

2-7-1952

State Agricultural Mobilization Committee meeting minutes

T. M. Patterson

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
State Agricultural Mobilization Committee
Post Office Box 1251
Jackson, Mississippi
February 14, 1952

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
STATE AGRICULTURAL MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

Date: February 7, 1952

Place: Assembly Room, 2nd Floor, Woolfolk State Office Building,
Jackson, Mississippi

Members present:

C. L. Neill, Chairman, FMA, Jackson
F. J. Hurst, Farm Credit Administration, Jackson
R. L. Sullivan, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Jackson
D. A. McCandless, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Gulfport
T. B. Fatherree, Farmers Home Administration, Jackson
Boswell Stevens, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Jackson
M. S. Shaw (representing Dr. Clay Lyle), Division of Agriculture,
State College
J. R. Owens, Fertilizer Advisory Committee, Jackson
L. C. Sessions (representing James Craig), State Forest Service, Jackson
J. A. Hardy, FMA State Committee, Columbus
G. A. Hopson, FMA State Committee, Michigan City
J. M. Sessions, FMA State Committee, Woodville
W. M. Garrard, Jr., Delta Council, Indianola
J. S. Smith, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Jackson
C. B. Anders, Soil Conservation Service, Jackson
J. W. Cooper (representing E. R. De Silvia), U. S. Forest Service, Jackson
Ernest Spivey (representing Charlie McNeill), Miss. Federated Coops, Jackson
R. H. Sullivan (representing H. E. Mauldin), Vocational Education, Jackson
T. M. Patterson, FMA, Jackson, Secretary

Members absent:

S. R. Evans, Mississippi Seedsmen's Association, Greenwood
J. A. Rogers, Mississippi Cottonseed Crushers Assn., Jackson
Si Corley, State Department of Agriculture, Jackson
LeRoy P. Percy, FMA State Committee, Greenville
W. A. Martin, Rural Electrification Administration, Flora
W. G. Bruce, Agricultural Research, Gulfport

Others Present:

T. D. Davis, Rural Electrification Administration, Jackson
L. C. Simmons, Mississippi Bankers Association, Pontotoc
Duane Rosenkrans, Extension Service, State College
T. C. Walton, FMA, Jackson
S. H. Starnes, FMA, Jackson
D. C. Vandevere, FMA, Jackson

W. W. Benton, FMA, Jackson
R. E. Rigby, FMA, Jackson
L. G. Atkinson, FMA, Jackson
W. H. Merrell, FMA, Jackson
M. G. Field, Meridian Fertilizer Factory, Hattiesburg
Don Echols, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Jackson
W. L. Heard, SCS, Jackson
D. T. Webb, SCS, Jackson
C. W. Sullivan, FMA, Jackson
T. M. Barron, FMA, Jackson
S. V. Sissell, FMA, Jackson
W. T. Johnson, FMA, Jackson
C. A. Barnett, FMA, Jackson
J. W. Barnett, FMA, Jackson
E. D. Pepper, FMA, Jackson
Juanita Terry, FMA, Jackson

The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Roswell Stevens of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, who was host of the meeting, welcomed members and visitors. He pointed out that the Farm Bureau is accepting its responsibility of trying to make this country a better place for farm people, as well as others; emphasizing the fact that its first responsibility is to agriculture and then to all the people of America. He urged the cooperation of all agricultural agencies in promoting a program devoted to helping farm people and America.

The chairman briefly commented on many of the hazards encountered in farming and mentioned several programs now in effect which help take some of the gamble out of farming. He emphasized the progress made in research in various practices, control of insects, diseases, control of weeds, and others, and stated that with these facilities available for eliminating some of the hazards, farmers are now in much better position to meet their problems.

