U.S. Office of Education; Dr. Franklin Eldridge, Nebraska; and Dr. F. N. Briggs, California, a meeting was arranged between representatives of NACTA and AALGCSU at the College of Business Administration, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri on July 21, 1961. Representing NACTA were Dr. Burton W. DeVeau, Ohio University; Dr. M. H. Folk, Jr., Louisiana Polytechnic Institute; Dr. G. Carl Schowengerdt, S. E. Missouri State College; and Dr. Roy

3. Ibid.

4. NACTA Journal. Vol. VII, March, 1963, No. 1. p. 12.

Joe Stuckey, Wilmington College, Ohio. Representing AALGCSU were Dr. F. E. Eldridge, Nebraska; Dr. F. N. Briggs, California; Dr. N. D. Peacock, Tennessee; and Sam B. Shirky, Missouri. Dr. H. S. Brunner, U.S. Office of Education also attended.

At this first liaison meeting participants became acquainted not only with one another, but also with the many problems facing both land-grant and non-land grant schools. A lively and sincere discussion of pertinent subjects and concerns occupied the entire meeting. Among other items were topics such as 1. Transfer and substitutions of credits, 2. General Agriculture, 3. Relation of extension to NACTA schools, 4. Improving communications with research personnel, 5. Using NACTA facilities for cooperative experiments, 6. Problems of recognition and stigmas of "accreditation," 7. Increased emphasis on science and business in agricultural curricula, 8. Survey of curriculum patterns and 9. How to continue liaison.⁵

At this same time NACTA also was thinking of including other institutions of higher learning in the organization. At the fourth annual conference of NACTA, Jonesboro, Arkansas, March 20-22, 1958, a panel discussion on "Professional Growth through a Professional Organization, an Evaluation of the NACTA" disclosed some thoughts on this subject.⁶

"It is pretty generally agreed that if only Land-Grant Colleges offered an opportunity for an agricultural education, the number of young people benefited would be considerably fewer than under the present system where additional state and private schools offer instruction in agriculture at the college level. . . . Most of the colleges and universities giving agricultural training, other than Land-Grant, are rather strategically located within the state and can rightfully classify as community, area, or regional colleges. This philosophy of making higher education available to a larger number of people at lower cost gave birth to the junior colleges having courses in agriculture to be considered for NACTA membership."

"The Junior Colleges have a tremendous potential in extending agricultural education to more people. In the survey . . . made in 1955 and 1956 I found approximately 75 junior colleges throughout the U.S. giving instruction in agriculture. . . . In Colorado, New York, Washington, and Wyoming, the only schools giving college level agricultural training in addition to the State Agricultural College are junior colleges."⁷

These and other statements by the panel probably planted the first ideas in the minds of the NACTA membership that all institutions of higher learning offering agricultural training be asked to become members of NACTA.

This was also the time when colleges throughout the United States were seeing a great influx of students. The Federal Government was expanding programs in vocational and academic studies and much Federal monies became available for students aspiring to a college

education. With the great amount of emphasis on education, especially in the sciences, it seemed like a good time to stress classroom instruction. "When the fruit is ripe - harvest."

Liaison was continued and the second meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Farm Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, on April 25, 1962.⁸ Discussion centered around: 1. Transfer of credit; 2. Curriculum improvement; 3. Dissemination of information; 4. What happens to the graduates, and future activities.

Probably the most important result of these two meetings was, "an **official invitation** by both associations to each other to have **official delegates** attend regional and national meetings.

The third annual joint liaison committee meeting was held at the same conference room on April 25, 1963.⁹

Official delegates were present at both NACTA and AALGCSU regional and national conventions. This practice has continued through the years and has resulted in excellent cooperation and relationships among Land-Grant, non-land grant, and two-year colleges.

A very large number of men have represented both organizations over the last 20 years (or so). They not only laid the foundation but preserved the **good will** and excellent cooperation among the institutions of higher learning. Members of both organizations continue to be greatly impressed with the sincerity of all members of the Liaison Committee in their efforts to find solutions to continuing problems and to improve relationships and cooperation among members of NACTA and AALGCSU.¹⁰

Some Doubting Thomases

At the outset not all Land-Grant personnel and NACTA members shared the concept of an organization which encompassed all institutions of higher learning teaching agriculture. Many held to the idea that NACTA is a unique organization, the only one of its kind in the United States, (in the world for that matter); therefore, its autonomy should be perpetuated and maintained. Certainly many instructors in agriculture at Non-land grant colleges had experienced much difficulty with student transfers and credit acceptance that made them

5. A complete description of this first liaison meeting is given in the August, 1961, issue of the NACTA Journal.

6. Members of this panel were William Brazziel, Jr., chairman, Southern University, Louisiana; Ralph A. Benton, Southern Illinois University; T. R. Buie, Southwest Texas State Teachers College; B. W. DeVeau, Ohio University; E. B. Knight, Tennessee Polytechnic Institute; and G. Carl Schowengerdt, S. E. Missouri State College.

