Education for Agronomists of the Future. A Panel Discussion
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SYNOPSIS

I. An increasingly technical agriculture and an increasingly complex society suggest that in agronomic training increased emphasis should be placed upon (1) the physical and biological sciences (2) social sciences and humanities and (3) economics and business. II. Additional time required for this could be obtained by the elimination of duplication and some applied courses. III. IV. Motivation of the student to acquire this sound education and to develop personal competence and pride in the profession is the joint responsibility of staff and student and is more easily accomplished when there are good relations between the two.

As a result of an ever changing society the professional man of today has a very different function from that carried out by men of a similar position only a decade ago.

I. Agronomic Training to Meet the Demands of an Increasingly Technical Agriculture
E. T. York, Jr.

In celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Agronomy Society, it is well to pause and consider some of the changes which have taken place since the Society was founded. Without question, this has been a period of unparalleled agricultural development. This change has occurred, for the most part, as the result of the development and application of greatly improved agricultural technology. From all indications, the next 50 years will bring far more significant advances in agriculture than the past. Nothing is more important to the continued development of our agronomic profession and to the contributions which it can make in our society than the training of personnel for future service.

In considering curricula to meet this situation, it seems that there are three broad areas, in addition to our specialized field, which need to receive primary emphasis: (1) Physical and biological sciences, (2) Social sciences and humanities, and (3) Economics and business.

Physical and Biological Sciences—Not too many years ago farming was commonly referred to as an "art". However, as agricultural technology has developed, farming has taken on, more and more, the characteristics of a true science. In order to adapt himself to the rapid changes in agricultural science, the well-trained agricultural worker of tomorrow must be able to understand the "why" of a product. It would appear, therefore, that modern-day travel and communication brings us to the problem of the farmer of the future, as well as the professional agricultural worker who serves him, must have more of the type of education which modern-day travel and communication brings us. With the close proximity of our neighbors once regarded. With the close proximity of modern-day travel and communication, we must give increasing attention in our agricultural technology has developed, farming has changed from a technological standpoint, it also becomes increasingly complex from a sociological point of view. For means, the isolated and independent occupation which once regarded. With the close proximity of modern-day travel and communication, it seems increasingly important that we give increased emphasis to our agronomic training to the social sciences—to the broad core of knowledge which makes a well-educated person and which helps him adjust to the problems of today's complex society.

Economics and Business—No longer can farms be acres and a mule go out and make a living. Efficient operations today, large expenditures are needed for land, machinery and equipment—making a farming venture to phases of big business. Therefore, the success of the future will be those who have a good understanding of economic and business principles—those who study and attempt to analyze carefully the cost of and return phases of their operations—those who study and attempt to take advantage of favorable market situations. It would appear, therefore, that the professional agriculture as well as the professional agricultural worker who serves him, must have more of the type of education necessary to meet the demands of an increasingly technical agriculture.

Social Sciences—As agriculture becomes more complex from a sociological point of view. For means, the isolated and independent occupation which once regarded. With the close proximity of modern-day travel and communication, it seems increasingly important that we give increased emphasis to our agronomic training to the social sciences—to the broad core of knowledge which makes a well-educated person and which helps him adjust to the problems of today's complex society.