

#### TEACHER PREPARATION IN YOUNG FARMER EDUCATION

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A four credit course in Young Farmer Education is required of all undergraduates majoring in agricultural education at the University of Minnesota and is offered on a graduate basis to teachers as a recommended in-service course. The course stresses methods of organizing and working with a local young farmer advisory committee. Emphasis is given to teaching methods in both group and individual instruction as it pertains to beginning farmers, suggests a general 3 year course of study and describes methods of transition from the young farmer phase of education to the adult Farm Management program.

The idea of a young farmer program to assist potential replacements for farmers who are rapidly reaching retirement age was launched approximately 2 years ago. The goal of the program is to find and screen young men who have the ability and desire to farm and to bring these young men into contact with economic farm units as they become available. This is not a "back to the farm

movement," but a program designed to supply an adequate number of young replacements on farm business units that will provide a satisfactory livelihood for the individual and, in addition, maintain the economic and social institutions necessary for the rural communities in which they are located.

The local agriculture department is the focal point of the entire young farmer program. A local Young Farmer Committee screens applicants, evaluates assets and background and makes recommendations as to their chances of success on specific farms. This committee utilizes all available agencies in the community and works in close contact with the vocational agriculture program of the community school.

The Minnesota Young Farmer Development Committee is composed of individuals, agencies and institutions who are interested in the promotion, growth and prosperity of the State of Minnesota and the economic development of agriculture. This is, of course, affected by the problems of young men becoming established in farming. The state committee performs the following functions:

1. Assists local committees in methods of locating economically adequate farming opportunities.
2. Assists local committees in methods of identifying qualified young farmers.
3. Coordinates efforts to secure appropriate credit and financing.
4. Aids in developing an educational program adapted to the specific needs of young farmers.
5. Suggests research which might be carried out by cooperating agencies.
6. Provides public relations and publicity as needed for the good of the Young Farmer Development Program.