7. NACTA Journal, Vol. X, No. 2.

8. NACTA delegates were: M. H. Folk, Jr., B. W. DeVeau, R. J. Stuckey, and D. O. Robinson. AALGCSU representatives were P. R. Roffenberger, R. S. Wheeler, and F. N. Briggs. Henry Brunner, U.S. Office of Education also participated.

9. NACTA delegates were D. W. DeVeau, chairman; M. H. Folk, Jr.; Glenn E. Karls; D. O. Robinson; T. J. Stanly; and R. J. Stuckey.

10. To list all the persons who worked directly toward including Land-Grant Colleges and Junior Colleges in NACTA membership would be a tremendous task. Those interested should consult the NACTA Journals.

very skeptical about any harmony or cooperation existing between Land-Grant and Non-land grant colleges.

Controversy over the acceptance of Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture into NACTA continued over a period of several years, but "came-to-a-head" in 1959 when President, Dr. Ralph H. Benton, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, wrote many letters to the membership of NACTA to ascertain their thoughts on accepting Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture into NACTA. Most of the members expressed approval but also had some reservations as to the outcome. However, they also expressed an undertone of "necessary unity" among all colleges with agricultural curricula to make the improvement of teaching really meaningful. "A house divided among itself cannot stand." This was perhaps the main compelling force for unity.

A sampling of replies to Dr. Benton's letters is interesting for it shows a trend of thought among members of NACTA:¹¹

"So far, I have failed to see any real good reason why someone should not be invited. Our problems and theirs may not be much different. A representative may have some good pointers for us, and he probably will also learn something. At least it will indicate that we are open to suggestions for improvement of teaching. The representative may go away with the idea that we are improving, and that, perhaps we are not doing such a bad job of teaching as he thought. The NACTA group should be able to 'outvote' one representative from a Land-Grant College. I am in favor of the invitation."

". . . we should cultivate the friendship and cooperation of the Land-Grant Colleges. . . I would suggest each year from the Land-Grant Colleges. . . I would suggest to our membership to deal diplomatically and refrain from accusations or pointing an accusing finger at the Land-Grant Association. We need their help in assisting us in upgrading our programs and developing standards so that credit from our member colleges would be more acceptable to the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities."

"I am completely in favor of inviting someone from the Land-Grant College Association In fact, in the long run, I don't see how we can accomplish very much in the way of accreditation without some help and ideas from this other group of agricultural colleges. I realize that because of the superiority attitude some of the Land-Grant people have taken that some of the membership of the NACTA might object, but we have to cooperate with them sooner or later if we are to live up to our aims, and I think we are far enough along to do it now."

"If we are willing to lay our cards on the table presently with the people from the Land-Grant colleges, then they should be invited; if we are not, they should not be. My personal reaction is that sooner or later we are going to have to consider their academic standards and requirements if we expect to gain their widespread acceptance."

"On the surface I can see no objection to inviting such a person to "sit-in" at our meetings as an observer. There may be some public relations value in this, but I doubt whether our public relations would be greatly enhanced. I doubt very much if we would derive much benefit from this presence at this time because if we ask him for an opinion, I am certain he would preface his remarks by, 'I can only give you my opinion, not the opinion of the Land-Grant College Association.' . . . I would say do **not** invite him at this time."

"I have mixed emotions concerning accepting Land-Grant Colleges into NACTA. I would suggest we delay this matter until we can determine their true attitude and concern. I would hate to see NACTA become a "step-child" of the Land-Grant College organization."

It can be readily seen that not all NACTA members were of the same mind concerning the Land-Grant Colleges. However, the letters seem to indicate a **reluctant acceptance** of Land-Grant Association participation in NACTA. After many letters and much "Bull-session" discussion among the NACTA membership, the idea prevailed that improvement in teaching agriculture was not confined to non-land grant colleges, and if any substantial progress was to be made it would have to be a **TOTAL** effort and not a "piece-meal" affair.

