

Penn State gets grant to link ag, liberal arts

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Pennsylvania State University has received a \$100,355 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, to establish an educational program linking agriculture and the liberal arts.

The Food, Agriculture, and Society program, developed by Penn State's College of Agriculture in cooperation with the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Human Development and the Science, Technology and Society Program, will focus on issues facing agriculture and society.

"We need to develop an informed public," says Dr. Dorothy Blair, assistant professor of nutrition and agriculture and director of the new program. "As fewer people are directly involved in agricultural production, fewer are aware of the agricultural issues facing our society. The agricultural industry and agricultural researchers can no longer assume the voting public understands the problems facing agriculture today. A liberal education must include studies about our agricultural heritage and about the effects agricultural sciences and technology have on

our environment and on our economy," she says.

"Penn State is very fortunate to receive this grant. Both the economy and security of this country have been built upon agricultural productivity. Agriculture is a natural resource, which must be preserved for future generations. The Kellogg project will contribute significantly to the achievement of this goal," says Dr. Gene M. Love, associate dean for the College of Agriculture.

The Kellogg grant will support program development over a two-year period. In addition, Penn State has made a continuing commitment to support faculty involvement and to fund a colloquium series as well as a conference on agriculture and society.

According to Dr. Rustum Roy, director of Penn State's Science, Technology, and Society program, director of the Materials Research Laboratory and member of the program executive committee, "The Kellogg effort is an excellent example of the STS approach to integrative education. It brings central aspects of our

technological culture, namely food production, into a humanist perspective."

Dr. Love, Dr. Herbert Cole Jr., professor of plant pathology, and Dr. John J. Romano, associate dean for the College of Liberal Arts, are other members of the executive committee who will continue to work with Dr. Blair in program development.

Core courses will put agricultural practice and rural life into historical and ecological perspective and stress the relationship between agricultural production and society. Courses also will investigate food policy and the use of food as a political and economic tool.

Three courses, World Food Production Systems in Historical and Ecological Perspective; the American Food System; History, Technology and Culture; and Agriculture, Politics, and Public Policy will be offered in 1986. They will be taught in conjunction with two practical courses in integrated agriculture offered at the Circleville Farm, a student demonstration farm supported by the College of Agriculture and a grant

from the Pennsylvania state legislature.

"The Food, Agriculture and Society program is supportive of the major educational objectives of the College of Agriculture, particularly of its commitment toward increasing student abilities in communications and problem solving and toward student involvement in the moral and ethical issues surrounding world agriculture, food, and nutrition," says Dr. Love.

The Kellogg Foundation first provided support for programming to introduce agriculture into the liberal arts in 1976. Since then grants have been awarded to more than 20 projects. Representatives of the first 11 colleges gathered at a conference at the University of Florida, Gainesville, to share with other universities and colleges project experiences to help them in establishing similar programs to integrate liberal arts and agriculture.

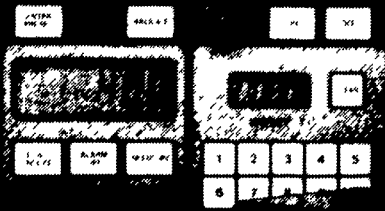
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930 to "help people help themselves," has distributed more than \$768 million in support of programs in agriculture,

education, and health. Areas of emphasis within those broad fields include adult continuing education; betterment of health; communitywide, coordinated, cost-effective health services; a wholesome food supply; and broadening leadership capacity of individuals. In Michigan only, projects are supported for economic development and opportunities for youth. The Foundation is today among the largest private philanthropic organizations in the nation. It supports programs in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as international fellowship programs in other countries.

Cultivating Agricultural Literacy: Challenge for the Liberal Arts was recently published by the Kellogg Foundation. The book looks at the long-range effects that uniformed decisionmaking has on America's food supply. It also details 11 pacesetting foundation-assisted projects that showed it is feasible and desirable to introduce data about food, agriculture, and agribusiness into the liberal arts curriculum. Copies of the book can be ordered free of charge from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Communications Office, 400 North Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49016.

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