



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MAY 1952. At the end of this month we were ready to open the new school year on Monday 2 June. A total of 166 students were on the campus: 45 in the third year class, 53 in the second year, and 68 in the first year. Several boys who have been accepted as new students had not yet put in an appearance. When they arrive, the total number in the first year class will be 73. The number of new Honduran students, 21, is larger than usual. Interest in scholarships is now very keen in this country, because of the demand for our graduates as extension agents and in connection with the work of the Banco de Fomento.

As has been mentioned in earlier News Letters, the increasing importance of our graduates in agricultural extension and other governmental activities is a source of great satisfaction to us. We have recently heard that 16 are so employed in El Salvador, and that they are doing good work. A similar number are in the Servicio Técnico Interamericano de Cooperación Agrícola in Costa Rica; 26 are working for this same organization in Honduras. Almost the same number are employed by the Banco de Fomento in this country. One of our graduates who is doing extension work in Colombia writes that he visits 50 to 60 small farmers every month.

Interesting data continue to come from our Animal Husbandry department. How much improvement in milk production can we expect from the use of imported blood? What is the effect on butterfat content? The following figures, which are based on production of the last five weeks, have been supplied by Guillermo Herrera, in charge of the Creamery, and Walter Schullstrom, in charge of the Dairy:

10 cows with 50% Jersey blood	Butter fat (Babcock test)	4.50%
1 cow with 75% Jersey blood	"	4.95%
26 cows with 50% Guernsey blood	"	4.15%
6 cows with 75% Guernsey blood	"	4.15%
10 cows with 50% Holstein blood	"	4.00%
1 cow with 25% Holstein blood	"	4.70%
4 native cows (no imported blood)	"	3.65%

Now as to production, in pounds of milk per day:

6 cows with 75% Guernsey blood	17.97	average per cow
26 cows with 50% Guernsey blood	24.42	" " "
1 cow with 75% Jersey blood	20.10	" " "
10 cows with 50% Jersey blood	22.37	" " "
10 cows with 50% Holstein blood	25.96	" " "
1 cow with 25% Holstein blood	20.50	" " "
4 native cows (no imported blood)	17.46	" " "

All the above animals received the same feed.

Average production, in pounds of milk per day, was as follows: 32 cows with Guernsey blood, 23.35. 11 cows with Jersey blood, 21.98. 11 cows with Holstein blood, 23.36. And 4 native cows, no imported blood, 17.46. Obviously, the above figures are based on too few animals to have great significance, and the quality of most of the sires is still an unknown factor because they are too young to have been proved.

Kenneth Wernimont, formerly Agricultural Attaché to the Embassy of the United States of America, Mexico City, spent two days with us during the month. Ing. José Burgos of the Estación Experimental Agrícola, Tingo María, Perú, was here for ten days. There were several other interesting visitors.