

A STATEMENT ON PROBLEMS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

IN

AGRICULTURE

By

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Reference is made to the Summary of the report of  
Colorado's post-war Agricultural Committee.

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8. Recognize the Importance of Finding Means of Reducing Losses in the Cattle Industry From Abscessed Livers, and a Rickets-like Disease Affecting Bone Development, Particularly Among Better Bred Cattle.
9. Support Improvement of Wool Research and Possible Development of a Regional Wool Processing Industry.
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11. Marketing Agricultural Products and Public Information With Respect to the Same.

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In making this statement, the speaker fully recognizes that there are many other problems of agriculture that can be solved only by farmers and ranchmen themselves, acting either individually or collectively.

The following suggestions refer specifically to problems in agriculture that are state problems as well as matters of private concern.

1. There is need for better coordination of state, educational, research, and extension work in agriculture and kindred industries on the one hand, and control, quarantine, regulatory and inspection work in agriculture and kindred industries on the other hand. The two broad functions of the state with respect to its agriculture might well be under the one State Board of Agriculture already long established by law. The Governor of the state is an ex-officio member of this Board, and would be a means of coordinating the work of this Board with general state policy. Such a plan would center in one place, the authority to be looked to for an expression of the state's policy with regard to any agricultural problem with which the State is concerned.

2. There needs to be some expression of state policy with respect to settlement on the land of returning service people. It is no longer possible to absorb a large number of returning service people by giving them homesteads as in our earlier history. New farms for this kind of settlement will be limited largely to such new land as is brought under irrigation through reclamation.

The state could be of help in sponsoring local advisory committees

for approving veterans' loans under the G. I. Bill. Such committees would also advise applicants with respect to such matters as attempting to farm immediately, working on a local farm for awhile to gain experience, taking additional short-course work that would combine a study of latest developments with a period of apprenticeship on selected farms which would cooperate in such a program.

A modest additional appropriation for support of short-course work in agriculture, would make more effective such a program.

3. A helpful state policy for the long run would be authorization and provision for the completion of a program of land classification from the standpoint of best use, and income earning ability as a basis for land tax equalization through a program to be carried out by the State Tax Commission.

4. There is need for some kind of centralized state support of industrial research into possible new or extended use of the state's natural resources, including agricultural, mineral, forest, scenic, game, and recreational resources. With special reference to agricultural resources, the original Act of the Legislature of Colorado in establishing the State Board of Agriculture, and defining its duties in Section 13 of the Act says that the Board is to provide a "course of study terminating in thorough theoretical and practical instruction in those sciences and arts which bear directly upon agriculture and kindred industrial pursuits." It is with respect to the "kindred industrial pursuits" that the least has been done. Because it is new or extended kindred industrial pursuits that furnish important markets for farm and ranch products, as well as employment for workers, this research into the industrial use of agricultural products is a matter of prime

importance for the post-war period.

An example of research along this line is that done at the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station with agricultural wastes in the form of cantaloupe hulls, off-grade peaches, apricots, and cherries.

These products have been frozen and stored until needed. When used, the frozen material is weighed and mixed with the required amount of sugar to partially defrost. Other ingredients are added, and the whole run through a mechanical disintegrator. A fruit puree is made, which, when frozen and packed in ice cream cartons, gives a fine natural fruit flavored ice that is highly nutritious because it contains real fruit as well as the flavor.

5. There is need for revision or amendment of the Colorado Weed Law to establish state leadership and responsibility for an educational and action program to make the law effective. As it is, the law is merely an enabling act giving certain authority to county commissioners, but without provision for any state leadership.

6. When, for any reason, a change in the present arrangement is considered, attention should be given to advantages to be derived from an up-to-date law on livestock sanitation which provides adequate salary for a full-time state veterinarian for control, quarantine, regulatory, and inspection work.

7. The state needs to reaffirm or modify its policy with respect to maintaining and supporting local sub-stations or branch stations of the State Agricultural Experiment Station. As early as 1887 the Legislature of the State of Colorado passed "An Act to Establish Agricultural Experiment Stations in El Paso County, Bent County, Delta County, and the San Luis Valley,

State of Colorado." Other stations were established later. The Legislature authorized the State Board of Agriculture to use Federal funds of the Experiment Station for sub-station purposes. However, federal authorities later ruled that funds appropriated for the Agricultural College Experiment Station could not be used for sub-stations. This left only state funds available for these sub-stations. These not being adequate, sub-station work dwindled until 1940 when an effort was made to revive it in part at least, beginning at the Akron Station.

In some places, hay, grass, and other plants do not get the same thing from the soils they once did. Likewise, animals do not get the same things from their feeds they once did, and consequently the same kind of food as far as appearance is concerned does not give people the same kind of nutrition they once got from these foods. The extent of local problems of this kind we do not yet know, but of their existence to some extent we are certain.

8. It is of interest to the state to have more work done to find causes, and what can be done to reduce the number of abscessed livers in cattle, and also establish better means of handling a rickets-like disease among cattle, particularly among valuable pure bred cattle.

9. Likewise, it is of state-wide interest that the wool laboratory at the Experiment Station complete its equipment, and get fiber and other research under way as soon as possible. The possibility of the manufacture of high-quality woolen products in the area is a consideration of major importance.

10. A sustained program of effective soil conservation and maintenance of fertility, where, in some areas, irrigation is constantly washing

out of the soil certain elements, and in other areas wind and water erosion are destructive, is of state-wide importance. A few revisions are desirable in the state soil conservation district law.

11. In view of problems usually characteristic of post-war periods, increased attention to research and education, as well as other phases of the marketing of farm products, is important. Cooperative agricultural reporting and economic and marketing information relative to national and world-wide economic conditions as well as state-wide conditions affecting in an over-all fashion the future of agriculture, would be basic to this kind of research and service.