During that same year (1959) Dr. Burton W. DeVeaue was instrumental in getting certain leaders in both AALGCSU and NACTA to continue private liaison talks. In a letter to Dr. Franklin E. Eldridge, College of Agriculture, Lincoln, Nebraska, he wrote: "I understand you are scheduled to participate on a panel assigned the topic "Agricultural Education in Our Public Schools" at Iowa State College, May 18-19 (1959), with Dean Shirky and Ralph Benton among others on this panel. I hope you will have the opportunity to spend some time with Dr. Benton. He is currently President of the National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture. Perhaps you will be able to continue the discussion we had concerning 'relationships' in Washington, D.C., with him."

Liaison continued between the NACTA and the Land-Grant Colleges which developed a mutual respect and concern in both groups. This growing concern brought about a greater understanding among the institutions of higher learning. Student credit, transfers, and improvement of teaching problems were no longer Land-Grant **or** non-land grant but became Land-Grant **and** non-land grant problems. This concept of an all-inclusive effort toward the improvement of teaching agriculture was logical to all concerned.

The first **gesture** toward a real merger of the two organizations was the election of Dr. Franklin E. Eldridge, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, as Director of the Central Region in 1965. He later became Vice-

11. The following are excerpts taken from a series of letters written in answer to Dr. Benton's letters. No attempt will be made to identify each. These are merely to indicate the trend in thinking of NACTA members.

president (1967) and President of NACTA (1968). His leadership and foresight had a very favorable influence on all concerned with NACTA. At this time most of the "doubting Thomases" were convinced that NACTA should and could be the vehicle to encompass all institutions of higher learning offering courses in agriculture.

At the NACTA Business Meeting, Monday, April 26, 1965, President Hal Barker appointed (among others) a Liaison Committee with Junior Colleges, Hilbert Kahl, Chairman, Northeast Junior College, Sterling, Colorado.¹² This committee, however, was short lived since two years later NACTA changed its constitution to include all colleges and universities offering courses in agriculture.¹³

The president of NACTA, after the 1966 Convention, requested the Liaison Committee to continue work on revision of the constitution and by-laws.¹⁴ The revision pertained specifically to Land-Grant and non-land grant colleges. "(It) . . . attempted . . . to give direction to this organization as one which would serve as a common meeting ground for teachers and administrators concerned with instruction from all institutions offering college level instruction in Agriculture. . . . Article II. **Purposes:** 1. To provide for all colleges a forum for discussion of questions and problems related to improvement of college level instruction in agriculture. Article III. **Membership.** Section 1. Active members - the active membership shall be composed of regularly employed teachers of agricultural subjects in a university, college, or junior college who have paid the annual membership fee." It is very clear from the above action by the liaison committee, the Executive Board, and the General Conference that no junior college or university offering courses in agriculture shall be denied membership in NACTA.

The minutes of the NACTA Executive Committee meeting, Sunday, April 2, 1967, in the Student Union at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona show that "New revisions of the NACTA Constitution were discussed by the committee. It was moved by Dr. Robinson and seconded by Dr. Schowengerdt that these revisions be referred to the liaison committee of NACTA for their discussion and approval. Motion carried."¹⁵

The Liaison Committee Report, April, 1967, by Jack Stanly, Chairman,¹⁶ Nicholls State College states, "The chairman was authorized to present a motion for acceptance of the revised constitution and by-laws of NACTA as recommended by this committee and published in the March, 1967, *Journal* . . . Basic purposes - 1. To clarify the function of NACTA as a common meeting ground for teachers and administrators concerned with instruction from all institutions offering college level instruction in agriculture. . . ."¹⁷ The other changes in the constitution had to do with regulating the more routine non-constitutional business.

Prior to the era of total integration of junior colleges, colleges, and universities into NACTA, an effort was made to include participation of all Negro colleges

offering agriculture. However, this effort was a "lost cause" judging from the almost nil attendance at the annual conferences. This portion of our clientele are now included in the NACTA membership since there are no longer Negro Colleges separate from other colleges. Integration has solved this problem.

The Constitution of NACTA has been revised several times in the past ten years, but changes have been of a routine nature to keep the constitution current: changes in membership, dues and fees, state affiliates, etc. The basic purposes, however, have never been changed and the main goals of NACTA have remained the same. The last revision of the constitution (to date) was June 14, 1974. Perhaps there will be many more revisions in years to come, and rightly so, to keep in step with the rapid growth of NACTA and constant changing academic requirements.

