

Gábor Balázs
**History of the agricultural administration in Pest County
between 1944 and 1950**

The aim of the thesis

This thesis is about the agricultural administration after the Second World War. It tries to introduce the work of the local agricultural organizations in Pest County. The aim of the thesis is to introduce exactly that proceeded and complex process that carried out in the administration. So that we can show it exactly is inevitable to write about the clerks' work. Besides showing this we are going to write about the background of the economical and social history of the events.

Sources

Many documents have remained in connection with the administration of this age. First of all the thesis is based on sources can be found at the Pest County Archives. The authority of administration was often beyond the borders of Pest County so the author of this thesis had to study of the documents of Budapest Archives, Bács-Kiskun County Archives and the Hungarian National Archives.

As for the Pest County Archives the most used documents are from the agricultural administrative departments (Main Archive Unit XXIV. 201 – 235). The author investigates with a special attention for the Main Archive Unit XVII. (*People's power and committees formed for special duties*). The sources are in this Main Archive Unit gave a lot of new information about work of screening committees, national committees and land requiring committees.

It was inevitable to inquire into the documents of the county administrative departments. Concerning that the county general administrative departments took a role significantly in the work of administration searching had to be extended to their documents, too.

In the closing we can read about the agricultural administration organizing in the framework of the council system. In the preparing of the closing part of the thesis the author relied on the documents of Pest County Council stored at the Pest County Archives. The

documents of the Hungarian Workers' Party, which have been still under working up, have served a lot of valuable information for the searching.

The list of the specialized literature (e. g. printed sources and rules) for the thesis is brief. The earliest published work about agricultural administration is a university paperback written by Ferenc Steinecker in 1933. As for the historic antecedents of the issue is necessary to mention a collection of studies (Ernő, Pataky (ed), *History of the agricultural administration 1867 – 1948*. Budapest, Mezőgazdasági Kiadó, 1970.).

A recently published book serves lots of important data about the history of the public administration (*Agricultural world in Hungary 1848 – 2004*). To understand the history of the Hungarian agriculture I gained useful information from the first chapter of book of Sándor Szakács-Iván Pető (*The age of the rebuilding and plan-directed economy*. in Sándor Szakács-Iván Pető, *Four decade history of the home economy 1945 – 1985*.).

The structure of the thesis

The public administration history belongs to the less – known field of the history so the author thought to be important to determine the concept of the agricultural administration. He introduced the most important views of the most important specialists who made a study of this field. They approached the concept from different aspects. All the authors agreed that the characteristic of the agricultural administration is that the public administrative relations are not so determinatives. It was characterized by the agricultural developing, because the agriculture is one of the oldest activities, where authorities have no possibility to intervene. The agricultural administration depends on the other outer factors such as demography, weather or natural disasters.

After this the thesis introduces in its historic introduction how the agricultural administration separated from the public administration from the second part of the 19th century.

An important step of this process was to set up the independent Ministry of Agriculture (1889:XVIII. art.). Establishing the Ministry was justified by the problems the Hungarian agriculture had to face in the second part of the 19th century. These problems were the cheap American corn and the grape-louse epidemic (phylloxera). The cheap American corn forced prices down making more difficult to sell the home-grown corn. The grape-louse epidemic, which started to spread in the 1870-1880's, also needed to make the necessary steps. After this making know the author writes about how to build out the institutions of the administrative branches on state and county level in parallel with each other.

On the next pages we can read about that events were influence the agriculture and its administration during the First World War and revolutions followed the war.

We must know about the years between the two world wars that they can be divided into three separating units. The first couple of years were determined by the adaptation to the Trianon peace-treaty. In these years new agricultural clerks had to employ amid changed circumstances. In these years passed through the Parliament the so called Nagyatádi-land reform too. By the reorganization of the economical supervisory system remained the most important element of the territorial administration.

Next period can be considered to be the years of the world economic crisis. In that time the emphasis was on how to solve the ownership problems. In this process the agricultural administration hardly had a role. It can be considered to be changing that beside the habitual agricultural security administration a new phenomenon disappeared. It was the restriction of the production and direction of the production on a certain level. Market searching and protection of the export came to the front.

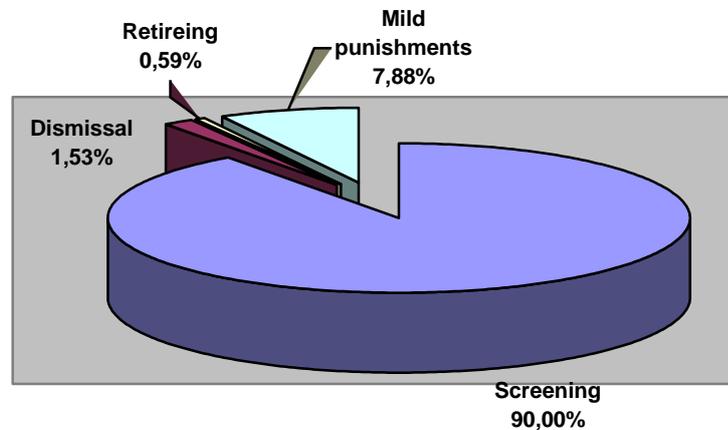
In the period between the two world wars the third, strikingly separable term were the years of the world war. The preparation for the war was good for the agricultural developing. The demand for the agricultural products grew and prices increased. Developing generated an increasing production. The Hungarian government had a serious aim by that bill which in terms of it during ten years had to invest one billion pengő into the agriculture. The bill didn't bring the required result because during the war sown area of the leguminous was getting bigger and bigger. Only the arrival of the war, livestock abduction and satisfaction of the German demands could stop this positive process.

In these years the community administrative departments mainly took part in the agricultural administration by an executor, reporter and recording function with the exceptions of the agrarian communities, land-owner communities, mountain settlements, pasturage associations, water management associations and fishery associations.

In the field of agricultural administration realized only in 1943 that not only lawyers but special-trained persons could work as an authority and the existing administrative departments could take steps independently in professional affairs, too (3970/1943. M.E. decree). After that we find the detailed analysis of the agricultural vocational administration of county Pest.

Main findings of the thesis

The author introduces the reorganization of the Hungarian including the Pest County administration, screening and B-listing.



1. diagram Decisions reffering to the affairs of state employees in Central Screening Commitee

During the screening procedures 90 % of the involved state-employees was screened, 0.59 % was retired and 7.88 % got lenient punishment. Only 1.53 % of the screened ones was sentenced to dismiss.

We must know about the screening procedures that after the closing of the fights in Hungary lots of notice were sent to the decision – makers. Many of the turned out to be false and many of them were withdrawn later. It was general according to the circumstances at that time. The specialists who studied the screening procedure in Zala County, pointed out that blackmailing – plans met with success in many cases.

The Pest county data reflects nationwide tendencies. The 96.7 % of the clerks was screened throughout the country so they didn't quit their job. On the contrary to this 7.7% of the civil servants was reprimanded, removed, omitted promotion and finally 3.3 % of the clerks was dismissed.

Screening procedures themselves didn't generate sweeping changes in the staff of the public administration neither Pest County nor nationwide.

Next step was the so called B-listing that was announced by the Ministry of the Interior in the spring of 1946.

The B – listing, launched in the May of 1946, obviously had economic causes, too. The main cause was that with unification of territories number of the clerks grew significantly. These clerks belonged to the clerk-staff although their duty became unimportant by the assigned of the new borders. This people meant an unbearable load for the country's economy which was in ruins and burdened by the reparations.

The B – listing referred to 70.000 civil servants. By this number the 15 % of the staff was reduced but next year more posts were done than were ceased last year. Soon became clear that it is not possible to reduce the number of the staff in large – scale. Those clerks who were allowed to stay in their position were thought to be the necessary evil and unreliable. These facts referred to the administration of Pest County, too.

The total number of clerks dismissed by the B-listing committees was 2027. Taking consideration their number before dismissal was 8524 approximately dismissal referred to 27.86 % of the clerks. All in all, 6497 person were held in their position.

Hardly had finished the execution of B-listing, when revision was needed in the whole country. It launched with decree of Minister of Interior, Rajk in 24th July 1946. As a result of this 107 clerks returned into the district administration and 80 ones into the city councils.

The author speaks briefly about role of the people's committees formed for special duties. These departments performed provisionally special duties on the field of the agriculture. After this the following step is the introduction of public administration in the coalition era.

After taking the necessary preparations chapter 3 introduces the agricultural administration in Pest County. At first it takes into account the damage of the Hungarian agriculture caused by the Second World War. Secondly introduces the process of rebuilding of the agricultural administration.

General administration departments had a serious role in performing of duties of the agricultural administration. Due to this fact before introducing particularly of the administrative branches (hundred, public administration committee, settlement,

county town) to speak about them is very important.

After that let us turn to the introduction of the vocational departments with general scope of authority such as the economic supervisory board, the economic superior and the proprietor notary.

The introduction of the vocational administration in Pest county will be represented according to the economical sectors. The essay follows the partitioning which was stated by Béla Gonda in his essential work on the agricultural vocational administration (Béla Gonda: Agricultural administration in the first years after the Liberation (1945-1948; from: Ernő,

Pataky (ed), History of the agricultural vocational administration 1867- 1948. Budapest, Mezőgazdasági Kiadó, 1970.; 271-302. p.)

In the dissertation only the history of the economical sectors' administration is exposed but not the institutional history of the departments of the sector in question. The data which were collected during the research of the files of the agricultural administration were used by their objects at the describing of the vocational administration sector. But another method had to be used in the following cases: public supply, surrender, state factories, experiment issues and research questions. The general characteristics will be presented in another chapter.

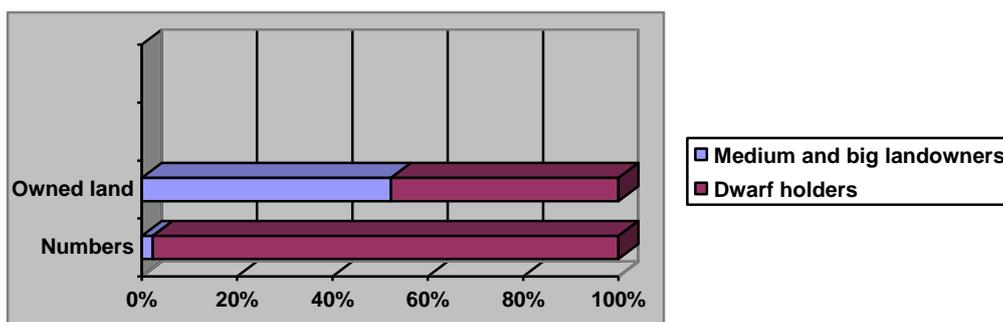
In addition to that there was a hard contradiction in connection of the administration of the public attendance and surrender during the building up this dissertation's structure: these areas are not definitely part of the agricultural administration but they have agricultural relations.

The agricultural vocational training are analysed as a part of the vocational administration. In these years the Minister of Agriculture appointed an agricultural vocational training director-general with a national scope of authority. This officer superintended all of the primary and secondary vocational training schools, and the extracurricular vocational trainings as well.

At the end of the chapters (sometimes contracted) a table shows the most important data of the production sectors of departments.

According to that the section of the vocational administration consists of subsections. The most important, estate-politics related subsection consists of the followings: the introduction of county and communal departments of the redistribution of land, valuation of the agrarian reform's fulfillment confirmed with data and tables from Pest county and the whole nation.

To understand the processes at first we have to know the estate-relations in Pest county before the agrarian reform. Before the World War in Pest county there were 4982 medium, and big landowners who owned 1177641 cadastral „hold” (hungarian acre) but the 209932 dwarf holders had only 209932 cadastral „hold”. There were 131950 agricultural day-wagers and labourers who owned no land at all as the table below shows it:



The rate of the allotted people in Pest county by districts and towns:

Ordinal	District and county town	The whole population	The number of the population with allotted land	Proportion (%)
1.	Abony district	32 272	2 545	7, 9
2.	Alsódabas district	52 777	5 993	11, 4
3.	Aszód district	31 494	3 153	10, 0
4.	Budakörnyék district	81 846	5 183	6, 3
5.	Gödöllő district	54 220	2 704	5, 0
6.	Gyömrő district	28 227	1 676	5, 9
7.	Monori district	71 465	3 655	5, 1
8.	Nagykáta district	67 535	7 129	10, 6
9.	Ráckeve district	61 234	3, 012	4, 9
10.	Szentendre district	27 450	959	3, 5
11.	Szob district	27 562	1 531	5, 6
12.	Váci járás	55, 504	3, 644	6, 6
13.	Cegléd county town	37 965	1 046	2, 8
14.	Nagykőrös county town	29 397	1 074	3, 6
15.	Szentendre county town	9 273	366	3, 9
16.	Vác county town	21 319	283	1, 3
-	<i>Pest county in all</i>	<i>689 540</i>	<i>43 953</i>	<i>6, 4</i>

