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A POSITION PAPER ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE

To Be Used as a Guide to Preparing the Vocational Agriculture  
Portion of the Indiana State Plan for Vocational Education Under  
the Provisions of the National Vocational Education Act of 1963

Prepared by

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## SECTION IX -- VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FIELDS

### 1.0 Agriculture

#### 1.1 Vocational Agriculture Programs

##### 1.11 General Statement

Public school systems in Indiana are authorized and encouraged to initiate and develop programs of vocational education designed to prepare persons for gainful, continued, and expanded employment in agricultural occupations -- including farming and agricultural occupations other than farming -- in which knowledges, skills, background, and experience in agriculture are desirable and/or essential to the successful pursuit of the occupation.

Agricultural education is defined as education which deals with human knowledge and experience relative to the production, processing, distribution, and servicing of agriculture and the food and fiber products of agriculture produced from the culture of the soil or soil substitutes. Vocational education in agriculture is that portion of the total agricultural education program which relates to and is directed toward assisting persons to select, prepare for, enter into and become established in, and adjust to changing employment conditions in agricultural occupations.

Instruction may be offered under the provisions of this Section for occupations (1) which entail activity in the areas of producing, processing, distributing, and servicing agriculture and/or agricultural products, and (2) which require competency or competencies in one or more of the following areas: (a) plant science, (b) animal science, (c) soil science, (d) agricultural business management and marketing, including the economics and sociology of agriculture, and (e) agricultural mechanics. Instruction shall not be offered under the provisions of this section for occupations which require the employee to hold the bachelor's or higher degree, except that no part of this provision shall be construed to denote that instruction may not be offered at the secondary school level to prepare persons for further and advanced study at the junior college, technical institute, or college level, nor shall this provision be interpreted to indicate that instruction may not be offered under the provisions of this section at the post-high school level to prepare persons for advanced study at the college level.

The vocational agriculture teacher or teachers shall be responsible for providing instruction essential for the development of agricultural competencies, and for coordinating the instruction designed to develop

occupational competencies in areas other than agriculture which are needed by workers in agricultural occupations other than farming.

### 1.12 The Nature and Content of Instruction

The content of instruction shall be based on the activities in which established workers in agricultural occupations are engaging and/or on activities in which workers may engage in the future. Activities for a specific group of students shall be based on the complex or cluster of agricultural occupations for which the persons are being prepared, with specific instructional activities to be selected in consideration to the level of maturity, background, and experience of the students, and to their present and future occupational and educational goals.

Instructional procedures shall be employed which maximize the possibilities of achieving an employable level of occupational proficiency, consistent with the level of maturity of students, and which provide for try-out and practice under the direction and supervision of the instructor.

### 1.13 The Clientele to be Served

Instructional programs designed to prepare for gainful employment in agricultural occupations are authorized for the following groups or classifications of persons:

1. Persons who are attending high school.
2. Persons who currently are employed in agricultural occupations (including self-employed agricultural workers), and who need training or retraining to achieve stability or advancement in employment.
3. Persons who have completed or left high school, and who are available for full-time study to prepare for gainful employment in agricultural occupations.
4. Persons who have academic, socioeconomic, or other handicaps that prevent them from succeeding in the regular vocational education programs.

School corporations are authorized to select, develop, and offer instructional programs for one or more of the foregoing groups, as indicated by studies and analyses of the occupational-employment structure in the area served by the school corporation and the training needs of the clientele or clienteles to be served; however, corporations are encouraged to provide training for clientele groups 1, 2, and 3.

School corporations also are authorized and encouraged to provide instructional programs in the exploration, appreciation, and understanding of agriculture for students in the seventh and eighth grades, as provided for under the provisions of the Indiana Vocational Act of 1913. (Seventh and eighth grades agriculture programs, it should be noted, are not eligible for funding under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts of 1917 (as amended), 1946 (as amended), and 1963.)

## 1.2 Programs of Instruction

### 1.21 The Instructional Program for Persons Who Are Attending High School

1. Students eligible for enrollment in high school vocational agriculture classes must be at least 14 years of age and/or enrolled in the ninth grade of school.

2. Participating high schools are required to offer a major -- i.e., three units -- in vocational agriculture, in one or more of the options listed below, and are required to schedule a minimum of two separate classes in vocational agriculture each year.

3. High school vocational agriculture classes shall meet for a minimum of five 55-minute periods of actual classroom instruction per week, or equivalent. Equivalent is defined specifically in terms of the total number of minutes of instruction per week. Classes are not required to meet each day, but the total number of minutes of instruction per week shall not be less than 275 minutes, and no period or combination of successive periods scheduled for instruction in vocational agriculture shall be less than 55 minutes. The State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, however, is authorized to grant exceptions to this provision for ninth grade classes in vocational agriculture in junior high schools in the 6-3-3 plan, where the length of all periods in the school is less than 55 minutes.

