

Reports

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
Monthly News Letter - April 1947

Many members of the staff have been absent this month on vacation. Those of us who have been here have devoted much of our time to the selection of new students, and to the arrangements for bringing them to the school. More and more we are finding it advantageous to make the selection early, and get most of the students here during April, so that there is time to get them outfitted, put them in good physical condition, and get them accustomed to the place before classroom work commences on the first Monday in June. During these processes several drop out or are dropped, which gives us an opportunity to bring in others and start the school year with a full enrollment.

There will be approximately 70 students in the class of 1950. These are being chosen from more than 250 applicants who qualified as regards age and the requirements in general. In addition there have been many applications which had to be thrown out, mainly because they did not fall within our age limits of 17 and 20 years. A few were disqualified because of nationality, among these being several North Americans who inquired if they could attend EAP under the GI Bill of Rights.

During the month additional structures were completed in the Pig Department. Progress was made toward providing better facilities in the school kitchen, including the installation of diesel oil ranges. Work continued on additional quarters for members of the staff, and the small canal which is being built to increase the water supply for the electric light plant.

Manufacture of panela or crude sugar was completed with a total of about 10,000 lbs., sufficient to supply the Mess Hall for the better part of a year. Production has been abundant in the vegetable garden. As is usual at the end of the dry season, the pastures are in bad condition but we shall get through to May (when rains are due) without difficulty.

Among the interesting visitors of the month were the following: Mr. George Harris of the Cía. Agrícola de Guatemala, Tiquisate; Dr. R. E. Buchanan, Dean of the Iowa State College of Agriculture; Dr. F. R. Fosberg, formerly a botanist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, now conducting a survey of Cinchona trees in tropical America; Mr. Robert Newbiggin, in charge of the Caribbean section in the State Department at Washington; Mr. F. G. Ordish, of the Plant Protection Institute, London, England; Dr. James M. Watkins, agronomist of the Centro Nacional de Agronomía, Republic of El Salvador (accompanied by Mrs. Watkins); and Dr. and Mrs. Harvey L. Sweetman of Massachusetts State College. Many of these visitors remained overnight.

The March issue of "La Chacra", an excellent and widely-read agricultural magazine published at Buenos Aires, Argentina, carried an illustrated article entitled "Enseñanza Técnica de Agricultura Tropical", devoted entirely to the history and program of this school. The official magazine of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Dept of Agriculture, called "Agriculture in the Americas" carried in its issue for April-May an illustrated article written by the director of this school, entitled "Training Tropical Agriculturists".

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