During the agrarian reform's fulfillment in the towns of Pest county on average 2,8% of the population got some kind of allotment. In the districts this proportion was 7,0%. It is

caused by the industrial and other activities of living of the townspeople. Doing agricultural part or full time works were not typical of them. According to the statistic reports in the most well-to-do districts (Budakörnyék and Szentendre) most of the population were belonged to the category of the least allotted land (0 – 1 cadastral „hold”). It could be originated to the fact that relatively many wealthier-than-the-average (mostly Swabien) settlements could be found in these areas.

The next subsections bring the detailed analysis of vocational administration of Pest county: forestry, administration of the arable farming, administrative relations of the agricultural motorization, gardening (production of fruit and vegetable) and viticulture/wine-growing, meadow-, and pasture farming, administration of the plant protection, livestock farming, horse-breeding, veterinary hygiene, hunting, fishery, silkworm-breeding, bee-keeping, employment, representations of interests, administration of the water management, meadow control, vocational training, experiment issues and research, public supply and surrender, agricultural information service, history of the vocational administration in connection with the state factories and co-operatives in Pest county.

The fourth chapter studies the vocational administration in Pest county between the frames of the council system. The temporary role of the agricultural directories in Pest county is introduced first, then comes the reorganisation of the observed area: Pest county. The next subsection is about the beginning of the council system. The last theme of this chapter is about the agricultural vocational administration in Pest county organised between the frames of the council system.

Assessment

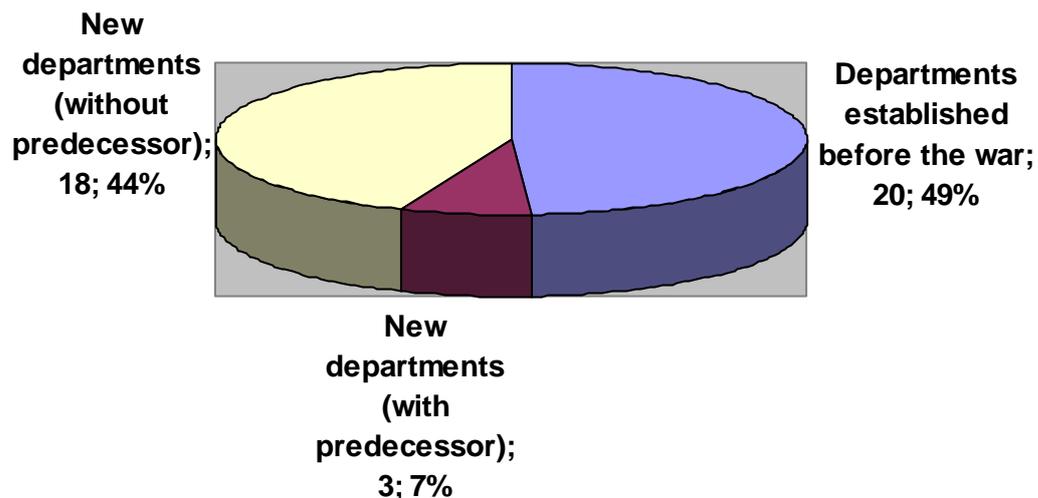
A dolgozat tehát az 1944 és 1950 közötti Pest megyei mezőgazdasági szakigazgatást elemzi. A szükséges fogalmak, illetve a disszertáció céljának meghatározása után a szerző megrajzolta a vizsgált kormányzattörténeti folyamatok politikai, illetve részben társadalmi-gazdasági kereteit is. Ezt követően pedig gazdasági áganként bemutatja az egyes földművelési szakszervek legfontosabb ügyköreit, tevékenységük jellemzőit.

This dissertation analyses the agricultural vocational administration in Pest county between 1944 and 1950. After defining the needed definitions and the object of the dissertation the author also characterizes the political and partly economical frames of the processes of the the observed administration history. After that the most important scopes and

characteristics of the functions of the vocational departments are shown by the economical sectors.

The perpetual changing was the most important character of the observed years but it can be mentioned relatively seldom as a development. That is true from the beginning for the national agricultural vocational administration, and through this also the agricultural vocational administration of Pest county in the post-war period even though the vocational departments established in the civil age solidly operated in all regions up to the formation of the Agricultural Directories.