Production Goals for 1952

Mr. M. S. Shaw, chairman of the production goals subcommittee, presented and discussed the report of his committee regarding a suggested pattern to be followed in obtaining the production goals needed and, at the same time, upgrade the standard of living of farm people and help them increase their production per unit which will in turn increase farm income. The report prepared by this subcommittee composed of M. S. Shaw, A. P. Fatherree, C. B. Anders, Roswell Stevens, and C. W. Sullivan was unanimously adopted by the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee; a copy of it is attached and made a part of the minutes.

The secretary presented "The 5th Plate," a set of charts showing the expected continuing increase in population which will require corresponding increase in production. This production necessarily will have to be accomplished from approximately the present acreage of cropland; which means, of course, that increased production per unit will be necessary if agriculture is to meet the challenge.

REA Meeting

Mr. T. D. Davis, Executive Manager of the Mississippi Rural Electric Association, invited all present to attend a luncheon at the Heidelberg Hotel on February 22 given by the Mississippi Rural Electric Association for the purpose of studying and formulating plans to make full use of our resources in the wise and effective use of electricity in farm production as a means of assisting farmers in meeting the demand for maximum production.

Cooperation of All Agencies

Mr. L. C. Simmons, representing the Mississippi Bankers Association, stated that his association has been very active for the last five or six years in its educational program pertaining to agriculture and is vitally interested in the agricultural outlook of the State. He stated that the association will certainly join in this effort to help farmers obtain maximum production. He also stated that the Mississippi Bankers Association will name a representative to represent this organization on the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee.

Representatives of all member agencies present pledged their support of the production effort stressing increased production per unit on a sound, businesslike basis. Special emphasis was placed on the necessity of informing farmers of the need for maximum production and of the many sources of available assistance to them in carrying out the practices for which each farm is best suited. Each representative briefly summarized services offered by his agency which will assist farmers in their efforts to develop a well-rounded farm program and expressed the willingness of his agency to do everything possible to get this information to farmers through use of radio, newspapers, meetings, and personal contacts.

Meeting of National Fertilizer Advisory Committee

Mr. M. C. Field of the Meridian Fertilizer Factory, Hattiesburg, who is a member of the National Fertilizer Advisory Committee gave a report of the recent meeting in Washington. He stated that the national outlook for fertilizer in 1952 is that there will be about 7% more nitrogen, about 5% more potash, and about 5% less superphosphate. For Mississippi and the Southeastern States it is estimated there will be about 20% less superphosphate. The United States Department of Agriculture expects fertilizer supplies to be doubled by 1960. There seems to be no hope for an increase in sulphur in connection with agriculture as steel, aluminum, rubber, and high octane gas get first choice and agriculture is not classed "essential" as far as sulphur is concerned.

Meetings of Committee

Members of the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee voted to hold all meetings in the Woolfolk State Office Building if possible, since it is more centrally located and sufficient conference room is available.

4-Minutes of State Agricultural Mobilization Committee Meeting-2/7/52

The next meeting of the committee will be held in the Second Floor Assembly Room, Woolfolk State Office Building on Thursday, March 13, beginning at 10 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Neill, Chairman

T. M. Patterson, Secretary

Attachment

REPORT OF MOBILIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION GOALS

The Problem

- A. National Level. Reference is made to the following extracts from the Director of Defense Mobilization's fourth quarterly report to the President, January 1, 1952:

1. General Production

"Defense mobilization will make us ready if war is forced upon us but its foremost purpose is to lead us into a world of peace . . . By winning the battle for production we may save the world the bloodshed of a thousand military battles."

2. Agricultural Production

"American farmers are being called upon by the Department of Agriculture to increase total agricultural production in 1952 to a new record level -- somewhere near 50 percent higher than the Nation's annual farm output in the years before World War II."

"To reach next year's goal, farmers need higher crop yields per acre, especially of corn and other food grains. With a declining supply of farm labor, farmers must rely even more on mechanical and electrical equipment, fertilizers, and pesticides. . ."

- B. State Level (Mississippi). Assuming that the State goals as established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture are in line with actual production needs for meeting a National emergency, the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee has the following general tasks:

1. To encourage full production within the limits of the labor, equipment, and other resources available to the individual farmer.

