

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

The first agricultural shop in Holyoke High School, J. S. Knight's blacksmith shop, was moved from the 200 block on East Carnahan Street in 1918 to its present location. F. E. Brolliard was in charge of the first classroom which was built in the summer of 1920. Still on campus, this classroom has served as a band, visual aids, general science, driver's education, history, English, and first aid room since 1951 when it was vacated by the agricultural department. In 1950 the present building was built.

When the national government began, in 1917, to share in financing vocational agriculture through the Smith-Hughes Act, agricultural education was already becoming well established in communities and states. Even more initiative has been shown by states and communities than by the national government. From their own funds, states are furnishing all buildings, equipment, and teaching aids used in agricultural education. Although states have been required to provide only one dollar for each dollar of national funds, they now supply approximately four dollars for each national dollar. Most schools teach adults as well as children. Agriculture in the school has served hundreds of thousands through their war-training programs and veterans' programs following World War II and the Korean Conflict.

Smith-Hughes Agriculture was introduced into Phillips County in 1920 with an enrollment of sixteen students in the first year, eight of whom were first-year students and eight of whom were second-year students. According to the "Prairie Breeze" of May 8, 1921, the Smith Hughes Agricultural Course was unlike that taught previously in high schools. Its aim was to incorporate practical work into the so-called "theory" in order to fit the boys for active and successful farm management. Emphasis was placed on the type of agriculture found in this county, with a general insight being presented into types found in any other average farming areas. As far as possible the job analysis system was taught, wherein farm work was divided into different jobs and correlated with class work in teaching the use, construction, and repair of tools.

First-year students had an animal project which led the student through a systematic study of the care, feeding, and management of all farm animals. This was called Animal husbandry; at this time, registered pigs were usually chosen as a home project. On field trips to farms of outstanding stock raisers, the boys practiced judging animals.

The home projects required for second-year students in 1922 were the care of a certain number of acres of ground. Consequently, the student became acquainted with different types of soil and the crops best suited to them. In the shop they studied machinery--its care, use, and repair with emphasis on metal instead of wooden tools as in the first year. Holyoke added a shop room in 1922 to accommodate forge work. Further work in the third and fourth years offered more detailed

study of farm jobs, with the choice of adding farm management and accounting, rural economics and marketing, and sociology.

Far more than just farming is taught in the 1960's under the vocational agricultural plan. The students who study agriculture in high school now are prepared for work in agricultural business, industry, professions, and services. Available to them is a counseling service or continued study in colleges. Agriculture is taught in elementary schools, junior high schools, senior high schools, colleges, and adult classes--sometimes under the name of agriculture, sometimes it is listed under other names. Increased demands upon agriculture in a complex and changing society call for rapid and revolutionary changes in farming. Vocational agriculture trains students to meet these expanding needs.

Contributing to the change in subject matter in the past forty years are these items: development of the tractor, automobile, use of petroleum products, rural electrification, electrically operated motors, automation, telephone, radio, television, farm press and other press services, aids to irrigation, and aircraft in agriculture.

Early teachers of agriculture majored in agriculture and minored in education. Their school term was for nine months of the year, and their salaries were approximately two hundred dollars per month. Presently, teachers in this field major in education and minor in agriculture. For them the school year is on a twelve-month basis.

Eugene Daise is the vocational agriculture instructor in 1963, having held that position since 1950, with the exception of 1951-53 while he served in the Korean Conflict. In 1961 Mr. Daise served as president of the Colorado Vocational Association.

L. V. Toyne was vocational agriculture instructor in 1931, followed by Glenn Ament in 1932-35, W. L. Dobler in 1936, N. Walker until 1941, Fred Leckner until 1947, Paul Jenkins in 1947, John Bee in 1948-49, Harry Davis in 1949-50, William Dutch and Percy Horn taught in 1951-53 while Daise was absent.

The following list is composed of the vocational agriculture instructors since 1920:

1920-24	F. E. Brollian	1942-47	Fred G. Lechner
1924-27	Frank McCrery	1947-48	Paul Jenkins & John Bee
1927-30	Gordon Klipple	1948-49	John Bee
1930-33	L. V. Toyne	1949-50	Harry Davis
1933-34	L. V. Toyne & Mel Harnes	1950-51	Eugene Daise & William Dutch
1934-35	Glenn Ament	1951-52	William Dutch
1935-37	W. L. Dobler	1952-53	Percy Horn
1937-41	Norman H. Walker	1953-63	Eugene Daise
1941-42	James Alishouse		

The Future Farmers of America, commonly known as the "FFA," is the largest farm-boy organization in the world. It is an integral part of the Ag program. Its aim is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenship. The FFA was founded in November of 1928 at Kansas City, Missouri. Colorado was the fifteenth state to receive its charter, while Holyoke was the forty-second chapter in Colorado, receiving its charter April 1, 1931.

Leland Miller was awarded the American Farmer degree at the national convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1947. This award is based upon achievement.

Among the honors received by Holyoke Ag members are awards in district, state, and national judging contests. The Holyoke chapter has had 28 state farmers, 3 state presidents, 3 state vice presidents, a state reporter, a state public speaking contest winner, the bronze emblem in the national chapter contest in 1947-48, and the gold emblem in 1948-49. In addition Holyoke was the first Colorado chapter to have a "pick-up" sponsored by a local dealer and also the first to use an outdoor billboard to advertise FFA week.