The question of whether to include junior and Land-Grant colleges into NACTA membership has been a rather long and somewhat hard-fought battle. Many individuals were involved from both Land-Grant and non-land grant schools. A resume of this caliber does not allow inclusion of all the many discussions, group meetings, "bull sessions" and private conversations along with all the official meetings that were involved in this NACTA action. To be sure, it was a well thought out democratic procedure that produced results.

Let us hope that the concept of **The Improvement of teaching among all institutions offering college level instruction in agriculture** never be changed. Let us also strive continually to resist reestablishment of the "pecking-order" that existed among institutions of higher learning, pertaining to the improvement of teaching. Obviously improvement in any field is not confined to a select few. May we continue in the future to sit at "King Arthur's Round Table" as equals to solve our never-ending conundrums.

12. Other members of this committee were: Charles Cameron, Southern University of New York Agri. and Tech. College, and W. M. McKinsey, Hinds Junior College. *NACTA Journal*. Vol. IX, No. 2.

13. Proposed Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of NACTA. *NACTA Journal*. Vol. XI. No. 1. March, 1967. p. 18.

14. For full account of the revision see *NACTA Journal*, Vol. XI, No. 1. March, 1967, p. 18.

15. *Ibid.*

16. Other members of the committee were: Representing NACTA - John Beeks, Northwest Mo. State College; Dan O. Robinson, Arizona State University; W. J. Huddleston, Tennessee Tech. University and James Hamilton, Austin Peay State College. Representing RICOP - Franklin E. Eldridge, University of Nebraska; C. H. Sufferle, University of Nevada; John Hertol, Cornell University and President, Keith Justice, Ex-officio.

17. *NACTA Journal*. Vol. XI. No's 2 and 3, June and September, 1967.

CHAPTER XI

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES and TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE (NACTA) INVITATIONAL LIVESTOCK DAIRY and SOILS JUDGING CONFERENCE

The origin of this association was brought about by the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA). I was privileged to receive some of the following information from the NACTA Historian, G. Carl Schowengerdt, Professor Emeritus, Rt. 4, Box 133A, Columbia, Missouri 65201; Mr. Robert R. Garrigus, Professor of Animal Science, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and Mike Still, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, Illinois. The information is assembled below to bring you up-to-date.

At the Second Annual NACTA Conference, Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri, March 8-10, 1956, Stanley Spangler, Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri, was appointed chairman of a committee on *Intercollegiate Contact*. A report of this committee was presented at the Third Annual NACTA Conference held at Stephen F. Austin State College, Nacogdoches, Texas. The report stated "Spangler was of the opinion that there is not yet enough interest to justify continuing efforts to promote such contest." However, the committee continued to study the situation and through the efforts of Mr. Stanley Spangler, Southwest Missouri State College; Mr. Floyd B. Houghton, Northwest Missouri State College; M. Hal Barker, Louisiana Tech; and W. Clyde Hyder, Tennessee Tech., Cookeville, Tennessee; and later Mr. Leroy J. Young, Southwest Texas State, the first intercollegiate Livestock and Dairy Judging Contest was held at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, on March 5-7, 1959.

1960 — Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, Missouri

1961 — Abilene Christian College, Abilene, Texas

1962 — Sam Houston State College, Huntsville, Texas

The contests were discontinued after 1962 and were not resumed as a National NACTA Sponsored affair for many years.

Later different regions began organizing livestock judging contest.

In 1963 or 64 a meeting was held, on the Middle Tennessee State University Campus, of non-land grant colleges from Kentucky and Tennessee. The colleges wanted to develop a livestock and dairy judging contest. Together they established the Southern Regional Livestock and Dairy Conference. Soils judging was added the second year. Mr. J. E. Young, Middle Tennessee State University and Jim Neal, Extension Beef Specialist for University of Tennessee were the original founders of this judging conference.

The Southern Regional Livestock, Dairy and Soils

Judging Contest was held at the following locations.

1965 — Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

1966 — Berea College, Berea, Kentucky

1967 — Willmington College, Willmington, Ohio

1968 — Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee

1969 — Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

The following portion was taken from the minutes of the NACTA Executive Board Meeting on June 16, 1969, in Alfred, New York: A report from Central Region was given by John Beeks, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri. John Beeks asked permission of the Executive group to attach the name NACTA to the annual Southern Regional Livestock, Dairy and Soils Judging Contest in the southern part of the Central region. Permission was granted and members are encouraged to use this practice wherever and whenever NACTA could derive some benefit by such usage.

1970 — Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The original constitution was revised on May 2, 1970, where the name became the NACTA Invitational Livestock, Dairy and Soils Judging Conference.