4. Schools shall provide programs of occupational and vocational guidance designed to assist students to select appropriate occupational goals, which are consistent with their specialized aptitudes and interests, and with prospects of entry into occupational fields on the continuation of further education for occupational proficiency and gainful employment.

5. Schools shall provide appropriate programs designed to develop desirable personal traits of initiative, cooperation, industry, and leadership, which are essential for occupational proficiency and job satisfaction.

6. Schools offering programs of vocational agriculture under the provisions of this plan are required to provide for institution-directed or supervised experience in agreement with the options for vocational agriculture which are listed below. Such experience may be provided on or in home farms, selected farms in the community, school farms, business establishments, laboratories, green houses, nurseries, and/or shops in the school or community.

7. Programs of vocational agriculture for high school students may be offered in comprehensive high schools, in vocational and technical high schools, or in area vocational schools.

8. Within the framework of the basic principles of vocational education set forth in the National Vocational Education Acts of 1917, 1946, and 1963, as amended; the Indiana Vocational Act of 1913, as amended; and the provisions incorporated in the Indiana State Plan for Vocational Education; schools may select and/or develop programs of vocational education in agriculture for high school students which meet the occupational and educational needs of students enrolled in the school. Options for high school programs are listed on the following page.

9. Semester courses from which selections may be made by local schools include the following:

Ninth and Tenth Grades

- Ia. Introduction to Agriculture
- Ib. Introduction to Agriculture (Continued)
- IIa. Agricultural Production and Mechanics
- IIb. Agricultural Production and Mechanics (Continued)
- IIc. Vegetable Production
- IIId. Horticultural Crops.

<u>Option+</u>	<u>9th grade*</u>	<u>10th grade</u>	<u>11th grade</u>	<u>12th grade</u>	<u>Directed experience.#</u>
General farming	a. Intro. to b. Agriculture	a. Agric. Production b. and Mechanics	a. Adv. Prod. b. Farm Mach.	a. Farm Mgt. b. Farm Power	600 hours on farm employment, or 60 PMWU
Agricultural Science**	a. Intro. to b. Agriculture	a. Agri. Production b. and Mechanics	a. Plant Science b. Anim. Sci.	a. Soil Science b. Microbiology	180 hours directed exp. in school land laboratory or greenhouse.
Art. Mechanics	a. Intro. to b. Agriculture	a. Agri. Production b. and Mechanics	a. Farm Mach. b. Farm Elect.	a. Farm Power b. Farm Struc.	180 hours directed exp. in farm mechanics laboratory, shop, or directed work exp.
Agri. Business Management	a. Intro. to b. Agriculture	a. Agri. Production b. and Mechanics	a. Marketing b. Agr. Sales and Distribution	a. Farm Mgt. b. Econ. of Agric.	180 hours directed exp. as apprentice to farm manager, real estate dealer, etc.
Horticulture**	a. Intro. to b. Agriculture	a. Agri. Production b. and Mechanics	a. Hort. Plants b. Floriculture c. Landscaping	a. Greenhouse Management b. Nursery Management	180 hours directed exp. in school greenhouse or nursery.
Diversified Agr. Occupations Programs	a. Intro. to b. Agriculture	a. Agri. Production b. and Mechanics	To be selected from courses listed above	a. Related b. Instru. 180 hours	360 hours directed em- ployed experience in cooperating establish- ments.

\* Three-year high schools shall offer introduction to Agriculture in the last year of junior high school, or may make other adjustments as approved by the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

\*\* Urban schools may offer one semester of Vegetable Crops and one semester of Horticultural Crops in the 10th grade, provided that an appropriate school land laboratory or greenhouse is available for directed experience.

# Requirements are specified for the entire year.

+ Schools may submit additional options to the State Board for Vocational Education for approval.

Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

- A. Advanced Livestock and Crops Production
- B. Agricultural and Farm Management
- C. Farm Machinery
- D. Farm Power
- E. Farm Electrical Systems
- F. Farm Structures
- G. Plant Science
- H. Animal Science
- I. Soil Science
- J. Microbiology Related to Agriculture
- K. Agricultural Marketing
- L. Agricultural Sales and Distribution
- M. Economics of Agriculture
- N. Floriculture
- O. Landscaping
- P. Greenhouse Management
- Q. Nursery Management
- Ra. Related Instruction in Diversified Agricultural Occupations Program
- Rb. Related Instruction in Diversified Agricultural Occupations Program

10. Schools shall furnish such evidence as may be required by the State Board for Vocational Education to demonstrate that the objectives of the instructional program have been met.

