AGRONOMIC AFFAIRS

ORIGIN, AIMS, AND ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY

The idea for the organization of the American Society of Agronomy apparently originated with the Agronomic Seminar of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. The committee appointed for the purpose of forming an American Society of Agronomy contacted workers in the field of agronomy throughout the United States during the fall of 1907. As a result of the activities of this committee and of state workers, a meeting was held in Chicago on December 31, 1907, at which time the American Society of Agronomy was organized.

The object of the Society is to increase and disseminate knowledge concerning soils and crops and the conditions affecting them. Membership is open to all individuals interested in these objectives. The objectives are carried out, first, through holding an annual meeting, and second, through the publication of the Journal.

The Society continued along the lines of the original organization until November 18, 1936, when the members of the Society having specific interest in the field of soils and closely related work organized the Soil Science Society of America. This organization represented a merging of the American Soil Survey Association and the Soils Section of the American Society of Agronomy. The object of the new organization is to foster all phases of soil science and any person interested in the object of the Society is eligible for membership. The Soil Science Society also functions as the Soils Section of the American Society of Agronomy.

The Soil Science Society of America is organized in six fields in order to provide an opportunity for the consideration of specialized subjects. The six fields are Soil Physics; Soil Chemistry; Soil Microbiology; Soil Fertility; Soil Genesis, Morphology, and Cartography; and Soil Technology which includes Soil Conservation.

The Crops Section of the American Society of Agronomy is organized on the basis of subject matter. The divisions consist of Genetics, Cytology, Physiology, Taxonomy, Crop Production, Crop Improvement, Experimental Methods, and such others as may be deemed advisable. The program of the annual meetings frequently provides sections on extension and resident teaching.

The Journal of the American Society of Agronomy publishes acceptable papers presented by the members of the Society to the editor throughout the year, and papers presented at the annual meetings which the author wishes to publish and which are accepted by the Editorial Committee. Throughout the years there has been a good balance between the number of articles published in the Journal from each of the fields, soils and crops. The Journal is recognized as the outstanding agronomy publication of the world. It has increased in size and importance with the growth of the Society. The first volume contained 238 pages and 39 papers, while Volume 32, 1940, contained 1,025 pages, 109 papers, 17 notes, 13 book reviews, and numerous reports of committees.