1971 — Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, Tennessee

Junior and Technical colleges were first invited to attend the judging conference in 1972 at Southern Illinois University. At Illinois Central College in 1975, the constitution was amended officially to include Junior and Technical Colleges.

1972 — Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois

1973 — Abilene Christian College, Abilene, Texas

1974 — Agriculture Technical Institute, Wooster, Ohio

1975 — Illinois Central College, East Peoria, Illinois and co-host Black Hawk East, Kewanee, Illinois.

The first record of officers were elected at this conference. These officers were elected for two year terms. Chairman: 1976-77 Mike Still, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, Illinois; Secretary: 1976-77 Dan Hoage, Black Hawk East, Kewanee, Illinois.

1976 — West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas

The constitution was again revised to clarify who was an active contestant. Dan Hoage resigned as secretary so a new one was elected. Secretary: Jim Males, 1977-78, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

1977 — Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri

A new chairman was elected to replace Mike Still. Chairman: 1978-79 Troy G. Harris, Cloud County Community College, Concordia, Kansas.

1978 — University of Tennessee, Martin, Tennessee

1979 — University of Minnesota Technical College, Crookston, Minnesota

1980 — Ag Technical Institute, Wooster, Ohio

1981 — Ft. Hays State University, Hays, Kansas

Troy G. Harris, Chairman
NACTA Invitational Livestock,
Dairy and Soils Judging Contest

NACTA Presidents

1955-56	Ewart B. Knight	Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, Cookeville
1956-57	M. Hayne Folk, Jr.	Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston
1957-58	Burton W. DeVeau	Ohio University, Athens
1958-59	T. R. Buie	Southwest Texas State College, San Marcus
1959-60	Ralph A. Benton	Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
1960-61	G. Carl Schowengerdt	Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau
1961-62	John W. Carter	University of Houston, Houston
1962-63	Roy J. Stuckey	Wilmington College, Wilmington
1963-64	Thomas J. Stanly	Nicholls State College, Louisiana
1964-65	Lloyd Dowler	Fresno State College, Fresno
1965-66	Hal B. Barker	Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston
1966-67	J. Keith Justice	Abilene Christian College, Abilene
1967-68	Dan O. Robinson	Arizona State University, Tempe
1968-69	Franklin B. Eldridge	University of Nebraska, Lincoln
1969-70	Murray A. Brown	Sam Houston State University, Huntsville
1970-71	Darrel S. Metcalfe	University of Arizona, Tucson
1971-72	J. Wayland Bennett	Texas Tech University, Lubbock
1972-73	John Beeks	Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville
1973-74	Jerome K. Pasto	Pennsylvania State University, University Park
1974-75	Robert A. Alexander	Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro
1975-76	William R. Thomas	Colorado State University, Fort Collins
1976-77	Edward C. Frederick	University of Minnesota, Waseca
1977-78	Frank Carpenter	Kansas State University, Manhattan
1978-79	O. J. Burger	California State University, Fresno
1979-80	Robert R. Shrode	University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Distinguished Educator Award

1976	John A. Wright	Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston
1977	G. Carl Schowengerdt	Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau
1978	Murray A. Brown	Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Ensminger-Interstate Distinguished Teacher Award

1969	Frederick E. Beckett	Ag. Engr.	Louisiana PolyInstitute
1970	Monroe R. Krumnow	Dairy Sc.	Sam Houston State Univ.
1971	James L. Ahlricks	Agronomy	Purdue University
1972	David J. Mugler	Dairy Sci.	Kansas State University
1973	John R. Campbell	Dairy	University of Missouri
1974	Donald A. Emery	Plant Sci.	North Carolina State Univ.
1975	Henry D. Foth	Soil Sci.	Michigan State University
1976	Robert R. Shrode	Animal Sci.	University of Tennessee
1977	Donald M. Elkins	Plant Sci.	Southern Illinois Univ.
1978	Thomas L. Frey	Agr. Ec.	University of Illinois U-C

