



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 1952. Since few recipients of this News Letter see our Annual Reports, it may be in order to summarise the more interesting features of that for 1951, which has been prepared this month.

The School has completed ten years of corporate existence. This does not mean it has been in operation that long: construction was commenced in May 1942 and the first group of students was received in September 1943. Our sixth Commencement was held in 1951 and our seventh will take place on 1 March 1952.

Rainfall during 1951 - 34.69 inches - was considerably below our average of 44 inches. Temperatures ranged from 48 to 95 degrees Fahr. Our coldest months were January, February, March and December; the hottest April and May.

The Horticultural Department continued to produce more vegetables than could be eaten by students and staff; the most popular items here are lettuce, tomatos, and onions. Our work with sweet potatos is proving to be important. Our nurseries, which are operated primarily to train students in the art of grafting, produced several thousand citrus trees, mangos, avocados and roses, which were distributed to students and others.

In the Department of Agronomy, material (mainly sweet sorghum, pigeon peas, and Guatemala grass) was produced to fill four silos - about 650 tons in all. Our crop of grain sorghums did not turn out very well, due to early termination of the rains.

Average milk production in the Department of Animal Husbandry was 14.9 lbs per cow per day, nearly one pound higher than in 1950. About 20,000 pounds of pork and pork products were produced for use of students and staff. From our flocks of Rhode Island and New Hampshire Reds 55,000 eggs were obtained, and 1500 birds were killed for use of the student's mess hall.

Dividing the total operating cost, \$263,900, by the average number of students, 162, we find that the cost per student was \$1629 as against \$1406 in 1950. This increase was due mainly to larger staff and higher salaries; increased cost of feeds used by the Animal Husbandry Department; and higher cost of student's clothing and other supplies purchased in the United States. For medical and dental attention the cost per student was \$35; for clothing the cost was \$52, and for laundry work \$30; text books and school supplies \$25; and the cost per meal only 14 cents, due to the fact that the school produces most of the food it consumes. None of these figures includes salaries of teaching personnel and other overhead charges.

In our December News Letter we made no mention of visitors. On the tenth of that month we were honored by the presence of Mr and Mrs. T. Jefferson Coolidge of Boston, Senator and Mrs. Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, and Dr and Mrs. George W. Thorn of Harvard. Shortly afterwards we were visited by Arthur Bechtel and Dr Ellis Clough of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Ing. Jesus Patiño N. of Mexico came on the 22nd. In January many interesting people came. Dr Karl M. Bowman, psychiatrist in charge of the Langley Porter Clinic of the University of California, accompanied by Mrs. Bowman, spent several days with us. Dr Alberto Leon, Director of the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura, Lima, Peru, was here for several days. Don Enrique Malo of Cuenca, Ecuador, accompanied by Mrs. Malo, came to visit their son who is a second-year student. On the 19th we arranged a field day of lectures and demonstrations for trainees of the Banco de Fomento, Tegucigalpa, at which about 30 people were present; and on the 28th we had the honor of entertaining a distinguished group of eleven North American publishers and journalists.