



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Increasing Understanding
of
Public Problems and Policies

1953

*A Group Study
of Four Topics in the Field of Extension Education*

WHEAT PRICE POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES
A PRICE-SUPPORT POLICY FOR FARM COMMODITIES
OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE
HOW THE POLITICAL PROCESS WORKS

Subjects Discussed at Previous Conferences
on
Increasing Understanding
of
Public Problems and Policies

1951

International Affairs

Inflation

Agricultural Production Policy

Interrelationships of Agriculture and Other
Segments of Our National Economy

1952

The Farmer's Stake in Foreign Trade

Taxes and the Federal Budget

Farm Price and Income Supports

A limited supply is available upon request.

Increasing Understanding
of
Public Problems and Policies

1953

*A Group Study
of Four Topics in the Field of Extension Education*

1

WHEAT PRICE POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES
A PRICE-SUPPORT POLICY FOR FARM COMMODITIES
OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE
HOW THE POLITICAL PROCESS WORKS

FARM FOUNDATION
600 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago 5, Illinois

National Committee on Agricultural Policy

- GEORGE B. ALCORN, Extension Marketing Specialist, University of California, Berkeley, California
- FRANK V. BECK, Extension Specialist in Agricultural Economics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
- M. C. BOND, Professor of Marketing, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- J. CARROLL BOTTUM, Asst. Chief in Agricultural Economics, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana
- H. C. M. CASE, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- G. G. GIBSON, Director of Extension Service, Texas A. and M. College, College Station, Texas
- H. B. JAMES, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, North Carolina
- GEORGE E. LORD, Associate Director of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- PAUL E. MILLER, Director of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota
- TYRUS R. TIMM, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A. and M. College, College Station, Texas
- R. B. TOOTELL, Director of Extension Service, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington
- L. M. VAUGHAN, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.
- G. B. WOOD, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon

CONSULTANTS

- EDMUND DE S. BRUNNER, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, New York
- H. M. DIXON, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.
- CHARLES M. HARDIN, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- O. V. WELLS, Chief of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

FARM FOUNDATION

- F. W. PECK, Managing Director, Farm Foundation, 600 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
- JOSEPH ACKERMAN, Associate Managing Director, Farm Foundation, 600 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Foreword

Included in this publication are the major presentations and suggestions developed for the 1953 conference under the auspices of the National Committee on Agricultural Policy, which were considered to be helpful to extension specialists and county agents in dealing with policy problems. Forty-two states and the United States Department of Agriculture were represented.

The conference was designed to bring to the participants two important requirements for effective extension work in this difficult field of public affairs. The first was well prepared and carefully screened subject matter—ready for digestion and critical analysis by those in attendance. The second was the technique used by extension discussion leaders in presenting the prepared material to the group. The excellence of meeting both objectives resulted in a highly successful training meeting.

The subjects are intriguing—they stimulate argument—they feature the daily press—farmers want to know more about them. We all need to be better trained in how to handle discussion groups. This must grow into extension teaching of public affairs gradually and carefully.

The Farm Foundation, following its policy of close cooperation with the state extension services, provided a portion of the necessary expenses, worked with the subcommittees to develop their assignments, and agreed to make the report of the conference available to all the states.

F. W. Peck, *Managing Director*
Farm Foundation

Contents

	PAGE
OPENING REMARKS.....J. Carroll Bottum	7
HOW DO PEOPLE LEARN?.....Ralph W. Tyler	9
QUESTIONS WE FACE IN DEVELOPING A PROGRAM IN PUBLIC POLICY.....H. B. James	14
HOW PUBLIC POLICY WORK IS DONE IN MY COUNTY.....A. M. Bishea	20
WHEAT PRICE POLICY IN THE UNITED STATESGeorge Montgomery	25
A PRICE-SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR FARM COMMODITIESC. B. Ratchford, H. B. James, and R. E. Freund	71
OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE....John O. Dunbar	100
GOALS OF DEMOCRACY.....W. Robert Parks	112
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONSHIPS IN AGRICULTUREW. Robert Parks	122
AGRICULTURE AND THE POLITICAL PROCESSErnest A. Engelbert	140
POLITICAL PARTY AND PRESSURE GROUP CONSIDERATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL POLITICS.....Ernest A. Engelbert	150
THE FARMER-CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS.....Charles M. Hardin	165
FARM POLITICS AND THE SEPARATION OF POWERS.....Charles M. Hardin	178
PARTICIPANTS	187