



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MAY 1953. The teachers are all back from vacation, and the new school year begins the first of June. Much time this month has been devoted to planning the curriculum, and since we have never discussed this subject fully in the News Letter, we think it may be well to "dedicate" (as they say in Spanish) this issue to our classroom program.

There are three major subjects in the first year: Biology, Mathematics, and English. With regard to the first-named, Manuel Chávez Viaud will cover about the same ground as that of a high-school course in general biology in the United States, with more attention, perhaps, to economic insects and plant diseases. José Tobias Cornejo will drill his students in applied mathematics--the sort of arithmetic every farmer needs. Julio Pineda will start the boys in English; he has been very successful at this during the past few years. In addition to these subjects, Francisco Sierra will give two lessons a week in orientación agronómica, while Hernán Fonseca will teach a similar course in orientación ganadera--these two dealing, respectively, with elements of general agriculture and animal husbandry. Our physician Adón Zepe-da will teach one period per week of tropical hygiene, in which he will discuss sanitation and the prevention and cure of common tropical diseases, as well as principles of first aid.

Soils and fertilizers, field and horticultural crops, mathematics and English are the major subjects studied by the second year class. Francisco Sierra will devote one semester to the elements of inorganic chemistry, another to the origin and classification of tropical soils, and the composition and use of fertilizers. Luis Morcillo will discuss in his class 18 of the major field crops of the tropics, while Van Baldwin Jackson, Mario Jalil and Wilson Popeñe will give one semester of vegetable crops and one of tropical fruits. José Tobias Cornejo will continue to drill the boys in mathematics, while Frank Carrico will give second year English. Walter Fick will give one class a week in bee-keeping.

The third year boys will get one of the toughest, but most important, courses, which is elements of agricultural engineering. In this class, Luis Morcillo will train them in irrigation and drainage, and in the mechanics of tractors and the use of simple agricultural implements such as plows, disk harrows, and the like. Louis Williams will give the third year class drilling in English conversation, while Hernán Fonseca will teach the class simple veterinary science. Walter Fick will teach farm management, which has largely to do with farm accounting, while Julio Pineda will teach poultry management during the first semester and Kenneth Gaston the breeding and care of hogs in the second. Rodolfo Zamora will handle the important course on dairy management and milk products, while Louis Williams will give during the second semester, a brief course on beef cattle.

Naturally, there are other subjects which we would like to cover, and some to which we would like to devote more attention. Our limitation is one of time. In establishing the school, we thought it preferable to make the entire course one of three years rather than four or five (which are common in most schools in Tropical America), hoping in this way to give more boys the opportunity to prepare themselves for a career in agriculture, and to make this preparation efficient and adequate by intensive work in the classroom supplemented by plenty of practice in the field. The latter, after all, has seemed to us the major objective.