



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER 1951 - At the suggestion of Mr. W. E. Turnbull, a questionnaire was sent to all graduates of this School, asking them to report on what they have been doing since they left here. In our December News Letter we shall summarize the results of this inquiry. Numerous graduates are accompanying their reports with long letters telling about their problems, their ambitions, and commenting on what they learned at the School.

Along this same line, we have received an interesting letter from Davis J. Cloward, Manager of the Grenada Company in the Dominican Republic. On October 12 and 13 our Dominican graduates were invited to attend a reunion held at Puerto Libertador. Of the ten now living in that country, eight were present. Mr. Cloward writes: "Practically all of the graduates from your School who have returned to the Republic have obtained positions with the Agricultural Department of the Government there seems to be a growing appreciation amongst officials of that Department regarding the worth of these young men and they are gradually being moved up to positions of greater importance and authority and higher salaries." This is very encouraging. In our last News Letter we mentioned the part our graduates are taking in agricultural extension work in the Republic of El Salvador. In this field of activity every graduate is in a position to pass onto many small farmers the knowledge and skills which he obtained during his three years here.

The rice crop was harvested and threshed during the month. Two varieties made up the crop, seed of both -- Magnolia and Blue Bonnet -- having been donated by the Cia. Agricola de Guatemala. Four acres of Magnolia produced an average of 26 cwt. of unhulled rice per acre; four of Blue Bonnet an average of 22-3/4 cwt. The percentage of clean to unhulled rice was 67.42 in the case of Magnolia, 66.35 for Blue Bonnet.

The silo filled in August with Guatemala grass (*Tripsacum latifolium*) was opened and the material found to be in good condition. Immediately upon feeding it to our dairy herd milk production, which had begun to drop off because the summer rains stopped earlier than usual, went up again. We completed the filling of our other silos, making a total of approximately 600 tons of ensilage made this year. The preparation of hay was commenced, using Jaraguá grass.

In our Poultry Department 50,000 eggs were produced between the first of January and the end of November. This is double the number obtained during the same period last year, and is due to (1) more birds, (2) freedom from the unknown disease which caused so much trouble in 1950, and (3) better feeding. At least, we attribute to this last named factor the larger number of eggs per bird which has been obtained this year.

The next issue of our scientific journal CEIBA, to appear in January, will be devoted to "Central American Fruit Culture". This will be a paper of about 100 pages, with 20 illustrations. While prepared primarily for the use of our students, we hope it may prove useful to other persons interested in the growing of tropical fruits, and shall be happy to send a copy to those recipients of the News Letter who are not on the mailing list of CEIBA and who request it.

There were few visitors during the month.