

SUBGROUP 6

Series 1

5

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGES OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

EDMUND EZRA DAY, PRESIDENT

CARL E. LADD, DEAN AND DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
AND DIRECTOR

July 2, 1940

To Presidents, Deans and Directors
Concerned with Agriculture and Home
Economics in Land-Grant Colleges:

Mr. Chester C. Davis, the agricultural representative on the National Defense Commission, has communicated to us his desire to have an expression from the Land-Grant Colleges of their judgment as to the important problems of agriculture in each state and the part which the colleges can take in meeting these problems during this critical period.

We are therefore requesting each college to furnish us with answers to the following questions:

1. Do you favor maintaining agricultural production at the present levels? If not, what changes should be made?
2. What are the important problems of agriculture in your state in relation to national defense?
3. What do you consider to be the important agricultural problems in relation to national defense within the general regional area in which your state is located?
4. What should be done to meet these problems?
5. What contributions can you make to the solution of these problems?
6. What are the best ways of expanding market outlets at home and abroad?
7. Give any other suggestions as to actions which should be included in the agricultural part of the national defense program.

It is reported to us that some institutions have already appointed agricultural coordinating committees to consider these and similar problems.

In some states the colleges have assisted in the organization of emergency agricultural defense committees appointed by the principal farm organizations of the state and including farmer representatives

of such groups as the State Agricultural Conservation Committee, the State Land-Use Planning Committee, the Farm Security Advisory Committee, the Production Credit Associations, the State Soil Conservation Committee, and others.

Both of these procedures seem worthy of consideration.

This letter is being sent to all Presidents, Deans of Agriculture, Directors of Extension and Directors of Experiment Stations. It is suggested that each college make one reply representing the judgment of these officers and others whom they may consult.

We would appreciate it if answers to this letter could be in our hands by July 20. Please address replies to Carl E. Ladd, College of Agriculture, Ithaca, New York.

Very truly yours,



Carl E. Ladd, Chairman
Committee on Relationships,
Association of Land-Grant
Colleges and Universities.

COPY

OREGON STATE COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
CORVALLIS, OREGON

July 12, 1940

Mr. F. E. Balmer
Director of Extension
State College of Washington
Pullman, Washington

Dear Director Balmer:

I have your letter of July 8 and have now read the letter of July 2 from Dean Ladd.

Undoubtedly this would make a satisfactory topic for consideration at the conference. I believe our program has been completed about as we outlined it in Spokane, but I am handing this to our Professor C. W. Smith indicating that it may be good supplementary program material.

Very truly yours,

President.

cc: C. W. Smith

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE COLLEGE OF WASHINGTON
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CO-OPERATING

July 8, 1940

EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT WORK
PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

President F. L. Ballard
Oregon State College
Corvallis, Oregon

Dear President Ballard:

The letter of July 2 from Carl E. Ladd, Chairman of the Committee on Relationships of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, addressed to Presidents, Deans, and Directors, received today, raises in my mind the pertinent question as to one or more important items that might be included in the Western States' Conference dealing with problems of national defense and the possible contributions of agriculture thereto. It occurs to me that such an important set of questions as were raised by Dean Ladd would suggest flavoring several of the subjects of the conference with this emphasis.

Great events are transpiring these days and situations are changing rapidly. There may be some necessity of last minute changes as result of developments which we may not now anticipate.

I thought it well to pass this thought on to you, to Dean Iddings and Director Taylor who are receiving copies of this letter.

Very sincerely,

F. E. Balmer

F. E. Balmer
Director of Extension

FEB:PC

cc - Dean E. J. Iddings
Director J. C. Taylor

July 12, 1940

Mr. F. E. Balmer
Director of Extension
State College of Washington
Pullman, Washington

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Very truly yours,

President.

cc: C. W. Smith

Director Balmer's letter of 7/8/40 to President Ballard
Dean Carl E. Ladd's letter of 7/2/40 to Presidents, etc.
(mimeo.)

July 12, 1940

Professor C. W. Smith
Oregon State College
Campus

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is a letter from Director Balmer, with a copy of my reply, and also copy of letter from Dean Ladd.

This letter should be answered right away as you should see. My suggestion is that it be answered for the institution after conference between Potter, Paul Carpenter, the Dean (if he is available, but I doubt if he will be within the time of this letter), Price, and yourself. I should be glad to review the answers before they go forward.

Very truly yours,

President.

President Ballard

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF OREGON
CORVALLIS

OREGON STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING

July 15, 1940

EXTENSION SERVICE

Mr. F. E. Balmer, Director
Extension Service
Washington State College
Pullman, Washington

Dear Mr. Balmer:

I note your letter of July 8 to President Ballard and his reply to you.

There is no question but that the questions raised and their effect upon our programs should be discussed at length at the Western States Extension Conference. The program is now in the printers' hands so it is too late to get anything in the general setup regarding it. It occurs to me that these questions might well be discussed at the directors' conference on August 13.

