



**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](mailto: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.*

# THE ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE IN CONNECTICUT

## Its Purpose, Organization, and Accomplishments

*By Harold G. Halcrow*

### Purpose

1. To establish a forum for discussion of important issues in agricultural policy.
2. To bring together a group of farm people and professional workers in agricultural extension. To promote mutual understanding and to stimulate an interest in the discussion of agricultural policy.
3. To develop analytical abilities of people through participation in discussion of economic problems and policy proposals.

### Organization

1. Single-day session arranged by a state agricultural policy committee of six farm people, extension director, and extension economists.
2. Short statements, informal presentations, and discussion, usually including a statement of the problem and a discussion of policy.
3. Use of panels and symposia, farm people and extension workers cooperating, with majority being farm people.

Comment: The conference is a forum. Formal addresses are not solicited. Participation is usually about 250 to 300. Panels and other presentations usually are limited to an hour with about an hour of open discussion from the audience followed by a summary and conclusion by people on the program. Participants are instructed in advance as to their time limitations but they are invited to present their own opinions and conclusions. The public is invited and individual invitations are mailed to about 200 farm leaders. Efforts to further increase attendance are not made because of the effects of larger attendance on discussion from the floor. Reporters and farm writers from newspapers in the state usually summarize the discussions for their papers, and results of the conference are discussed on the farm radio program.

## Accomplishments

1. Education and development of analytical abilities of participants, resulting in more enlightened leadership and a continuing interest in policy.
2. Development of greater understanding among farm people and professional workers about problems faced by each group and methods of analysis employed in dealing with economic problems or policy. More specific interest on the part of county agents and other extension workers, leading to greater cooperation in the scheduling and conducting of policy meetings in the county and community.

Comment: Success of the policy conference is not measured in terms of direct action in program development. This has been recognized by participants and it is usually mentioned during the course of the program. The conference is evaluated as a method of education in the field of public policy.

## POLICY WORK WITH WOMEN'S GROUPS IN KANSAS

*By C. R. Jaccard*

Teaching public policy in organized home demonstration units presents a different problem from conducting discussion groups.

In the first place, the people in the group feel a responsibility to the unit they represent. They want to do a good job when they go back to their unit so they expect you to do a good job with your presentation. They consider themselves teachers and want to consider the specialist as a capable authority.

In the second place, the home economic specialists in the state have a system of presenting their "lessons" as they are called. The women are used to this system. It is easier for the public policy discussion leader to adapt his presentation to a system with which they are familiar than to expect the thirty to fifty unit leaders to adapt themselves to a new and different method of presentation.

Third, they are usually afraid of public issues. They think they are not well enough informed to understand them. But