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Farm labor : Barron County farm labor program, June 28, 1943-November 1, 1945. 1945

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BARRON COUNTY FARM LABOR PROGRAM

June 28, 1943-November 1, 1945

Farm Labor





THEY ALSO SERVED

Food and feed production reports for Barron County for the years 1943-1944 are proof that the farmers of Barron County met their obligation to a Nation at war.

A Nation foreseeing the need for men on the military front and the equal need for food, tried to solve this gigantic task of distribution of manpower to the end that both needs might be filled. Victory on the military front has been achieved. The fact that the production of food showed an increase over each preceding year we were at war, and that where transportation did not fail--there was food for everyone, is proof of Victory for the Food Front also.

With approximately 2700 from Barron County in the armed forces of our nation, together with another 1000 giving their services to essential war industries, presented to us a farm labor situation, which at first, seemed impossible to adjust in even a minor way. However, it was done. Done, because the Soldiers of the Soil--our farmers, their wives, and children, cooperating with neighbors, did not falter. As long as there was light, strength, and health, they carried on. Yes, THEY ALSO SERVED.

To help solve farm labor problems and put to full utilization existing manpower in rural areas, Farm Labor Departments were set up as a part of the War Manpower Commission, operating under Extension Service, U.S. Dept. of Agri., with the State Office at Madison and locally in the office of the Co. Agr'l Agent.

In the past two and one-half years, since the inception of this department, we have endeavored to alleviate critical labor situations and keep food and feed losses at a minimum,

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M I S S E L I A N C E S
C L O S I N G

RECRUITING

Recruiting farm labor became the No.1 job in the summer of 1943 when there still was some manpower available for placement and there existed a broader recognition of the Tydings Amendment under Selective Service. With the approach of 1944 and a tightening of draft regulations, we turned to the High Schools and by personal visits 212 boys in ten schools signed up for seasonal farm employment.

More than 1700 IIC deferred farm boys were contacted by letter in an effort to keep in line and strengthen our farm forces. ~~10~~ Then regional meetings were held throughout the county for deferred men and their employers with the same purpose in view.

The year 1945 found the farm labor situation no less serious. More men had gone into military service, others had chosen their lot with industry and 4 years of war also began taking it's toll on the farm front. Accidents and health conditions arose adding to an already critical state. Again High School boys were appealed to and 215 answered the call to serve his country on the food front. Contacts were made with returning veterans, with the Co. Service Office, Pension Dept., American Legion Posts, Canning Companies in the use of War Prisoners and numerous individuals in an effort to help. There were 497 boys and girls recruited to help with the strawberry, bean, and potato harvest.

In April of 1944, through cooperation of Selective Service, we put into practice a share labor program whereby deferments were recognized for men who shared a part of their time helping other farmers thereby making up units of production which they lacked at home. (From Apr. '44, with 13 on this list to Nov. '45 with 97, 1331 different farmers were helped a total of 4466 days.)

Recruiting

Placement

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RELEASES

Misellaneous

CLOSING

RECRUITING

Recruiting from labor became the No. 1 job in the summer of 1943 when there still was some manpower available for placement and there existed a broader recognition of the Tydings Amendment under Selective Service. With the approach of 1944 and a tightening of draft regulations, we turned to the High Schools and by summer visited 212 boys in ten schools signed up for seasonal farm employment.

More than 1700 IIR deferred farm boys were contacted by letter in an effort to keep in line and strengthen our farm forces. Between regional meetings were held throughout the country for deferred men and their employers with the same purpose in view.

The year 1945 found the farm labor situation no less serious. More men had gone into military service, others had chosen their lot with industry and a year or two also began taking its toll on the farm front. Assistance and health committees looked ahead to an already critical situation. Again High School boys were appealed to and 212 answered the call to serve this country on the food front. Contacts were made with returning veterans, with the Co. Service Office, Pension Dept., American Legion Posts, National Comptroller in the use of War Veterans and numerous individuals in an effort to help. There were 497 boys and girls recruited to help with the strawberry, bean, and potato harvest.

In April of 1944, through cooperation of Selective Service, we put into practice a share labor program whereby deferments who recognized for men who shared a part of their time helping other farmers thereby making up with production which they lacked at home. (From Apr. '44 with 13 on this list to Nov. '45 with 87, 1931 different farmers were helped - total of 4400 boys.)

PLACEMENTS

From July 1, 1943 to December 31, 1943, there were 462 farm labor placements made through our farm labor department of which 187 were single men, 45 were married couples, and 230 were youths. Of these, 104 were year round placements and 358 seasonal and day.

In 1944, there were 1089 placements made, of which 506 were single men, 216 were married men, 9 were women, and 358 youths. Of these, 257 were year round placements, 625 seasonal, and 201 day.

From January 1, 1945 to November 1, 1945, there were 797 placements, 28 of which were married couples, 608 single men and 161 youths. Of these, 71 were year round placements, 515 seasonal, and 211 day.

