

SUTHERLAND CITED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Clodus R. Smith, University of Maryland,
Chairman, AATEA Distinguished Service
Award Selection Committee

Professor Sidney Sutherland was named the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture on December 6, 1963, at Atlantic City. Professor Sutherland has given more than forty years of service in agricultural education.

Beginning in 1922 as a teacher of vocational agriculture in South Dakota, Professor Sutherland has gained experience in all phases of agricultural education. After receiving a Master of Science degree from Iowa State College in 1928, he joined the agricultural education staff at Montana State College and served first in agricultural engineering and later as professor and head of agricultural education. In 1931 he became a supervisor on the California Bureau of Agricultural Education staff with headquarters in San Luis Obispo. The following year he became a staff member of the University of California, Davis, and since that time has served there as director of teacher training in agricultural education. During this period, he has had a joint appointment with the State Department of Education and the University of California.

In 1945 he was instrumental in starting teacher education in homemaking on the Davis campus, and later started programs of teacher education for both elementary and secondary school teachers. These programs are characterized by the high standards and quality which he developed in the program for the preparation of teachers of agriculture.

The Distinguished Service Award candidates for 1963 were selected on the basis of their contribution in the following areas:

1. Excellence in teaching undergraduate or graduate students or both.
2. Significant research in the field of agricultural education and general education.
3. Scholarly writing pertaining to the field of education.
4. Service to agricultural education and the total field of education.

Following is a brief resume of Professor Sutherland's activities, presented by his colleagues to support the statement that he is a master teacher, a forceful leader, a talented writer, and a competent researcher.

Excellence in Teaching

In 1932 Professor Sutherland initiated the cadet program of teacher

education in agriculture on the campus of the University of California, Davis. This program is still in operation in much the same form as originally conceived. In the past 31 years, 527 men have completed this program and have received credentials as teachers of vocational agriculture. The high tenure of these teachers speaks for the quality of this program of preparation; 45 per cent of this group are still in teaching and less than 5 per cent are in non-agricultural positions; the others are in college or university teaching, school administration, state supervisory positions, or in related agriculture.

Professor Sutherland is recognized locally and in the state and nation as a master teacher. Evidence of his ability as a teacher is his popularity as a discussion leader and conference director. During the past ten years, there has been hardly a month that he has not directed at least one conference or led a discussion group or talked before a professional or service group. He receives these invitations because he is recognized as an outstanding speaker, leader and educator. For example, early in September, 1962, he was invited by the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas to direct a leadership workshop for student body officers of 6 large colleges and universities in Texas. In October of that year, he led a 2-day workshop for a group of 20 teachers who are developing experimental programs in the teaching of biological principles in vocational agriculture. In the following December, he conducted a workshop at Columbus, Ohio for teachers developing similar programs in vocational agriculture. In May, 1963, he conducted a workshop for staff members of Oregon State University on using the principle approach to the teaching of agriculture. In addition, he played a key role in directing the annual planning conference for the California Bureau of Agricultural Education. He is on the program for the Annual California Agricultural Teachers Conference at San Luis Obispo, California.

Research

In addition to being Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Education at the University of California, Professor Sutherland has conducted imaginative research, centering primarily on the improvement of vocational agriculture. He was one of the first leaders in the country to study the training requirements of workers in agricultural business. His initial study, completed in 1957, has gained nationwide attention and has served as a model for many communities and states interested in this problem. In 1960 he started a challenging study to identify the biological principles related to agriculture and to find how these could be incorporated into courses of high school vocational agriculture. This study has had liberal support from the National Defense Education Act funds. He is now in the second year of field experimentation with pilot programs in 16 high schools. Preliminary results are most promising. This study has likewise generated nationwide interest. It promises to make the greatest contribution to the upgrading of instruction in vocational agriculture that has been accomplished in the past decade.

Writings

Professor Sutherland has made a major contribution to his profession through his writing. One of his books, When You Preside,

has become a classic in the field. It is used as a textbook in many colleges, and is also used extensively by members of the Agricultural Extension Service, service clubs, church groups, fraternal organizations, and many others. His manual on Biological Principles in Agriculture, is a "first" in its field. It promises to have a very strong influence on upgrading the scientific aspect of the course content in vocational agriculture. In addition to articles in professional journals and magazines, he is the author of several bulletins and pamphlets.

Service Rendered

The record of service of Professor Sutherland is likewise outstanding. A listing of committees and other activities on which he has served is an inadequate measure of his contribution to the profession. The services rendered by Professor Sutherland number in the dozens and cover a wide range of activities. The wise counsel and inspiration he gives his students and co-workers, added to his formal service, are characteristics that make Professor Sutherland dear to his students and "father" to them all.

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