

## MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JULY 1955. Rains during the month have been heavier than normal with about 15-1/2 inches registered here. We have had a small loss in some of our field crops, especially maize, due to flooding.

There are approximately three hundred acres in field crops this year, under Professors Allen and García, and most of it looks quite good in spite of the slow start due to low rainfall in June. The rice fields look especially good at this time.

The temperate zone fruits at the small orchard on Mount Uyuca have produced well this year. Outstanding performers were Angel Peach, Satsuma Plum and Reina Claudia Plum. The Shankberries, a native blackberry (Rubus shankii), produced well again under garden conditions.

The animal husbandry division of the school is progressing nicely under Professors Zamora, Pineda, Fick and Herrera.

Egg production to the end of July, seven months, has already surpassed the production of any previous year with more than 100,000 eggs produced. There is an average of about 600 hens in the flock and the number of eggs laid per hen during the period has been about 166 or, percentage-wise, about 79%. This outstanding increase in production has undoubtedly been a result, in large part, of a breeding and selection program initiated by Professor Pineda two years ago. The program is a simple one. The hens from which eggs will be used for hatching must show a productivity of at least 70%. There is a tendency then for selection for productivity based on carefully kept records. We have three breeds of chickens on the farm. Mr. Pineda considers the family of Rhode Island reds which we have to be the best all round bird for our conditions.

The dairy herd, beef cattle and hogs are under Professor Zamora's supervision. Loss among a small lot of beef cattle recently purchased, due to shipping fever, has necessitated the vaccination of the entire herd.- Demand for excess calves from the dairy herd, especially bulls, is greater than the supply. Most ranchers want bull calves to be used in grading up their own herds. Calves are supplied at a nominal charge, which does not cover the cost of raising them to some 3 or 4 months of age.- A program of cross breeding native hogs with Hampshires, to obviate "blind-teat," is beginning to show desirable results. We are now working with the second generation of cross bred animals and have almost doubled the number of shoats that a sow can feed, in comparison to former condition. The dairy herd consists of some 70 cows. The average daily production this month was 26 pounds per cow.

The creamery, under Professor Herrera's supervision, has processed about 26,000 quarts of milk during the month. The student dining room received 9920 quarts; 2250 quarts were supplied to staff members; the remainder was used to make butter and cheese and as calf feed. Butter production was 639 pounds, of which 470 pounds went to the dining room. Cheese produced was 988 pounds and 710 lbs. of that went to the dining hall.- Worthy of especial note is Ana Isabel, a new daughter born to Isabel and Memo Herrera on July 29th.

Month long visitors were Mercer P. Russell from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad, B.W.I., and José González Jiménez, who will be director of the new vocational school being established at Tenancingo, Mexico.