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## FARMER DISCUSSIONS STIMULATE NEW ADJUSTMENT RESEARCH CENTER

*Richard Stephens  
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An interesting example of what may be accomplished when rural people and academic groups work closely together in facing problems is taking place in Iowa.

Last September, fourteen farmers living in different parts of the state met to consider means of changing the conditions which make agriculture a sick industry. They represented no group or organization. Their common bond was a concern for the agricultural situation and a faith in Iowa State College. One hundred would have met as willingly. It was a good working group.

A memorandum was sent to President James Hilton and Dean of Agriculture Floyd Andre of Iowa State College expressing grave concern about the low farm income caused by overexpansion of the farm plant. A question was raised regarding the advisability of re-examining the resources and programs of the College to determine if the major emphasis was being directed toward solution of the most pressing and current agricultural problems.

On November 19, thirteen of the fourteen men were able to accept an invitation of Dean Andre to meet with members of the College staff to discuss the matter in greater detail.

Following this meeting staff members again met and accepted chairmanships and committee assignments to study various aspects of the issues discussed.

The next step was the establishment of eight seminars by the Division of Agriculture under the general heading, "Adjustment of Agriculture to Economic Change." Subtitles included such subjects as, "The Agricultural Income Problem," "The Existing and Potential Demand Situation," and "The Analysis of Current and Prospective Programs." These seminars were extremely well attended by staff members, and created frank discussion of agriculture's plight and brought forth many suggestions of ways in which the College might attack the problems.

One of the major proposals resulting from this effort was presented to Dean Andre's Agricultural Advisory Committee of farmers, a different group than the committee of fourteen. In brief, the proposal was to set up a new research area or center to study problems of adjusting agriculture to the present and immediate future period of economic growth. The idea met with the advisory committee's heartiest approval.

Last March 20, after further study by especially assigned groups of staff members and consultation with President Hilton, Dean Andre announced that problems of agricultural adjustment were to be given added emphasis at Iowa State College by the creation of a new Agricultural Research Center to develop programs designed to achieve: (1) incomes for people engaged in agriculture which are on a par with those received in other industries and (2) full realization by consumers of the benefits of improved technological developments.

Research on utilization of production will be emphasized. New products and new uses for old ones will be sought. Additional work in nutritional and quality product study will be undertaken. Human and physical resources in agriculture will be studied with exploration of social adjustment possibilities. Current and future governmental programs will be evaluated. The areas mentioned by no means exhaust the subjects of research or indicate their priority.

The Adjustment Research Center idea has met with a more enthusiastic response than its launchers anticipated. Iowa's *Des Moines Register* carried an editorial which said, "We are right proud Iowa State is taking the lead among State Colleges in this. This is the biggest problem of internal adjustment not only for agriculture but for the nation as a whole."

The Iowa General Assembly, meeting in regular session, passed unanimously, a concurrent resolution which read in part. "The General Assembly of the State of Iowa commends this reorientation of research effort at Iowa State College for the study of agricultural adjustment problems . . . and encourages the administration of the college to give primary attention to these major problems in agriculture today."

PART IV

*Effective Public Policy Education*

