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*Increasing Understanding
of Public Problems
and Policies*

1957

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

Issues in Agricultural Policy

Appraisal of Agricultural Programs

Experiences in Public Policy Programs

Effective Public Policy Education

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

*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 1957

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

**Issues in Agricultural Policy
Appraisal of Agricultural Programs
Experiences in Public Policy Programs
Effective Public Policy Education**

**Farm Foundation
600 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois**

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FOREWORD

This publication reports the major discussions of the seventh national agricultural policy conference planned by the National Committee on Agricultural Policy and sponsored by the Farm Foundation. Eighty-five representatives from 42 states, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other interested agencies participated in the conference.

This report supplements the material included in the previous policy conference proceedings. These annual policy conferences have been designed to assist extension workers concerned with agricultural policy problems by providing: (1) timely and stimulating subject matter and (2) effective techniques for presenting this material to groups.

The opportunity afforded at these conferences for exchange of experiences and ideas has proved highly valuable in keeping extension workers informed of new developments and emerging needs in this field as well as different methods of 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 1957 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

Issues in Agricultural Policy