Teacher Fellow Awards

1973	John R. Campbell	Dairy	University of Missouri
	Howard R. Bradley	Agr. Ed.	Kansas State University
	Donald A. Emery	Crop Sci.	North Carolina State Univ.
	(also NACTA Southern Regional Outstanding Teacher Award)		
1974	John A. Froseth	Animal Sci.	Washington State University
	William D. Treese	Agronomy	Northwest Missouri State College
	Robert J. Selkirk	Dairy	California State Univ. — Fresno
	Robert R. Shrode	Animal Sci.	University of Tennessee
	(also NACTA Southern ROTA)		
1975	Henry D. Foth	Soil Sci.	Michigan State University
	Robert C. Sorensen	Agronomy	University of Nebraska
	Kenneth O. Wilson	Animal Sci.	West Texas State University
	(also NACTA Southern ROTA)		
1976	Donald M. Elkins	Plant Sci.	Southern Illinois University
	Clare B. Kenaga	Plant Path.	Purdue University
	Russell L. Miller	Agronomy	Louisiana State University
	(also NACTA Southern ROTA)		
1977	Robert L. Beck	Agr. Ec.	University of Kentucky
	Murray A. Brown	Animal Sci.	Sam Houston State University
	Marvin J. Dvoracek	Agr. Engr.	Texas Tech University
	Thomas L. Frey	Agr. Ec.	University of Illinois U-C
	(also NACTA Central ROTA)		
	J. W. Gruebele	Agr. Ec.	University of Illinois U-C

	Paul R. Shellenberger	Dairy Sci. (also NACTA Eastern ROTa)	Pennsylvania State Univ.
1978	Maurice Gayle Cook	Soil Sci. (also NACTA Southern ROTa)	North Carolina State Univ.
	Ambrose W. Burger	Agronomy	University of Illinois U-C
	James J. Vorst	Agronomy	Purdue University
	Gerry L. Posler	Agronomy (also NACTA Central ROTa)	Kansas State University
	Thomas I. Gunn	Agr. Ec. (also NACTA Western ROTa)	California State Univ.-Fresno

E.B. Knight NACTA Journal Award

1968

Darrel Metcalfe

"Foundations for Excellence in Higher Education In Agriculture"

Appeared in Volume XI, June-September issue, 1968.

Darrel Metcalfe is Director of Resident Instruction and Assistant Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Arizona.

1969

Frank R. Carpenter
George F. Ekstrom

"Relationships Between Educational Experiences of Vocational Agriculture Students and Their Enrolling in a College of Agriculture"

Appeared in December, 1969 issue on page 77.

Frank Carpenter is Assistant Dean, Kansas State University.

George Ekstrom is a professor of Agricultural Education, University of Missouri.

1970

Jack C. Everly

"The UNIVEX Net as an Instructional System for Extramural Courses and In-Service Training in Agriculture"

Appeared in June, 1970 issue on page 20.

Dr. Everly is coordinator of Instructional Resources, Office of Agricultural Communications, College of Agriculture University of Illinois.

1971

Wallace H. Fuller

"Relating Agricultural Instruction to Environment Improvement: The Role of Land and Soil"

Appeared in September, 1971 issue on page 69.

Dr. Wallace H. Fuller, is Head of Agricultural Chemistry and Soils, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

1972

Dr. James F. Evans

"Studying Rural-Urban Communications"

Appeared in December, 1972 issue on page 96.

Dr. Evans, is head of the Teaching Division, Agricultural Communications, University of Illinois

1973

Dr. Leroy Rogers
Dr. Myron Wirth
Terry Francl

"Student Attitudes Toward Farm Employment as an Occupational Alternative."

Appeared in December, 1973 issue on page 80.

Dr. LeRoy Rogers and Dr. Myron Wirth are professors of Agricultural Economics at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

Terry Francl is an Agricultural Economist in the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. He is a former graduate student in Agricultural Economics at Washington State University

1974

Terry Cooper
Henry Foth
Paul Rieke

“Increased Learning and Relevancy in a Basic Soils Course for Two Year Agricultural Technology Students.”

Appeared in December, 1974 issue on page 84.

Terry Cooper is a graduate student in soils at Michigan State University.

Henry Foth and Paul Rieke are professors of Soil Sciences at Michigan State University.

1975

A. W. Burger and
R. D. Seif

“Teacher Rating Versus Backgrounds of Enrollees.”

Appeared in September, 1975 issue on page 23.

Dr. Burger is professor of Agronomy at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Seif is professor of Biometry-Agronomy at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

1976

Jack C. Everly

“Case Study . . . Program to Prepare Ph.D. Candidates for College Training Roles in Agriculture.”

Appeared in June, 1976 issue on page 5.

Dr. Everly is associate professor of Agricultural Communications, College of Agriculture, and head of Instructional Media and Television Divisions, Office of Instructional Resources, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

1977

Cameron Fincher

“What Research Says About Learning”

Appeared in December, 1977 issue on page 18.

Dr. Fincher is professor of Higher Education and Psychology and Director of the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia.