

## DISCUSSANT'S REMARKS

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### AGRICULTURAL LITERACY: AN ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH STUDIES PUBLISHED WITHIN THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROFESSION

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The author is to be commended for synthesizing the collective efforts of the agricultural education profession relating to agricultural literacy. While agricultural literacy is one of the foundation principles espoused by the discipline (Williams, 1991) little effort was made to ground this paper to the theoretical framework under girding agricultural education. This aside, this is an important step in addressing the one of the recommendations of the study to secure a multi-institutional agricultural literacy grant.

Several movements are underway which are concurrently striving to identify, quantify, and evaluate the scope of the agricultural literacy subject. This study shows that the vast majority of them have been disjointed efforts with little or no collaboration between investigators or institutions. Further, few of these studies have utilized the same instrument which brings the reliability and validity of the results into question.

While several recommendations are give which hold significant implications for the discipline, I found myself asking several questions that I would pose for further clarification and/or discussion:

1. How might the agricultural education profession go about coordinating the united efforts of the discipline regarding agricultural literacy?
2. What will it take to bring all of the agricultural literacy partners to the same table so that efforts are not being duplicated and results left undisseminated? (i.e.: Food for America; Ag in the Classroom; Kows, Kids, and More; etc)
3. What efforts would it take to assess the degree of change younger students experience with regards to attitude, consumer preference, legislative support, etc, concerning agriculture over time?

As summarized by the researcher, "agricultural education has realized a 'good start'", let's make sure we follow through with significant and substantial efforts to finish the race we've begun.