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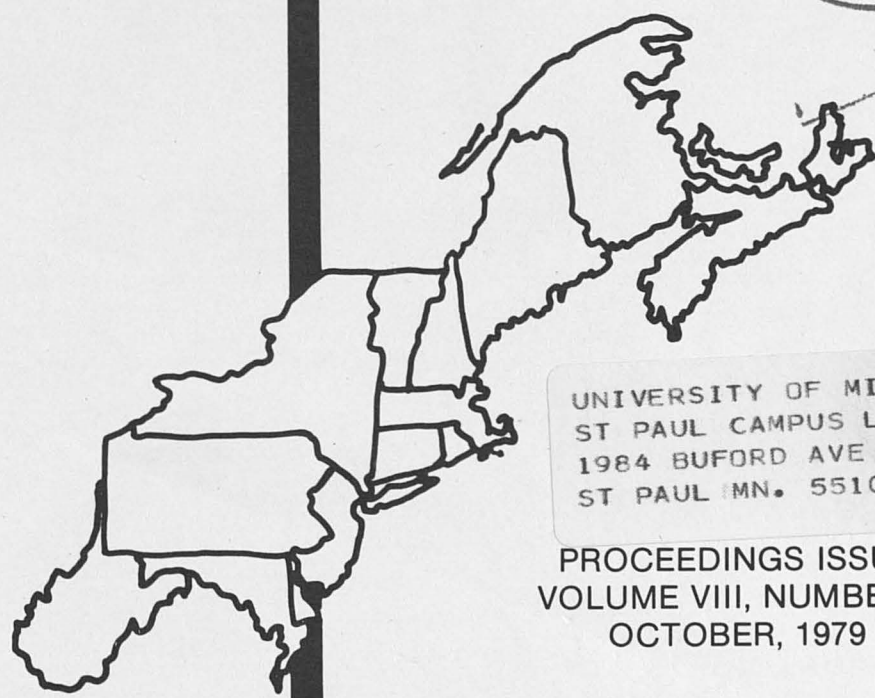
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Cooperative Education in Agricultural and
Resource Economics: A Teaching Strategy

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University of Maine, Orono, Maine

The purpose of the symposium was to describe the development of and operational procedures for Cooperative Education/Field Experience Programs in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maine, Orono.

The presentation was introduced with a brief definition of terms. Discussion of the development of the program at the University of Maine followed. A development grant was obtained and the program initiated in the 1973-74 academic year with five departments participating. The program now has permanent funding and includes all field-based learning opportunities with all colleges at the University of Maine, Orono participating. The focus of the program is on the learning that takes place in the cooperative education experience.

The development of the program and its integration into the curriculum in Agricultural and Resource Economics was outlined and discussed. Following this, the group explored questions relating to the role of the student, faculty and central cooperative education office and specific operational procedures. Further discussion involved development of job sites and specific problems and educational opportunities inherent in experimental learning.

The development of learning plans and the evaluation of the learning experience was considered to be important to a productive experience. Techniques used in the program in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Maine were explained and discussed.

The symposium concluded with a discussion of the role of the instructor in a cooperative education course vs. a traditional course.