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Co-Operative Extension Work in Agriculture And Home Economics

Prairie View A&M College

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MINUTES OF CONFERENCE OF FARM SECURITY, EXTENSION SERVICE, AND
COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES AT PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE

April 4, 1944

Those Attending the Conference:

1. Farm Security Officials:
Mr. C. T. Watson, State Director, Miss Gladys L. Darden, Miss Odessa
Winn, Mr. Sam McMillan, Mr. Louie Dunbar, Mr. John H. Williams, and
Mr. Horace N. Tedlie
2. Prairie View State College:
Principal W. R. Danks, Mr. L. A. Potts, Dr. H. A. Bullock, Dr. J. M.
Coxethers, Dr. S. E. Warren, and Mr. J. L. Brown
3. Extension Service:
Mrs. E. W. Rowan, Miss Eugenia Woods, Mr. W. H. Phillips, Mr. W. C.
David, Mr. H. S. Estelle, and Dr. E. B. Evans

Presentation of Over-all Picture by Mr. Watson of F. S. A.

Mr. Watson clearly presented the various types of services that the F. S. A. offers to families who participate in their program. He clearly pointed out that the aim of the program was to help worthy farmers to help themselves. The services covered by the program are listed below:

Rural Rehabilitation Program

- a. Health Service
- b. Cooperative Service
- c. Water Facilities
- d. Insurance
- e. Home Ownership
- f. Loans with which to finance the above 5 items wherever families are unable to furnish their own financing.

He further pointed out that there were nine Negro families of Hopkins County who had achieved a result in the program that made them outstanding examples for the others.

QUESTIONS GROWING OUT OF THIS PICTURE

As a result of this picture there were several questions that were raised by the members of the discussion group. These questions were:

1. Are Negroes included in the program? (Answer) Yes, but not by special group.
2. Are Negro doctors included in the health service? (Answer) Yes, but not as a special group.
3. Is there an educational program involved? (Answer) Yes, indirectly
4. Are there health records kept so as to supply information for future health plans? (Answer) Answers showed divided opinion. Certain types of information is kept by each Health Association.

During this period, Mr. Watson made clear that there was interest in having the faculty members and the Extension people assist in the program. The way in which assistance could be given by the members of these groups was shown through a printed sheet on which were placed certain problems printed with space for answers. The problems and solutions are listed below:

1. Problem of few applications from the better class of tenants
Solutions:
 - a. Give publicity to let tenants know that these services are available
 - b. County agent and vocational teachers could furnish a list of eligible applicants to the rural supervisors who would pass such information to the county committee.
 - c. County agent could contact supervisor and get cases of successes and failures.

2. Difficulty in locating good farms that can be purchased within price limitations.
Solutions:
 - a. Inquiry should be made as to where good land is available to Negroes and notification given to the committee.
 - b. Wherever county committees will accept the services of a Negro advisor, that the county agent and vocational teachers be contacted in an effort to secure one or more names of good, substantial Negroes and prevail upon the county committee to appoint one to serve in an advisory capacity, especially in location of good Negro families for Tenant Purchase borrowers and to also assist in the location of available farms for sale to Negroes
 - c. Cooperation of all agencies working with Agriculture in effort to select or find good Negro farms and farmers

3. Depending too much upon farm cash income for the entire family living
Solutions:
 - a. Develop better work with children of borrower families through the clubs sponsored by Extension Service
 - b. Where there are children in the families of the borrowers, F. S. A. should call this to the attention of the county agent and vocational agricultural teachers.
 - c. F. S. A. supervisors should participate in community meetings sponsored by the Extension agents.

4. Failure to understand the underlying principles of credit
Solutions:
 - a. Education in the use of credit
 - b. Wife should be included in the farmer's business
 - c. Children should be encouraged in credit activities through 4-H and NFA
 - d. Preparation and distribution of criteria for securing and using credit

Further Discussion

Further discussion developed around the status of the Borrower Families located near the college. The local supervisor reported that only half of these families were keeping up their responsibilities. He suggested that there were only two delinquent ones to be dropped from the program. Before dropping them, Mr. Watson asked Dr. Evans if the Extension Service would survey the situation and make recommendations. Dr. Evans did not commit to this. Later Mr. Watson asked Dr. Evans if the Extension Service would cooperate with the college in making such survey. Dr. Evans suggested writing Principal Banks to that effect. Subsequent to this discussion, it was decided that Mr. Williams would, along with the local supervisor and others whom he saw fit to select, investigate the situation on these farms and make recommendations to the F. S. A. The meeting adjourned after this decision.

H. A. Bullock, Secretary