



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 1951. At the suggestion of Mr. W. E. Turnbull, we sent a questionnaire to all members of our first six graduating classes, with a view to ascertaining how they have progressed since they left Escuela Agricola Panamericana. While the total number of boys who have graduated is 273, one has since died. Of the 272 questionnaires dispatched in October, 156 have been returned to date. A tabulation of the information contained in these probably provides a fair cross section of the whole group, but we are undertaking to get in touch with those who did not reply, through present students from the countries concerned. Boys from Panama, for example, are likely to know the whereabouts of former graduates who are in that country whereas the school itself has lost track of some.

We find that 77 graduates, or 49% of the 156, are in government agricultural work. This usually means extension work of one sort or another. Forty-one or 26% are working for agricultural companies or private farmers. Twenty-four or 16% are on their own farms - which of course means farms which belong to their families.

Seven graduates were not working at the time they made their reports; four were working on jobs not directly related to agriculture; and three were in the United States on scholarships. We invite particular attention to the fact that only four out of 156 are working in fields not directly related to agriculture.

Fourteen of our graduates have received advanced training in such institutions as the state agricultural colleges of Florida, Mississippi and California, and at the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, Costa Rica. This number does not include three presently studying at the Florida State College of Agriculture.

In filling out their questionnaires, many of our graduates made comments of interest. One Nicaraguan writes: "I am my own boss, started out in the meat business with 18,000 Cordobas investment in equipment. I dispatch beef as the school taught us to cut it. I cure my own hams and bacon, and sometimes sausage and hot dogs." Another, from El Salvador, says: "After graduation I worked for a year on our own farm, improving our cattle with Brown Swiss blood, and growing corn and cotton; then I went to the college of agriculture at Davis, California, for a year, and now I am back here devoting most of my time to cotton."

A Colombian who is working for the Secretaria de Agricultura, Department of Antioquia, writes "I am very happy in my work, for it is not an office job. I have to visit 26 farms every month, and I am not forgetting my English. I have continued to study it and I hope eventually to get a scholarship to go to the United States". A Cuban says, "I am proud of my job and never for a moment have regretted going into agriculture; I am sure I can do much with the knowledge I gained at the school."

A Guatemalan graduate, Class of 1950, who is now growing fruits and vegetables on his father's farm, says: "I want once more to thank the school for all it taught me, knowledge which I could not have gained elsewhere." Another Guatemalan says: "I am doing well, but I am not satisfied because I have more office than field work; but the government is making some changes in the organization and by next January I expect to be in the field."

To end this brief review, a Venezuelan writes: "I hope never to be forced to abandon this career, since agriculture is the noblest way to earn a living and I am satisfied with my job. I do hope, however, eventually to be able to strike out on my own."