



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MAY 1951. Of the 65 new students who arrived during vacation and spent the month of May in field work in vegetable gardening and horticultural practices, mornings and afternoons, 20 of them were on trial to enable us to judge their vocational aptitude for becoming regular students in June. One of them dropped out voluntarily, but the rest of them worked like Trojans to escape elimination before classes start. We hope the interest shown will keep up.

By country our new students line up as follows: Honduras 16, El Salvador 9, Guatemala 8, Nicaragua 7, Colombia 6, Costa Rica 6, Cuba 3, Panama 3, Ecuador 3, and Santo Domingo 3. Our student body totals 175.

For the new school year there have been certain changes made in the distribution of courses amongst the teachers, but no extensive changes have been made in the staff or subject matter given in our three year course. Mr. A. Arce resigned and Mr. A. Vendrell is assigned to new duties.

Most of the land destined for field crops was made ready for planting between the period of some unusually early May rains and the rains of the last week in May, but no planting has been done yet. The rains of the first week of May were greater than those of the entire month last year but they failed to keep up. Nevertheless, green pasturage appeared in abundance, raising our average milk production per cow per day to 13.1 lbs. against 8.5 lbs in April. This compares very favorably to the average milk production for May 1949 and 1950 which was 10.5 lbs and 10.1 lbs respectively. Egg production was up to an average of 200 daily and the student messhall received 4400 eggs. A year ago the messhall received no eggs, nor any pork, but this year 8000 lbs of pork were sent the messhall since January, which is nearly equal to the entire production last year. We have large and excellent nursery plantings of stock, citrus, mango, avocado and rose, ready for the budding knives of the first year students, who after a certain amount of practice become quite efficient in propagating fine varieties which later on find their way to numerous localities in Central America, besides being used to extend our plantings.

Visitors included the Ambassador of the U. S. A. Hon. John Erwin, his wife and friends, and diplomatic representatives in Honduras from Peru, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. Mr. J. Gerling of the State Department in Washington came out with Mr. James Webb, cultural attaché. Prof. J. Morales of the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences spent a day here and also Drs. A. Apodaca and F. Vogel, extension expert and forester of the Interamerican Technical Service of Agricultural Cooperation. A Plant Pathologist and Horticulturist from Hawaii, Drs. W. Hendrix and W. Storey, made an overnight stay here.

A visit that interested the students very much was that made by Mrs. Doris Stone, which resulted in the filming of several student activities by movie experts. Much was learned about how movie recording and filming is done.