In all, 2348 placements have been made through this office since July 1, 1943, 432 of which were year round placements, 1498 were seasonal, and 418 were day placements.

From April 1944, when there were 13 registrants on our share labor list, up to October 1, 1945 when there were 97, we find that 1331 different farmers were helped a total of 4466 days.

In addition to the above, we received the help of Prisoners of War this past summer through cooperation of Canning Companies at Barron, Cumberland, and Chetek.

CONT'D

Placements

See

See

RELEASES

MISCELLANEOUS

CLOSING

PLACEMENTS

From July 1, 1943 to December 31, 1943, there were 608 total labor placements made and 107 were our farm labor department of which 107 were single men, 45 were married couples, and 230 were women. 62 single, 104 were married, 230 were women and 230 were men and boys.

In 1944, there were 1085 placements made, of which 230 were single men, 215 were married men, 2 were women, and 230 were women. 230 were young women placements, 230 were men, and 215 boys.

From January 1, 1944 to November 1, 1944, there were 707 placements, 25 of which were married couples, 208 single men and 101 women. 215 were young women placements, 215 were men, and 215 boys.

In all, 2315 placements have been made through this office since July 1, 1943, 133 of which were young women placements, 133 were men, 133 and 133 were boys placements.

From April 1944, when there were 13 placements on our active labor list, to the October 1, 1944, when there were 27, we had that 1931 different placements were helped a total of 4488 days.

In addition to the above, we received the help of Prisoners of War who have been through cooperation of Civilian Control of Prisoners, War Relocation Authority, and others.

PLACEMENTS(cont.)

We find that 275 Prisoners of War helped 136 different farmers a total of 187 days.

From July 1, 1943 to November 1, 1945, our farm labor office has received 2632 requests for farm help.

As we close the year of 1945, we find the farm labor shortage more critical than it has ever been since the inception of this service. Fortunately, the crops for 1945 are harvested. Prospects for farm labor for the next several months are not encouraging. Requests for help reach a low point after the harvest but as we write this (November 1, 1945) we have requests for 12 year round married couples and 21 single men together with other calls for short time help and with no source of supply.

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PLACEMENTS (cont.)

We find that 275 prisoners of War helped 120
different farmers a total of 187 days.

From July 1, 1945 to November 1, 1945, our
farm labor office has received 2452 requests
for farm help.

As we close the year of 1945, we find the
farm labor shortage more critical than it
has ever been since the inception of this
service. Furthermore, the crops for 1946
are jeopardized. Requests for farm labor for
the next several months are not encouraging.
Requests for help reach a low point after the
harvest but as we write this (November 1, 1945)
we have requests for 12 year round married
couples and 21 single men together with other
calls for short time help and with no source
of supply.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

In accordance with regulations governing Selective Service, any draft board wishing additional information on farm deferred registrants could request that investigations be made by the farm labor assistant. This service was particularly helpful to Selective Service Boards in other counties and other states where contact and knowledge of registrant would be difficult.

From July 1943 to January 1, 1945, 823 reports were supplied. From January 1, 1945 to November 1, 1945 an additional 428 reports have been furnished to Selective Service, USDA War Boards, USES on releases and to the military command on service releases or a total of 1251 reports furnished.

These reports are all fact finding reports covering the units of production on farm of person in question, farm equipment and manpower and secured from the person in question. The purpose of these reports being to help the agency asking for such investigation to better judge the merits of the individual's request and to facilitate classification. If a report carried a recommendation, such recommendation was made by the USDA War Board.



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In accordance with regulations governing
 the Service, any group board wishing
 additional information on Form 100-100
 should request that investigation be
 made by the local labor assistant. This ser-
 vice was particularly helpful to Service
 boards in other countries and other
 cases where contact and knowledge of regis-
 trants would be difficult.

From July 1944 to June 1, 1945, 232 reports
 were supplied. From January 1, 1945 to Novem-
 ber 1, 1945 an additional 232 reports have
 been furnished to Service boards, 1932
 for boards, 1932 on release and 1932 on
 entry demand on service releases or a total
 of 1932 reports furnished.

These reports are all first finding reports
 covering the units of production on Form 100-
 100. It is essential that equipment and manpower
 and account from the person in question.
 The purpose of these reports being to help the
 agency making the case investigation to deter-
 mine the status of the individual's re-
 quest and to facilitate classification. It
 is noted that a recommendation, such as
 recommended was made by the SDNY War Board.



RELEASES

Manpower Rules governing labor placements, change of occupation by individuals and the desire for temporary employment, brought added duties to the farm labor department. Investigations of many of these requests had to be made in order to determine whether a release might be justifiably issued or denied depending upon age, health, and whether or not full production on the farm from which the person was being released would be maintained in his absence.

Close contact was kept with the USES office at Rice Lake and with Mr. Youngberg's office in Eau Claire with the result that our release program was carried out with a minimum of difficulties and a splendid working relationship with the USES office enjoyed.

