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The objective of the forum is to provide agricultural leaders, civic clubs and extension groups, etc., an opportunity to obtain information on policy issues such as farm programs, flood control, monetary and fiscal policies, etc.

The counties send delegates representing farm organizations, extension groups, home economics clubs, and civic organizations. These leaders are expected to take the information back to their county and community groups.

### District Follow-up Conferences

A series of ten to twelve district one-day conferences are held following the forum. Members of the agricultural extension economics staff and leaders attending the forum review the papers presented at the forum. Also, they attempt to answer the questions that were not answered during the forum. A part of the day's program is devoted to methods of presenting the information.

### County and Community Meetings

Most of the counties then hold county meetings for their own extension leaders, farm organization leaders, and other groups, using these same leaders to present the information.

Thus, the papers presented at the forum serve as a basis for a program which ultimately reaches the county and community groups. The average attendance at the forum has been 800 to 1,000 leaders. These leaders, in turn, have made it possible to reach 40,000 to 50,000 people with this information.

## **WORK IN OHIO WITH FARM ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND OTHER AGENCIES ON CURRENT PUBLIC PROBLEMS**

*By Mervin G. Smith*

### Reasons for Close Working Relationship in Ohio

1. Mutual understanding among leaders of various organizations.
2. Outstanding cooperative personalities in the various organizations have established habits of close working relationship

which tend to be continued and followed through even among less cooperative individuals.

3. Many leaders came to their present leadership through Extension or the College of Agriculture.
4. Some leaders get together in conference more or less informally every few months at least—usually called by Extension, Farm Bureau, or PMA. Extension has taught conference method for at least twenty years.
5. Freedom of individuals in various organizations to consult with each other at state and local levels—especially Extension, Experiment Station, and College with the other agencies.
6. Recognizing aims, jobs, and problems of each agency; refraining from being antagonistic, not taking sides on delicate issues, but sticking to principles and facts.
7. Increased feeling of need for rural people to work together as technical advances are made and as the proportion of farm people becomes smaller.
8. Easy to get coordination and communication with nearly all state offices located in Columbus.

### Special Work Besides Consultation With the Agencies in the State

#### PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

1. Speak at state conference of personnel on the economic and policy outlook.
2. Keep each other informed as to activities by exchanging directives and information from state offices.
3. Cooperate in production adjustment study and other research projects.
4. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored policy meetings—state, district, and local.

#### FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

1. Speak and lead discussions at state conferences of personnel.
2. Head of Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology on State Advisory Committee.

3. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored policy meetings—state, district, and local.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

1. Speak and lead discussion at various meetings.
2. Cooperate on production adjustments and other research projects.
3. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored policy meetings—state, district, and local.

#### VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

1. Speak and lead discussion at state conferences of teachers and students.
2. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored policy meetings—state, district, and local.
3. Distribution and use of material prepared by specialists in policy.

#### FARM BUREAU

1. Preparing or helping to prepare articles for *Ohio Farm Bureau News* and the *Council Guide*.
2. Speaking and leading discussion at Farm Bureau meetings—state, district, and local.
3. Appearing on Farm Bureau radio programs.
4. Working together in conducting public policy meetings—state, district, and local.
5. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored policy meetings—state, district, and local.
6. Distribution and use of materials prepared by specialists in policy.

#### GRANGE

1. Preparing or helping prepare articles for the *Ohio Grange Monthly*.

2. Speaking and leading discussion at Grange meetings—state and local.
3. Conducting and appearing on programs of short course for Grange lecturers and other Grange leaders.
4. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored policy meetings.

#### OHIO COUNCIL OF COOPERATIVES

1. Aid in program planning and training leaders in policy.
2. Participate in council sponsored meetings—state and district.

#### AGRICULTURAL CREDIT AGENCIES

1. Organize and participate in seminars and schools for PCA and bankers organization.
2. Speak before local meetings of PCA and NFLA's.
3. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored policy meetings.

#### OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Speaking and leading discussion for meetings of agricultural cooperatives and commodity organizations such as Livestock Producers Association, Independent Livestock Marketing Association, Dairy Association, Poultry Association, Horticultural Societies, Rural Electrification Association, etc.
2. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored meetings.

#### HOME DEMONSTRATION COUNCILS (EXTENSION SPONSORED)

1. Help plan programs to include policy.
2. Speak and lead discussion at policy meetings.
3. Invitation to attend and participate in other extension policy meetings.
4. Distribute and use materials prepared by specialists.

## COMMUNITY INSTITUTES (EXTENSION SPONSORED)

1. Help plan programs including policy.
2. Conduct training school for leaders.
3. Speak and lead discussions at institutes.
4. Distribute and use materials prepared by specialists.
5. Use of leaders from all agencies on programs.

## NEWS AND INFORMATION AGENCIES

1. Appear on programs for radio and TV stations.
2. Write articles for magazines (especially *Ohio Farmer*), and newspapers.
3. On call by news agencies for analysis of current problems.

## CHURCHES

1. Speak and lead discussions for state clergy conventions.
2. Speak and lead discussions on policy for rural churches.
3. Help teach rural church leaders.
4. Co-sponsor schools on public problems—state, district, and local.
5. Invitation to attend and participate in extension sponsored policy meetings.

## OTHER GROUPS AND AGENCIES

1. Consult with and participate in programs of such clubs, organizations, and government agencies as chambers of commerce, men and women's service clubs, UNESCO, student and faculty groups at colleges and universities, State Departments of Agriculture, Conservation, Welfare, Health, Highways, Parks, and others.

