



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 1952. This ends the third year of our Monthly News Letter in its present form. We are revising the list of recipients for 1953. We shall add a few new ones and drop a few of the old. If any of the latter become regretfully conscious of the fact that they are no longer receiving the letter, a note to us will set things right; and if any recipients would like to suggest friends who would be interested, we would be glad to hear from them. We propose to continue this "publication" in its present form, getting it out promptly after the end of each month and dispatching it by air mail. If there are any suggestions as to how it can be made more interesting, send them along. We do not believe, however, that it should occupy more than one sheet of paper; if it becomes too long, fewer people may read it.

During the month, the Director had the pleasure of visiting the Granja Demostrativa at Catacamas, Department of Olancho, Honduras, - probably the first school to be modeled on ours and staffed completely by our graduates. Gustavo Perez, member of our first graduating class, is the Director. He is assisted by Miguel Angel Morales, Alfredo Escobedo, and Rodolfo Barrenochea. It was a great satisfaction to note how well the school is equipped and operated. There are at present some 30 students, all in the first year, of course, as the school was opened only last June. Everything was neat and ship-shape; the boys bright and enthusiastic; and the cultivations in fine condition.

In our January letter we will summarise some of the activities of the school during 1952. During the month under review, there has been much activity in the Horticultural Department. Harry Gordon reports the budding of some 2300 sour orange stocks with Washington Navel and Hamlin oranges. Our rose nurseries were increased by the planting of 2100 cuttings of rosa macho, which should be ready for budding in four months' time. We already have a fine stock of rose cuttings coming on and hope to produce nearly 5000 budded plants this year. There is always a heavy demand for these plants, most of which are taken home by the students or given to their friends. Our three propagating bins were rebuilt to provide facilities for the propagation of such things as grapes and ornamentals.

As is to be expected during the dry season, milk production dropped off slightly, the average for the month being about 19 lbs per cow per day. Rodolfo Zamora, in charge of the dairy, opened the first silo at the end of the month, in order to provide the best possible feed for the dairy cows. Kenneth Gaston reported from the swine department that we have a total of 118 pigs on hand.

In our last letter we mentioned the comparative production of sweet potatoes and yuca (sweet cassava). We stated that the sweet potato variety was Nancy Hall. Professor H. C. Thompson, well-known authority on vegetable crops, visited us during the month and identified the variety as Puerto Rico, not Nancy Hall. The yuca was EPC 3, from Colombia, a variety which we consider definitely superior to our local forms, and which we have disseminated extensively in Honduras.

Professor John V. Watkins of the College of Agriculture, University of Florida, spent several days with us, during which he gave us many good ideas regarding plant propagation and horticultural work in general. Ing. Guillermo Lopez Rodezno, President of the Banco de Fomento in Tegucigalpa, brought out an interesting group of visitors. Numerous others came from Tegucigalpa, especially during Christmas week.