



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

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MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

APRIL 1951. Much of our time this month has been devoted to reviewing the many applications for 1951 scholarships and bringing in new students. About 54 of the latter were on the campus at the end of the month, some of them on trial, the majority definitely accepted for the school year which will commence on Monday 4 June.

Our forester Paul J. Shank has long been convinced that the timber resources of Central America constitute one of the greatest possibilities of a prosperous future. Destructive fires and improper utilization of timber resources are threatening this great source of natural wealth. Artificial reforestation may have a place in the general program of forest protection but it can be justified only on highly valued watersheds or sites capable of producing valuable hardwoods. Mr Shank believes we must work hard toward preventing the burning of immense areas; towards the improvement of timber stands through selective harvesting of trees for lumber; and towards natural regeneration of forests which can only take place when fires are prevented. He considers that under good forest management the pine lands of Honduras can produce forty percent more volume than they are presently capable of yielding. Escuela Agricola Panamericana owns some 3000 acres of forest land, on which we have fine stands of Pinus occarpa, P. pseudostrobus, and some oaks. The school is undertaking, under Mr. Shank's direction, to make these 3000 acres a demonstration area where Central Americans can see - within easy reach of Tegucigalpa - what can be done through rational forest management. The improvement program is at the same time giving us the lumber, posts and firewood needed by the school.

Five more sows farrowed with a total of 35 pigs. Milk production dropped to an average of 8-1/2 lbs per cow per day, due to shortage of green pasturage which cannot be avoided at this season of the year. We are increasing our plantings of hybrid Bermuda grass from Georgia and Pangola which we obtained from Florida. Guatemala grass under irrigation has proved extremely useful during the month.

Receipt of the new catalog from the New York State Institute of Agriculture at Farmingdale, Long Island, reminds us how much we owe that institution for ideas which were embodied in our program when we founded this school. We wish to make this tardy acknowledgment to Dr Halsey B. Knapp and his associates.

Dr William H. Cowgill of the Instituto Nacional Agropecuario, Guatemala city, visited us on the 3rd to discuss the possibility of organising a Caribbean Section of the American Society for Horticultural Science - a project in which we are greatly interested. Dr Frederick Vogel and Dr Hyde G. Buller of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs came on the 4th. Dr Vogel, a forester from Alabama, has recently come to Honduras to take part in the program of the IIAA which is known locally as "STICA". Dr and Mrs. H. W. Anderson of the University of Illinois were here for several days around the 12th. Ing. Manuel Martínez Lacarra of Mexico, a specialist in irrigation agriculture, came on the 17th. Mr Paul H. Allen, botanist of the United Fruit Company headquartered in Costa Rica, spent several days with our Dr. Louis O. Williams.