

Agricultural Education

A Good Career

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Do you enjoy learning new facts and skills? Do you like to help others learn? Are you interested in rural people and their problems.

If your answer is "yes" and you have the following qualifications, the field of agricultural education may be your calling: (1) background of farm experience; (2) good health; (3) better than average scholarship; (4) social proficiency—pleasing personality and emotional stability; (5) interest in farming and rural life, and (6) genuine interest in teaching young people to solve problems.

You will no doubt want to know: (1) What sort of work and way of life an agriculture teacher follows? (2) What preparation is required to enter this vocation? (3) What are the chances of placement and what will be the salary? (4) What are the opportunities for a life career?

Activities Are Varied

The activities of an agriculture teacher are as varied as the interests and abilities of his students and as broad as the range of farm and ranch problems of the area. He is a teacher in the classroom, in the shop, and on the farm where he follows up his instruction with each student on the job.

Much of his work is outside the regular classroom. He directs many individual and group learning experiences as adviser for the local chapter of Future Farmers of America, and works closely

The teacher of vocational agriculture gives major emphasis to skills and related information in farm mechanics.



with community organizations in planning and conducting the program in vocational agriculture.

In addition to farm experience, the teaching of vocational agriculture requires a bachelor of science (B.S.) degree in agricultural education at the University of Arizona or a similar agricultural college in another state approved for the training of teachers.

The program of studies for teachers includes broad preparation in animal science, plant science, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics and agricultural education. A major part of the course work in education is composed of observation and directed teaching on the job.

Approximately 11,000 teachers of vocational agriculture are now employed in the 48 states. About 1,000 of these are in the eleven western states and 45 are employed in 31 Arizona high schools. The total annual demand for replacement and expansion is 700 to 800 teachers. Nine of the 31 schools in Arizona now have more than one teacher each, with four teachers in one school. Arizona high schools need about 8 to 10 new teachers each year.

All agricultural education graduates of the University of Arizona since 1937 who applied for teaching positions were placed in Arizona high schools. There is evidence that this high level of demand will continue.

Salaries of Arizona teachers of vocational agriculture are among the highest in the nation, ranking third from the top in 1953-54. Beginning salaries usually range from \$4,200 to \$4,600 for 12 months—including four weeks annual vacation. Salary schedules provide regular increases for experience and graduate study. Teachers also receive allowance for official travel on the job.

In addition to salary, those who follow the teaching of agriculture as a life career may expect the satisfactions which come from keeping up-to-date through constant study, strong friendships with many people, rendering valuable service to school and community, and working in an environment conducive to an enjoyable way of life.

Because of broad preparation and teaching experience, teachers of agriculture are in demand to fill positions of responsibility in related work. Due to higher income possibilities and other personal considerations, some experienced teachers enter these fields. The following shows some types of positions commonly held by former teachers of vocational



Outdoor work including individual instruction on the student's home farm is a regular part of the agriculture teacher's duties.

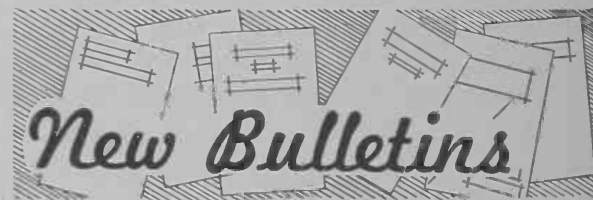
agriculture:

Education and related public service: Supervision of agricultural education, agricultural extension service, college teaching, state and federal department of agriculture work and foreign service.

Business and commercial concerns: Administration, public relations, research, development and sales relative to farm equipment, feeds, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, animal breed associations, meat packing, etc.

Agricultural production: Production of farm and ranch commodities as employee or owner-operator.

(Photos by Bob E. Taylor)



Extension Service

Control Worms on Fall Lettuce, Circular 219

Topworking Citrus and Other Trees, Circular 220

Chile Peppers—Fresh, Frozen, Canned, and Dried, Circular 221

Fertilizer Recommendations for Arizona, Circular 208 Revised

Experiment Station

Small Grains in Southern Arizona, Bulletin 260