



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 1950. Two students were dropped during the month because we felt they were not making satisfactory progress. In all such cases, we give rather more weight to interest and desire to learn than to classroom grades; if we feel we can really help the boy we are inclined to carry him along for a year or two, even though he is not very good in his classes. The primary education of many students from the back country has been pretty sketchy.

Although the next school year does not commence until 1 June 1951 we are already commencing to receive applications for scholarships at the rate of two or three per day. The countries from which most of these applications are now coming are Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Colombia.

We have under cultivation this season the following acreages in field crops: Rice 20, Pigeon Peas 25, sweet sorghum (for ensilage) 11, grain sorghums 23, and sweet potatoes for stock feed 4. Our grain sorghum trials are receiving much attention from visitors; the varieties Plainsman and Caprock are considered to look most promising. Our plantings of sweet sorghum for silage have been badly damaged by caterpillars, as was the case last year. Rice was also damaged slightly. Pigeon peas seem to be just about the most fool proof crop which can be grown here. As the result of an article regarding the cane variety Mayagüez 28 which was written by Director of Agriculture Pomilio Ortega we have distributed large numbers of cuttings to various parts of Honduras.

Practically all of the new avocado varieties introduced from Mexico in 1947 are in fruit this year. Aztec, the only one so far given a name, is producing its second heavy crop; Nos. 13522, and 13527 are also carrying fine crops. A shipment of avocado budwood was dispatched by air mail in July to Durban, Natal, South Africa and arrived in good condition after being 17 days en route. We are eating asparagus from the garden, varieties 499 and 500 from the College of Agriculture, Davis, California, seed of which was planted here in August of last year by Professor MacGillivray.

The event of the month in the animal husbandry department was a ten-day visit from Dr. Samuel Healea Work of the Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who made detailed recommendations regarding pasture maintenance, feeding of our dairy herd and the handling of calves, feeding and care of chickens, operations in our swine department, and breeding of goats. These recommendations will prove extremely useful.

Prof. Walter H. Hodge of the University of Massachusetts and Dr. I. D. Clement, head of the Harvard University Atkins Garden and Research Laboratory, Soledad, Cienfuegos, Cuba, were here for a couple of days around the 10th. The Hon. Spruille Braden, formerly Assistant Secretary of State at Washington, stayed overnight on the 10th, accompanied by Mrs. Braden. A group of four Venezuelan agricultural scientists was here on the 16th.

Mr. E. S. Whitman, director of publicity for the United Fruit Co., came on the 30th, accompanied by Mrs. Whitman. Mr Whitman's visit was for the purpose of preparing a brochure regarding Escuela Agrícola Panamericana which is to be profusely illustrated and which we believe will be of great value in providing the public with detailed information regarding the objectives, program and operation of this school.