The author here refers to a certain essay of this theme which expressively shows the measure of the vertiginous speed of the growth of the freshly established departments at the expense of the older ones (especially in the governing areas of the economy). If we search for the traces of these processes in the middle and low level of the administration we have to examine the proportion of the old and new departments.



2. diagram Distribution of the vocational administrative departments in Pest county according to the date of the establishment (1945-1948)

Only the participants of the vocational administration are shown certainly from the departments of the people's power in the data-line of the diagram above. The dissertation calculates on those departments from the national departments which supposedly consisted of autonomous subcentres (such as Hungarian State Agricultural Machine Factory, MÁLLERD, National Companies). The offices with districtal (so not countywide) scope of authority certainly did not get into this list.

The National Public Supply Ration Card Centre can not be found here because its county sub-office operated in the frame of the public supply supervisory board (so not autonomously). Other missing departments are: representations of interests and the vocational training schools because their connection with the vocational administration of Pest county is accidental even though they operated here.

As we can see the list above there are only three departments with countywide scope of authority which developed from a pre-war established institute. According to the author's opinion they are also worth mentioning. One of them is the ministry of the proprietor notary separately observed in this dissertation. According to its scopes it is obviously a successor of the former economic superior. The other one is the river system office which is a successor of the river system sub-offices. The third one is the institute of the municipal quality control which is a „*successor*” of the former chemical-experimental and municipal chemical analysis station.

The search in all detail could be made only up to 1948 because with the foundation of the Agricultural Directory of Pest county the entire agricultural vocational administration was almost integrated into one office. (But not the whole sector was integrated because as we could see in the beginning of the dissertation some directly-indirectly agriculture-related scopes remained in the hands of the traditional county/districtal/communal administration.)

If we look at closely the diagram above we can also see that the proportion of the new departments till the end of 1948 did not reach the 50 %. Although the tendencies of the Hungarian administrative-political public life took some affects but not on the entire county agricultural vocational administration.

After that, although the related resources are very fractional, we also have to study the changes amongst the faculty of the vocational administrative functionaries. To show the processes all of the available information about the vocational administrative officers had to be collected. It is shown by a table in the last chapter of the dissertation.

This work was made more difficult by the fact that official directory of the administrative functionaries were not edited in Hungary after 1944. So at first those officers will be stated who were in duty in 1944. That was completed by some further information gained from the research of the archival documents. The table primarily studies the proportion and working period of the members of the civil administration under the quickly changing political-power circumstances.

In this archontological-like data collecting the author primarily focuses on those persons who effectively did official job. According to that for example the employees of the

state companies, wine-producing settlements, common cellars, horse-breeding farms, Hungarian royal state and crown-manorial property directory of Gödöllő, institutes of experiment issues, scientific institutes, personell of the mount settlement are not in this list.

According to the table the whole administrative staff who fullfilled their duties in the agricultural vocational administration in the beginning of 1944 were practically and entirely exchanged. In the agricultural department of the county council (established in 1950) only 2 persons can be identified from the whole personell of 52 (3,8%) who were in the official directory of the administrative functionaries in 1944. The number and the proportion (5,6 %) of the „*survivors*” will also be extremely low (5,6 %) in that case if we only count the officers who effectively worked in vocational administrative field (the chief heads and heads of sections, officers and assistant officers of the agricultural department, 36 in all)

All things considered the author emphasizes that there was such a change in the county agricultural vocational administration in these years what can be seen in the whole nation. Up to 1948 the proportion of the new departments did not still exceed in number the pre-war offices. So in this field the transformation was slower than the national departments.

Az igazgatás középső- és alsó szintjén a változás inkább a személyi állomány radikális átalakulásában ragadható meg. Ezen a téren az országos tendenciákhoz viszonyítva is rendkívüli horderejű, szinte a hivatali apparátus teljes kicserélődését előidéző átalakulások mentek végbe a vizsgált hat évben a Pest megyei mezőgazdasági szakigazgatásban.

In the middle and low level of the administration this changing can be found rather in the radical transformation of the administrative staff. Correlated to the national tendencies extraordinary transformations resulting total exchange in the official apparatus took place in this field during the observed six years in the agricultural vocational administration in Pest county.