1.22 The Instructional Program for Persons Who Are Available for Part-Time Study

1. School corporations are authorized to offer part-time instructional programs for persons who are not enrolled in the regular high school program, designed to train or retrain persons for gainful employment in agricultural occupations and/or to assist persons to achieve stability or advancement in employment.

2. Enrollment in part-time educational programs is open to any person in the community for whom the objectives of the instructional program to be offered are relevant.

3. Instructional programs shall be developed to meet the needs of persons employed in agricultural occupations, or persons employed in occupations other than agriculture who desire to become employed in agricultural occupations, and shall be developed with the cooperation and advice of a vocational agriculture advisory committee.

4. Within the broad clientele group designated above, instructional programs may be offered in a variety of areas and for a variety of sub-clientele groups, such as the following:

- a. Persons who are becoming established in agricultural occupations, and who desire intensive training in one or more of the agricultural competency areas listed in paragraph IX-1.11, above.
- b. Persons who are becoming established in agricultural occupations, and who desire intensive training in related competency areas, such as sales and distribution.
- c. Persons who are employed and established in agricultural occupations, and who desire intensive training in one or more of the agricultural competency areas listed in paragraph IX-1.11, above.
- d. Persons who are employed and established in agricultural occupations, and who desire intensive training in related competency areas, such as sales and distribution.
- e. Persons who are employed or underemployed in agricultural occupations, or who wish to prepare for a different occupation within the structure of agricultural occupations, and who desire extensive part-time training in agricultural or related competencies.

5. Intensive instructional programs refer to organized instructional units of not less than 20 clock hours of instruction, offered within the span of 12 months. Extensive instructional programs refer to organized instructional units of not less than one semester or equivalent, for a minimum of 90 clock hours.

6. Instructional programs shall include and provide for individual conferences, to be provided by the instructor.

7. Instruction shall be provided by or offered under the direction of a fully certificated teacher of vocational agriculture, or by a person working under the supervision of a fully certificated teacher of vocational agriculture teacher who has been approved by the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

8. Schools shall furnish such evidence as may be required by the State Board for Vocational Education to demonstrate that the objectives of the instructional program have been met.



1.23 The Instructional Program for Persons Who Are Available for Full-Time Study

1. School corporations are authorized to offer instructional programs of a continuation nature to persons who have completed or left the regular high school program and who are available for full-time study, which are designed to prepare these persons for gainful employment in agricultural occupations. Programs for full-time study may be offered by a single school corporation, or jointly by two or more school corporations.

2. Programs of full-time study for agricultural occupations shall be under the general supervision of a director to be appointed by the administrative officers of the school corporation or the cooperating school corporations.

3. Enrollment in full-time study programs is open to any interested and qualified person, provided that the individual has been approved for admission by an admission officer who has counseled with the individual regarding his occupational objective.

4. Instructional programs shall be designed to meet the educational and occupational needs of persons who desire to become employed in agricultural occupations, and shall be developed with the cooperation and advice of a vocational agriculture advisory committee.

5. Instructional programs shall deal primarily with the development of agricultural and related competencies required for gainful employment in agricultural occupations; however, the director of full-time study is authorized to organize and develop programs in basic skills, such as reading, writing, English grammar, and mathematics, where the need for such programs is indicated.

6. Full-time study programs are authorized for any appropriate area, and for any length of time of not less than one week in duration, provided that the local corporation or cooperating cooperations have obtained evidence to support the need for such program.

7. Instructional programs shall include and provide for individual conferences, to be provided by the instructors.

8. Instruction shall be provided by or offered under the direction of a fully certificated teacher of vocational agriculture, or by a person working under the supervision of a fully certificated teacher of vocational agriculture who has been approved by the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

9. Schools shall furnish such evidence as may be required by the State Board for Vocational Education to demonstrate that the objectives of the instructional program have been met.

1.24 The Instructional Program for Persons Who Have Academic, Socioeconomic, or Other Handicaps

1. Special instructional programs for persons who have academic, socioeconomic, or other handicaps that prevent them from succeeding in a regular program of vocational education, which involve an agricultural orientation and which relate to agricultural competencies, shall be developed in conjunction with other vocational programs as the need for such programs is manifested.

1.25 The Instructional Program in Agriculture for Seventh and Eighth Grade Students

1. School corporations are encouraged to offer instruction in agriculture in the seventh and eighth grades, designed to help students become acquainted with, understand, and appreciate the role of agriculture in American society, with special emphasis on the economic importance of agriculture, the American free enterprise system as it applies to agriculture, an introductory study of the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of food and fiber, an appreciation and understanding of the conservation of soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources, a preliminary study of agricultural occupations, and the opportunity to participate in try-out and exploratory experiences in agricultural occupations.