

TEACHER PREPARATION PROJECT AT CORNELL

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Exploration of more effective programs of preparation for teachers of agriculture is underway in the Agricultural Education Division at Cornell University. The Agricultural Education Project is a part of an extensive four university project being conducted under a grant from the Ford Foundation. Cornell, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse universities will work cooperatively in the project.

In the teacher education phase of the project at Cornell experimental programs will be conducted whereby selected teacher candidates might acquire a part of their professional preparation through independent and tutorial study. At the start of the project Cornell will confine its innovation to the fields of Agriculture, Home Economics and English. A thorough analysis will be made of the content in the psychological and social foundations supporting these areas. The Agricultural Education Division will be concerned with an analysis of the preparation program for teaching agriculture.

Of the four universities participating Cornell is the only institution training teachers of agriculture. As the project enters its planning year, the Cornell Agricultural Education Division is planning its explorations in the following areas.

1. Establishing criteria for the selection of superior prospective teachers.
2. Analysis of the duties and responsibilities of the teacher of agriculture as evidence for designing the program of teacher preparation.
3. Establish the relationship of the psychological and sociological foundations to other phases of the teachers' professional preparation.
4. Design of the professional training program with emphasis on: Course sequences and content, tutorial program, summer experience program, methods and techniques, experiences in student teaching centers, and criteria for the selection of student teaching centers.
5. Educational program to qualify supervising teachers.
6. Placement and follow-up procedures to use with first year teachers.

In the academic year of 1962 - 63 the program will be in operation. Outstanding students will be admitted at the fifth year level, if they have completed a degree in agriculture. Outstanding senior students in the college of agriculture may be admitted to complete their preparation as teachers of agriculture. Stipends will be available for students accepted in the program.