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*Increasing Understanding  
of Public Problems  
and Policies*

1958

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

**Approaches to Solving the Income  
Problem of Commercial Agriculture**

**Major Problems and Trends in Farm Policy**

**Research in Agricultural Policy**

**Extension Education in Farm Policy**

**Agricultural Programs Around  
the World**

Farm Foundation

**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
- 1953* Wheat Price Policy in the United States • A Price-Support Policy  
for Farm Commodities • Old-Age and Survivors Insurance • How  
the Political Process Works
- 1954* Expanding Outlets for American Farm Products • Alternative  
Methods of Stabilizing Farm Income • Increasing the Effective-  
ness of Public Policy Education
- 1955* Taxation in Relation to Changing Demands for Services • Water  
Problems and Policies • Economic Growth and Stability • Prob-  
lems of Low-Income People in Rural Areas
- 1956* The Nature of Education in Agricultural Policy • Agricultural  
Policy in a Changing Economy • Balancing Supply and Demand  
• Extension's Role in Rural Development
- 1957* Issues in Agricultural Policy • Appraisal of Agricultural Programs  
• Experiences in Public Policy Programs • Effective Public Policy  
Education

*The 1951 and 1953 reports are out of print, but a limited  
supply of the reports for other years is available upon request.*

# Increasing Understanding of Public Problems and Policies 1958

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**Agricultural Programs Around the World**

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## FOREWORD

This publication reports the major discussions of the eighth national agricultural policy conference planned by the National Committee on Agricultural Policy and sponsored by the Farm Foundation. Seventy-six representatives from 46 states, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other interested agencies participated in the conference.

This report supplements the material included in the proceedings of the seven previous policy conferences. These annual policy conferences are designed to assist extension workers who deal with agricultural policy problems through: (1) presentation of timely and useful information and (2) discussion of effective techniques for presenting this information to groups. This year in addition special emphasis was given to the development of discussion guides for use in state and local extension programs (contained in Part I).

The exchange of experiences and ideas at these conferences has broadened the knowledge of participants, stimulated their thinking, and extended their horizons. These discussions have helped extension workers keep abreast of new trends, emerging needs, and improved methods and have increased their competence in dealing with the complex and multiple aspects of agricultural policy issues.

The Farm Foundation, following its policy of close cooperation with the state extension services, assisted in developing the program for the 1958 conference, financed the instructional staff, provided a portion of the necessary expenses of those in attendance, and agreed to make this report of the conference available to all the states.

Joseph Ackerman, *Managing Director*  
Farm Foundation

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PART I

*Approaches to Solving the Income Problem  
of Commercial Agriculture*