During the two and one-half years, our records show that 286 releases were granted, 59 of which were permanent releases from agriculture because of age or a health condition and 227 temporary releases issued (winter months).

All releases (temporary) for men within draft age had to be cleared with Selective Service.

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MEMORANDUM

powerful forces governing labor placement,
wage of occupation by individuals and the
state for temporary employment, present
about twice to the labor department.
investigation of many of these requests had
been made in order to determine whether a
release might be justifiably issued or denied
depending upon age, health, and whether or
of full production on the farm which the
person was being released would be maintained
in his absence.

less contact was kept with the USIS office
at Rio de Janeiro and with Mr. J. J. J. J.
in New Orleans with the result that our re-
lease program was carried out with a minimum
of difficulties and a splendid working re-
lationship with the USIS office enjoyed.

During the two and one-half years, our records
show that 288 releases were granted, 88 of
which were permanent releases from agriculture
because of age or health condition and 200
temporary releases issued (winter releases).

3 releases (1944) for men within draft
age had to be obtained with Selective Service

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MISCELLANEOUS

1492 days have been spent by the farm labor staff in getting this job done. This in addition to volunteer help given by the Barron County Farm Labor Volunteer Committee and Vocational Agricultural Teachers.

Of the 425 high school youth recruited for seasonal farm labor, 313 received some form of farm training. 520 discharged veterans have been contacted to date in an effort to interest them in agriculture and agricultural jobs.

There have been 13 farm labor meetings held throughout the county for the purpose of strengthening the farm front and presenting farm labor saving devices, with a total attendance of approximately 1600.

8207 mimeographed letters have been sent out in the interests of farm labor and 1877 cards sent out for information and clearing records.

There were 278 personal letters written in 1943; 846 in 1944 plus 183 for Selective Service and in 1945 up to November 1, 247, with an additional 126 accompanying Selective Service reports or a total of 1680 personal letters written in the interests of farm labor.

A booth was maintained at the County Fair in 1943 and 1944 for the purpose of clearing labor problems and to present farm safety measures to the public.

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NICHOLLS

1944 days have been spent by the four labor
staff in getting this job done. This is
the first in volunteer help given by the Bureau
of Labor Statistics since the
National Industrial Conference.

Of the 250 high school youth recruited for
seasonal farm labor, 213 received some form
of training. 233 attended various
evenings sponsored by the Bureau in order to
interest them in agriculture and agricultural
labor.

There have been 15 labor centers since 1941
throughout the country for the purpose of strength-
ening the farm front and promoting farm
labor saving devices. With a total attendance
of approximately 1000.

250 pamphlets have been sent out
in the interests of farm labor and farm
labor saving devices and related records.

There were 275 personal letters written in
1943 and 1944 plus 155 for collection of
violations in 1945 up to November 1, 1945.
An additional 155 accompanying collection of
violations or a total of 1980 personal let-
ters written in the interests of farm labor.

A book was maintained at the County level in
1943 and 1944 for the purpose of collecting
labor problems and to present farm safety
measures to the public.

MISCELLANEOUS(cont.)

Records have been kept in our office of all farm deferred boys in our county with change in classification.

We have assisted the USDA War Board in the review of 443 farm reports of registrants under Selective Service and filed the report of such review with the respective Selective Service Boards.

Monthly reports have been compiled for the State Office and for our own records.

From July 1, 1943 to December 31, 1943, your farm labor assistant traveled 7542 miles, in 1944--11,991 miles, and in 1945 up to November 1, 8663 miles or a total of 28,196 miles in the interests of maintaining and putting to the fullest utilization such manpower as existed.

MISCELLANEOUS

CLOSING

RECEIVED (cont.)

Records have been kept in our office of all
last deferred boys in our country with change
in classification.

We have advised the WIRL War Board in the
review of 1945 law reports of registrants under
Selective Service and filed the report of each
registrant with the respective Selective Service
Board.

Monthly reports have been compiled for the
State Office and for our own records.

From July 1, 1945 to December 31, 1945, your
State Office received 7542 files, in
1945-1946, and in 1946 up to November 1,
1946, after a total of 24,122 files in the
process of registration and entry to the 1946-
1947 registration cycle appears as follows:

1-100-1-100000

CLOSING REMARKS

As your farm labor assistant, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to you farmers whom we have endeavored to serve, my personal appreciation of your forbearance and deep understanding of our mutual problem, to Mr. I. O. Hembre for his guidance and help and to our entire office personnel with whom I have enjoyed my worries and my work; the state office, the local Selective Service Board, USDA War Board, USES and other agencies who at all times have been most courteous and considerate. I appreciate the opportunity to serve my county in this capacity during the war years. My life has been greatly enriched by that experience, by my associations with fellow workers and by the many friends made.

Respectfully submitted,

Mollie A. Coe

MOLLIE A. COE

Farm Labor Assistant
County Agent's Office
Barron County, Wisconsin

MACmn

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Mollie A. Coe, Farm Laborer