The fellows from this state appearing upon the program will plan to prepare their remarks so as to give consideration to a number of the questions raised by Dean Ladd.

Yours very truly,

Chas. W. Smith, Assistant
County Agent Leader

CWS:eam

COPY

July 16, 1940

Carl E. Ladd, Dean
College of Agriculture
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Dear Dean Ladd:

In response to your letter of July 2, 1940, asking a number of questions relating to this Institution's attitude toward the question of national defense as relating to agriculture, a committee representing the College Experiment Station and Extension Service has formulated the following answers to your questions:

Question No. 1. In the light of present information, we believe that agricultural production in Oregon should be maintained at the present level.

If changes should be dictated by national policy, Oregon's position is as follows: Oregon has approximately 1-1/4 million acres of humid crop land and 600,000 acres of irrigated crop lands which are physically capable of growing a large variety of temperate zone crops. Substantial changes in the farm program of these areas are physically possible if such changes are required by national policy. On the other hand, Oregon has 12,000,000 acres of range land now properly stocked with sheep and cattle and in the light of present information, entirely unsuited to anything else. No change can be made in this area except small shifts from cattle to sheep or sheep to cattle. Oregon has 1 1/2 million acres of dry farm land now devoted primarily to wheat and summer fallow. In this area wheat is the only crop that gives a satisfactory yield. Oregon has over 200,000 acres in horticultural plantings of a permanent nature. The soils in these areas are suited to a variety of crops, but changes cannot be made without destroying capital investment.

Question No. 2. Oregon agriculture is in a strong position to do its part in any defense program. Oregon can and does produce large amounts of basic farm products such as wheat, beef, mutton, wool, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables.

Oregon agriculture is operating on a well organized and reasonably efficient basis and can maintain its production of these basic necessities even though handicapped to some extent by shortage of man power and new machinery. Oregon agriculture is not without its problems, but they are not of such nature as to seriously interfere with Oregon's ability to play a strong part in any national defense program.

Question No. 3. The problems of Oregon are similar to those of the Pacific Northwest, and the answers we have given should, as far as we know, be applicable to the other states of Washington and Idaho, also.

Question No. 4. This question depends upon national policy rather than by state policy. Oregon can make such adjustments in her agriculture as may be dictated by national policy subject to the limitations set forth in our answer to Question No. 1.

Question No. 5. The Oregon State College in its various branches maintains close cooperative relationships with the farm leadership of Oregon and stands ready, willing and able to cooperate in all ways with the federal government in its defense program.

Question No. 6. We cannot answer this from a state standpoint. Our producers are more concerned with a possible loss of markets in some "All America" program which would admit to our own markets large amounts of wheat from Canada and wheat, beef, and wool from South America. Such a program would be ruinous to Oregon agriculture.

Question No. 7. Our experiences in the first World War lead us to urge caution against ill considered and ill founded plans for changing agriculture made under the excitement of emergency conditions. War involves less change in agriculture than in many other industries.

All that agriculture can do is to furnish food and other farm products in adequate amounts. American agriculture has always produced more than can be used in this country. It can do that in either war or peace. We can do that even if increased activity should increase domestic consumption and at the same time remove some man power from agriculture. We believe that the greatest problem in this emergency is to maintain rather than to change agriculture. This, however, does not preclude minor changes, but these can be made quickly, easily, and through existing agencies when and if actually shown to be necessary.

Dean Carl E. Ladd

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July 16, 1940

We believe that any council for the purpose of formulating national defense policies with respect to agriculture should have a strong representation from the agricultural personnel of the Land Grant Colleges of the country. We believe this procedure will provide the Nation with a leadership thoroughly familiar with the physical and economic aspects of the agricultural industry in all regions, states, and localities. The Land Grant Colleges should play an important part in any such national council. They can be depended upon to provide the practical leadership essential to the formulation and effective local application of national emergency programs for agriculture.

The formation of a State Agricultural Defense Committee as suggested seems to us wise and attention is being given to the organization of such a committee to represent the farm leadership of the state together with existing state and federal agencies.

I hope that we have satisfactorily answered your letter of July 2.

Very truly yours,

President

cc: Dean Schoenfeld
Professor Potter
Mr. Smith

By DCM

OREGON STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENT STATION
EXTENSION SERVICE

CORVALLIS

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Frank L. Ballard

FROM: D. Curtis Mumford

SUBJECT: Suggested answers to Dean Carl E. Ladd's letter of
 July 2, 1940.

DATE: July 16, 1940

At the suggestion of Charles W. Smith we have prepared a suggested reply to Dean Ladd's letter of July 2, 1940, concerning questions of national defense as they may relate to agriculture.

Very truly yours,

D. Curtis Mumford

D. Curtis Mumford
Secretary of Committee