

Department of Public Instruction

EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Bulletin No. 15

Vocational Series No. 10

Pre-Vocational Agricultural Courses for the Public Schools of Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

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EXPLANATION OF COURSES OF STUDY.

The Indiana Vocational Education Law makes it obligatory on the State Board of Education to make out courses of study in agriculture for the seventh, eighth, and high school grades, which courses are "to be followed as a minimum requirement." Teachers are expected to use the courses herein outlined as provided for under the law.

Seventh and Eighth Grades.

The following courses have been prepared with a full knowledge of the fact that a teacher who can give but two periods per week to the work in the seventh and eighth grades can not cover all the work outlined. Due consideration has been given to the fact that all communities are not alike and that the same phase of the subject of agriculture should not be given equal emphasis in all communities. The courses have been made broad and elastic enough to meet all conditions. The work should be uniform for a given county. The county superintendent should notify his teachers as early as possible as to which phase or phases of the subject will be taken up in the county. It is advisable for the schools that can give but two periods per week to agriculture to limit their work to soils, or crops, or horticulture, etc. It may be advisable in some counties to make the township the basis for uniformity. Schools that can give five forty-minute periods per week to the subject are expected to do so. In such schools practically all of the work outlined for seventh and eighth grades can be covered during the year.

Two years work has been outlined for seventh and eighth grades in schools that give full time to the subject. Seventh and eighth grade pupils can take the work together. All of the work outlined can not be covered by schools that give only two periods per week to the subject.

The work has been arranged in seasonal sequence. No doubt there will have to be variations from the given order from time to time to meet conditions that may arise in given communities.

High Schools.

The high school work is outlined in half-year courses. Two of the courses are required for one year's work. Schools that wish

to retain their commissions or certificates are expected to conform to the law and follow the state course of study as a minimum requirement. A course in agricultural botany does not answer the requirements of the law.

Text-books.

Text-books should be used for reference purposes only. It is a grave mistake to adopt a text as a basis for the work in either the seventh and eighth or the high school grades. Lack of interest on the part of the pupils and less efficiency on the part of the teacher result from a text-book treatment of the subject of agriculture.

Not one book but several different books should be used. The class should be divided into groups of two or more and each group should buy a different book from those purchased by other groups.

Use of Land.

It is not necessary that the school own land to be managed and cultivated by the pupils. The home farms should be drawn upon chiefly for land to be used in connection with the school agricultural work. This does not mean that the father must set aside a piece of land to be used by his boy exclusively and in such a manner that the father will not realize his regular income therefrom. The project work should be organized in such a manner that the boy can do the regular routine of work assigned by his father but at the same time give intelligent and careful attention to one particular phase of the work as, for example, corn growing, pig raising or gardening. Without the home project work during both winter and summer the school agricultural work is in most cases meaningless and to a large degree worthless.

Supervision of Summer Project Work.

A good teacher of agriculture should be employed in each township for a year of twelve months. His business during the summer would be to supervise the home project work. Such supervision is necessary to the accomplishing of desired results.

Collaborators in the Preparation of the Courses Herein Outlined.

The courses outlined in this bulletin were prepared under the direction of the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

Members of the faculty of Purdue University and a committee of the Indiana Agricultural Teachers Association cooperated in the work as follows:

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