Many Mississippi farmers can develop more nearly full production than in the past, but at least partly with enterprises requiring less labor and equipment than cotton.

National emphasis is particularly on production of feed for livestock. Mississippi, with livestock numbers increased to near 2,000,000, and with lower than usual feed production last year, may fit into this national trend more than is generally realized.

2. To inform farmers of State and county production goals; these goals to serve as guides indicating roughly the State's or county's share in the national production picture.

Regard the goals as another source of supplementary information (like the 1952 Outlook), not as a "hard and fast" program to follow. The State Agricultural Mobilization Committee does not necessarily endorse all goal figures (as for cotton), but presents this information to help compare the production emphasis put on different crops.

General Approach

- A. Each farm presents an individual production problem. Action will come only through each farmer analyzing his individual capability and deciding what he can do on a sound basis.
- E. County-wide assistance to farmers should be from the various agricultural workers and others belonging to county agricultural mobilization committees, following suggestions approved by the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee.
- C. State-level effort, such as information, should be accomplished by the appropriate group or groups belonging to the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee.

The Suggested Program

(Develop in the following order.)

- A. Look at the whole farm.
 - 1. Land use -- best enterprise for each acre, from standpoint of both profitable production and long-time conservation.
 - 2. Farming system, or combination of enterprises, already practiced.
 - a. How much, if any, should this be changed?
 - b. How quickly should any change or shift be made, especially in view of 1952 conditions?
 - 3. Production resources, either available or reasonably certain to become available, for 1952 --
 - a. Labor. (To be particularly emphasized.) County mobilization committees should cooperate fully with representatives of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission.
 - b. Equipment (mainly farm machinery). The farm machinery conservation program already sponsored by the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee should be continued and intensified.
 - c. Fertilizer. The campaign already underway to urge early purchases of fertilizer by farmers should be continued with the support of all agencies.
 - d. Insecticides.
 - e. Credit. (Avoid excessive indebtedness -- this will influence the four factors above.)

Caution: With costs of production for cotton extremely high, the value of the land can be lost in a single crop year.

4. Put particular emphasis on production of enough feed for livestock.

Livestock producers should be careful not to try to carry more livestock than their pastures can support during periods of unfavorable weather. The carrying capacity of pastures should be improved wherever possible. If this is not feasible due to lack of fertilizer, or other reasons, the number of livestock should be adjusted to what the pasture could carry throughout the grazing season.

5. If cotton is the main enterprise and cash crop, then plan to plant it on the best and safest cotton land, but not in excess of resources available. For full production and utilization of good crop land, it will probably be wise to use part of the production resources on a crop such as soybeans, requiring less labor than cotton. In general farmers should produce more corn and grain sorghums for livestock feed where such increases are feasible.

6. Emphasize highest profitable production -- and maximum efficiency - regardless of the enterprise. The meaning here is maximum yields per acre, pounds of milk per cow per day, pounds of beef gain per acre, poultry feed efficiency, timber management, etc.

This is the educational phase, to be accomplished by full use of a wide variety of methods. Production recommendations should be based on Experiment Station findings.

The Farming and Family Living Outlook for 1952 should be emphasized as particularly helpful to farmer and agricultural leader thinking at this time.

3. Plan of Action. All agencies represented on the State and County Agricultural Mobilization Committees and others who are able and willing to help in the drive for maximum production can best help by re-examining their program of work for 1952 in the light of the principles outlined above and wherever practicable intensify their efforts along lines that would best contribute to maximum farm production in Mississippi in 1952. All agencies should use whatever methods are available to them to keep information concerning the 1952 production program constantly before the farm people of Mississippi.

It is suggested that meetings of county agricultural mobilization committees be held in each county to study farm production problems in relation to production goals. This meeting should result in development of a plan of action that would utilize fully what each agency can do in carrying this program to every farm family in the county.