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FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE STUDY TOURS

Between the spring of 1959 and the spring of 1960, three study teams visited, respectively, Western Europe, the Far East, and Latin America. Each team consisted of seven extension specialists, a representative of the Federal Extension Service (FES), and a representative of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

The objective was to gain better public understanding of the agricultural market development problems abroad and of foreign agricultural trade and trade policies through first hand study by selected agricultural extension specialists. This greater understanding will facilitate the development of a better educational program, which, in turn, will result in improved trade relations, market expansion, and foreign trade and economic policy.

These specialists are available for participation in meetings on foreign agricultural problems and for assistance in the training of agricultural agents and farm people in their own states in the field of foreign policy as it relates to farm problems and other domestic issues. They are also available for consultation in other states upon request.

These study tours grew out of discussions which began at the 1958 National Agricultural Policy Conference, where considerable emphasis was placed on foreign affairs.

The overseas costs were met by the FAS, for the most part, out of foreign currencies which had been received through the sale of surplus farm products under Public Law 480. The state extension services paid the salaries and other expenses of their representatives.

Each team member was responsible for preparing a report for one country. The team leader, with the aid of team members, prepared a report for each area. The report of the European team was published in the 1959 proceedings. The reports of the Far East and Latin American teams were discussed at the 1960 Conference and are published here.