

A PLAN FOR TEACHER INTERNS

Henry TenPas, Oregon State University

A proposed plan for teacher interns in Agricultural Education appeared in the first issue of the AATEA Journal. The program involves close cooperation between personnel at the local school district, the State Department, and Oregon State University.

The second year of the intern experiment is underway. The memorandum of understanding reflects the mutual thinking and operation of those involved.

Memorandum of Understanding

The purpose of this plan is to outline the basis and procedure for an experiment in the training of teachers of vocational agriculture. Involved in the activity will be local school systems, higher education (primarily Oregon State University), and the Agricultural Education Section of the State Department of Education.

The experiment will involve the placement of interns in local departments of vocational agriculture as outlined below.

The local school program and students are of paramount importance and should receive first consideration.

Inherent in the whole plan for internship is the concept that the local school system, Oregon State University, and the State Department of Education are all vitally interested and concerned with the training of vocational agriculture teachers. This undertaking should be a three-way cooperative partnership and recognize that this close cooperation can do much to improve both theory and practice, bring them closer together, as well as to coordinate and unify the efforts of the three agencies concerned toward the improvement of agriculture education.

Interns will be selected and placed cooperatively by the three participating agencies. Final placement of interns will be at the discretion of the local school district.

They will be placed in centers selected and approved jointly by the State Department of Education and Oregon State University.

The period of internship shall be characterized by thorough supervision from the master teacher in the local school system, from Oregon State University, and from the State Department of Education.

Local school districts will employ the interns at a salary commensurate with the salary schedule of the local school district, the intern's professional training, the intern's actual teaching load, and the amount of academic credit concurrently being given. The intern shall teach vocational agriculture one-half of the school day and devote the other half to advanced study.

Provision must be made for supervision of farm projects.

Interns for the experiment will be selected from those students meeting the following qualifications:

Will have completed the college requirements of a B.S. degree in Agriculture. The internship may be partially in lieu of, or it may be in addition to, conventional student teaching experience.

In all instances, particular care should be observed to insure that the participating agencies do not approve any prospective intern until such time as they are reasonably well assured that the prospective intern has at least the minimum qualifications, experience, and education (both methods and subject matter) to enable satisfactory performance when given responsibility for class.

The internship period will include both academic year and summertime experience and be of at least six calendar months duration (preferably longer).

The State Department of Education will reimburse on interns' salaries in a manner similar to that followed for fully certificated vocational agriculture instructors, providing that the policies outlined herein have been followed and complied with, and providing further that a written memorandum of agreement accordingly is properly consummated prior to the beginning of the internship.

A school system which is providing facilities for internships will incur expenses, some of which are properly chargeable to instruction and some of which are properly chargeable to teacher training. The local school system should pay those costs which are properly chargeable to instruction (with reimbursement through the State Department of Education, Vocational Education Division, as outlined in the preceding paragraph). The State Department of Education may approve additional reimbursement (on a 50 per cent basis) up to \$125 for teacher training expenses.

Vocational agriculture instructors serving as master teachers shall have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience, and during the period of internship shall be assigned at least two periods of vocational agriculture classes, one period for project supervision, and one period for intern supervision.

A representative from the teacher training department at Oregon State University will spend a minimum of at least one full day per month with the intern at the local school, and a representative of the State Department of Education will spend a like amount of time in the same manner. These supervision times should coincide or overlap sufficiently so as to facilitate at least one conference per month involving representatives of the three agencies concerned.

All concerned shall agree to a plan for evaluation of the internship.