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Increasing Understanding
of
Public Problems and Policies

1956

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

THE NATURE OF EDUCATION IN
AGRICULTURAL POLICY
AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN A CHANGING ECONOMY
BALANCING SUPPLY AND DEMAND
EXTENSION'S ROLE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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 Effectiveness of

Public Policy Education

1955

Taxation in Relation to Changing

Demands for Services

Water Problems and Policies

Economic Growth and Stability

Problems of Low-Income People in Rural Areas

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

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Foreword

This publication reports the major discussions of the sixth national agricultural policy conference planned by the National Committee on Agricultural Policy and sponsored by the Farm Foundation. Ninety-three representatives from 45 states and the United States Department of Agriculture participated in the conference.

This report supplements the discussion of other subjects presented in the reports of the previous policy conferences. These conferences have been designed as training meetings in two important aspects of extension work in the field of agricultural policy. One major concern has been new and stimulating subject matter and the other has been effective techniques for presenting this material to groups.

These discussions have developed increased awareness of the importance of agricultural policy, and 43 states now include public affairs education in their extension programs. The opportunity afforded at these conferences for exchange of experiences has proved highly valuable in keeping extension workers abreast of new developments and improved techniques for meeting the rapidly growing needs in this complex field.

The Farm Foundation, following its policy of close cooperation with the state extension services, assisted in developing the program for the 1956 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

*The Nature of Education in
Agricultural Policy*