

It's *YOUR* College!

College of Agriculture of the University
Of Arizona, Tucson, Serves Entire State

By Dean P. S. Burgess

"It's *your* College of Agriculture!"

That, in brief, is the story of the College of Agriculture of the University of Arizona at Tucson. It serves the people of the entire state.

The University of Arizona is a member of that great group of institutions of higher learning known as the Land-Grant College System. Designed to provide equal rights and opportunities in education for all, these colleges were authorized by a bill, known as the "First Morrill Act," passed by Congress and signed by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862.

The original bill gave to each state and territory a grant of 30,000 acres of public land for each Senator and Representative in Congress. Funds from the sale of these lands were to be used for the establishment of institutions of college rank to teach agriculture and mechanic arts, and provide military instruction for national defense.

Since 1862, ten Federal Acts have appropriated additional funds to the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. At the present time, each institution, depending largely upon its size, receives from \$100,000 to \$1,900,000 yearly from the Federal Government.

The individual states, of course, supplement these sums with much larger appropriations. But it must not be forgotten that it was the Federal Government which first sponsored the idea of a college education for the masses, and financially supported the struggling state colleges until the states themselves saw the wisdom of the undertaking and, in turn, were willing to assume their just share of the cost.

The campus of a Land-Grant University is the entire state. It strives to serve the people of the entire commonwealth. In common with all of the other Land-Grant Universities, the College of Agriculture of the University of Arizona is divided into

three separate parts. These are the Division of Resident Instruction, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Agricultural Extension Service.

Let us now consider briefly the work of these three divisions. First, RESIDENT INSTRUCTION. We had, during the first semester of this year, an enrollment of 526 students; 372 in agricultural courses, and 154 in the School of Home Economics. This is one of the largest classes to enroll in the college.

A recent study on the relationship between the numbers of students in state agricultural colleges and the farm populations of the several states, showed that Arizona ranked fourth in the United States, with one student enrolled in its College of Agriculture for every 162 of its farm population. We thus are gratified by the interest taken in agricultural education by the farm families of this state. It should also be mentioned that the number of women students taking home economics has materially increased during the past few years.

There is a popular conception that graduates of agricultural colleges are so educated that they must go back to the farm in order to properly utilize their training. Statistics show, however, that only about 30 percent of all agricultural graduates go into agri-

cultural production. Nearly 50 percent go into the technical fields of teaching, research, extension and regulatory work. Another 10 percent secure employment in the agricultural industries, i.e., in the manufacture of feeds, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, farm machinery, dairy products, meat products, canned goods, etc. Approximately 10 percent go into unrelated fields where their agricultural education is of little direct benefit to them. This indicates that many opportunities for service await young people who are technically trained either in agriculture or in home economics.

The second division of our College of Agriculture is the EXPERIMENT STATION. It was established following the passage of the Federal Hatch Act in 1887. The Agricultural Experiment Station was the first part of the University of Arizona to be established in 1890. For more than 50 years it has been working on research problems of interest to the farmers and ranchers of Arizona.

Only research of a high order can give us the agricultural information so definitely needed. There are many things which the farmer can do for himself, but there are also many things which he cannot do. He needs the results of research today as never before. I am especially anxious that a closer relationship exist between the members of our Experiment Station staff and the farmers of this state.

The work performed by the AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, the third division of the College of Agriculture, is probably better known to all of you, because the county agricultural agents, home demonstration agents, and 4-H club agents are working in most of the counties. Their work was made possible by the passage of the Smith-Lever Act by the Federal Congress in 1914. It had been found that, while large amounts of information had been accumulated through research in the experiment stations and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the farmers were not being informed and kept up-to-date on the progress which had been made. There was need for an agency to carry information from the research institutions to the farmers in the field.

I have attempted to give you a bird's-eye-view of the College of Agriculture of your State University. Visitors are always welcome here, and inquiries by mail will receive careful attention. Let us hear from you.

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