



## MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JUNE 1951. The school year commenced on Monday the 4th with 64 new students and a total enrollment of 175. Eleven countries are represented in this year's student body, namely Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Based upon results of the Examen de Capacidad which was given to all of the new students, the intelligence and previous academic training of this year's class seems to be better than that of last year's. One of the new students, a boy from Nicaragua, answered correctly 58 out of the 60 questions which make up the examination, this being the highest score recorded.

Favorable weather made possible much field work. Professor Morcillo planted seven acres of red beans, five acres of sweet potatoes, eight acres of Venezuela No. 1 corn, four acres of yuca, 32 acres of pigeon peas, eight acres of rice (varieties Blue Bonnet and Magnolia, obtained through the courtesy of the Compañía Agrícola de Guatemala), and about 45 acres of sweet sorghums for ensilage. Several fields were planted to Dolichos lablab for soil improvement. From our small plantings of Pangola and Tifton or Coastal Bermuda grass we were able to get sufficient material for our first field plantings of these two promising forage crops. Some 25 kinds of grasses and legumes were planted experimentally.

The Animal Husbandry department reported the following increases in our livestock: two colts, three kids, five calves and 46 pigs. A new record was made in milk production, each week during the month showing improvement over the previous one. Average daily production per cow was 16.3 lbs. almost double that of April (8.5 lbs) Sixty-four cows were milked with a total production of 31,296 lbs; in June 1950 87 cows yielded only 39,030 lbs. Production of eggs during the month was very satisfactory - 6620 units.

Budded trees of about 50 varieties of avocados, including the 1947 and 1948 introductions from Mexico, are ready for transplanting and will be set in orchard form next month. Several of the 1948 introductions are carrying good crops and we are inclined to think they look more promising, on the whole, than those of the 1947 group. Among the latter are several seedlings, from trees in the Rodiles grove in Atlixco, State of Puebla. Two of these have borne fruit this year and one is so promising that it will be propagated for further trial.

The Director returned from an extensive trip in the United States, during which he attended the annual meeting of the California Avocado Society and Third Stanford Conference on Latin America at Palo Alto. Among interesting visitors to the school were Mr. Norman Pearson of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Pierre Tever, Forester of the FAO for Latin America; and Dr. T. Lynn Smith of the University of Florida. Professor Luther Jones of the Texas A&M College came with a group of his agronomy students, the party having travelled overland from Texas by automobile. Mr. Jasper Baker of the New York office, United Fruit Company, came with Mrs. Baker for an overnight stay. Some 45 members of the new Federación de Deportes de Honduras spent a day here after terminating their congress in Tegucigalpa.