



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 1950. Here ends the first year of this News Letter in its present form and we stand back to review the activities of the school during the past twelve months.

The records which most of our 228 graduates are making is encouraging. About 90% of them are engaged in pursuits directly related to agriculture. During the past two years there has been an increasing tendency on the part of tropical American governments -- especially those of Central American countries -- to use our graduates in extension work. We like this, as it multiplies greatly the usefulness of the school. The director of extension work in one country writes "The boys we have used from your school have been without exception the best people hired". And the director of extension work in another country states that our graduates "are giving the best results obtained in my activities". During the year ~~under~~ review the Honduran government has placed nearly all of our available Honduran graduates in agricultural work. Salvador has asked for more; likewise Nicaragua. The Servicio Tecnico Interamericano de Cooperacion Agricola in Costa Rica has employed a considerable number. One of our Venezuelan graduates is now an agronomo regional in that country; another graduate is teaching in the newly-organised agricultural school in Ecuador, and so on.

Our physical plant has been improved along several lines. More housing has been provided for employes and improved quarters for labor. To render more efficient our training in dairying we have built and equipped a small but good laboratory. A new pasteurizer was installed in the creamery. A new calf barn was built. And on the recreational side, an excellent swimming pool was constructed which is one of the most popular features of the school.

Forty-eight students from nine countries were graduated on 25 February. The new school year commenced on 5 June with 178 students from 11 countries, which taxed our facilities a bit as our normal capacity is 160.

We continued to breed up our dairy herd through the use of imported Guernsey and Jersey bulls. For the first time we brought in Brown Swiss blood, through the use of Handy de San Juan Bosco, better known as "Handy Andy", presented by Jose Joaquin Peralta of Costa Rica. After having suffered from an outbreak of brucellosis among our hogs, we were again able to breed for the production of pork on a relatively extensive scale. We had some trouble with our chickens. We are not doing too well with the goats.

With regard to field crops, we harvested a fine crop of cane and made plenty of crude sugar. We also harvested a good crop of rice. We increased our plantings of sorghums, pigeon peas and Guatemala grass for stock feed, and grew plenty of sweet potatoes. In October we filled two silos and we conducted an extensive experiment in hay making. Our pastures were greatly improved during the year.

Our orchards produced good crops of oranges, grapefruit, lemons, avocados and mangos. The vegetable garden took good care of our needs throughout the year and we gained experience in the production of onions and asparagus. Our nurseries produced good numbers of grafted citrus fruits, mangos, avocados and roses for distribution to students and others.

We are now revising the mailing list of this News Letter for 1951. If anyone wishes to suggest a recipient, we shall be pleased to add his name to the list; and conversely, if any present recipient desires his name to be dropped, we shall appreciate advice to that effect.