



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MAY 1956. The classroom program for the new school year which commences Monday 4 June has been prepared during this month. Herewith a brief resumé:

Our school years are divided into two semesters of approximately the same length as those customary in the United States. During the first semester, first year students commence their study of the English language (important if they are to take advantage of the agricultural literature available). They also study Agricultural Mathematics - and the subject of mathematics, we may add, is usually the hardest one for many of our boys. This is not because we intentionally make it so; we do not. It is obviously necessary that an agriculturist should know how to calculate the interest on a loan of one thousand Lempiras at 6% if the loan runs for eight months and twelve days; that he should know how to calculate the contents of a silo; and so on. The first semester of Biology is devoted to Botany, including something of plant morphology and familiarity with about 35 plant families - those most important in tropical American agriculture and horticulture. There is a one-semester course in the Principles of Agriculture and another termed Introduction to Horticulture. Also a simple course in Tropical Hygiene (full year) which covers important parasites and diseases of human beings. During the second semester of this year the student goes on with English and Mathematics; his studies in Biology shift over to Zoology; there is a course in the Production of Vegetable Crops and an Introduction to Animal Husbandry.

During the second year all boys continue their studies of English and Agricultural Mathematics. They have two semesters of General Chemistry. They have a course in Soils during the first semester, and Soil Fertility during the second. They have a course in Tropical Field Crops throughout the year. They have Plant Physiology during the first semester, and Pomology or fruit culture during the second. And throughout the year they have a popular and important course in the Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources.

During the third year students improve their knowledge of English by means of a course in Conversation. There is a one-semester course in Agricultural Extension; in which we are to have the assistance this year of experts from STICA in Tegucigalpa. Farm Management during the first semester is limited to farm records (mainly farm accounting); during the second semester the subject is treated more generally. Simple Agricultural Engineering comes in for much attention; one semester of drainage and irrigation, one of farm machinery. And since students obtain, during this year, most of their practical training in animal husbandry, classroom work centers, to a considerable extent, in this field. There is one semester of Introduction to Dairying and one of Dairy Products; there is a semester on Beef Cattle; one on Swine Production; and one on Poultry Production. A semester is devoted to Animal Anatomy and Physiology, another to Farm Sanitation and Disease Prevention.

It should be remembered that during his three years each student has eleven months (four hours per day, six days per week) of practical training in horticulture, which includes the production of vegetable and fruit crops; a similar period in the production of field crops; and the same in animal husbandry, during which he learns to care for the dairy herd and prepare dairy products under sanitary conditions; he learns to raise hogs and poultry; and to prevent (and where necessary treat by simple means) common injuries, parasites, and animal diseases.