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FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued by The State Farm Labor Staff

March 1, 1945

To All County Agents and Farm Labor Assistants:

1. With the exception of the weather, farm labor is probably the greatest limiting factor in farm production.
2. The 1945 goals again call for a high rate of farm production.
3. No relief can be expected during the year from returning war veterans or from return of industrial workers to the farm.
4. All indications point to further shrinkage of the farm work force, due both to increased demands of the armed forces and to a further migration to industry.
5. People from towns and cities must again go into farm work force.
6. Wisconsin needs about 50,000 part-time and seasonal workers for the peak-season during 1945 harvest time. We should have 3,000 foreign workers and 4,000 Prisoners of War.

-----A REAL CHALLENGE FOR AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE-----

"WE CAN DO IT"



THE BIGGEST NEWS at the moment is the labor saving caravan now touring about 50 Wisconsin counties. With an average of about 1,000 and more visitors reported at each showing, Extension likely reached more than 20,000 farm men and women before March 15.

"WHAT WILL BE THE QUICKEST WAY", is the question most frequently asked by farmers visiting the Caravan. Many of the exhibits help provide the answer.

Because time is such an important factor now, the fast milking demonstration is very popular at every showing -- the poultry exhibit attracted constant spectators, and the small gadgets brought a deluge of questions.

Barn cleaning units and buck rakes were the biggest attractions in some southern counties, the wood splitter interested a great many, and the "self-feeders" interested all who have stock of any kind.

The other \$64 question has to do with emergency crops in case feed gets scarce. "What can we do in case the alfalfa should fail us?" was asked again and again at many stops. The agronomists are watching this situation very closely and have prepared a circular entitled, "Safeguard the New Seedings", which may be had by writing to the College of Agriculture, Madison.

More than 2500 farmers and their wives visited the labor saving caravan at Sheboygan.

SPECTATORS at the caravan showing were most interested in gadgets that someone was operating. "Show them how, and you will always hold their interest," says Miss Edith Bangham who accompanied the caravan in several counties.

STUDIES
SHOW
FACTS

IF FARM OPERATORS in the United States increased their efficiency only two percent during 1945, the effect will be the same as if about 180,000 good workers had been added.

DEVELOPING HOME MAKING efficiency.... to free women from home work may be one of the ways to offset the labor shortage, M. C. Wilson pointed out in a recent speech.

SMALL FIELDS often take a great deal of extra labor. Back in New York they found that they took more than six hours an acre to plow a small field containing $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres while it only required $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours an acre to plow a rectangular field of 20 acres. In both cases horses were used. It took four times as many turns to plow a one-acre field as to plow a 20-acre field and four times as many rods of fence.

FARM ACCIDENTS in Wisconsin last year caused labor losses equivalent to the labor which could have been provided by 500 men working full time, reports Randall C. Swanson, farm labor specialist of the University of Wisconsin.

Of these, 166 were fatal, 700 caused partial or total disability, and about 2,000 others caused loss of time.

FARM LABOR PLACEMENTS in 1944 was 10,500 greater in number than during 1943.

Over 2,000 married year-round hired men placed by farm labor last year were housed by the farmers for whom they worked.

SUPPLYING INFORMATION to Selective Service boards on agricultural deferments was one of the activities of county agents and farm labor assistants. They have done a splendid job in handling more than 28,400 such cases last year.

FOREIGN WORKERS in agriculture averaged 11.8 hours per work-day for a total of 1,006,449 man-hours. Their average wage rate was 55 cents per hour, giving them average gross earnings per day of \$6.54 and total gross earnings of \$555,895.62.

RECRUITING

WISCONSIN will need at least 50,000 workers to meet the food requirements for the coming year.

Prisoners of war, Mexicans and Jamaicans will supply about 7,000 of that number but the balance will have to be recruited from urban residents.

FARMERS REQUESTED more than 900 different workers during January. Of these, 879 were requests for year-round help and 124 for seasonal workers.

At the end of January, 1,086 requests for year-round workers remained unfilled, and only 56 were available for placement.

Year-round tenants were placed on 412 farms during the same period.

STUDIES INDICATE that youth can do one-half to two-thirds the work a man can.

A Washington survey shows that 75 percent of the farm youth placed last year proved satisfactory. Youngsters of 14 rated just as high as those of 17 or older.

Oregon studies show that boys and girls supervised in platoons where they received instruction from an adult leader, accomplished 10 to 12 percent more work than those working in independent groups.

Although there was an increase of 20 percent more youth placed on farms in 1944 than in 1943, there was a decrease of 28 percent in the number over 16 years of age. Girls, under 16 placed on farm jobs in 1944, were 50 percent greater in number than in 1943.

LARGE SCALE utilization of women as farm workers during the summer is foreseen by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins. A survey made by the Woman's Bureau shows farmers were generally well satisfied with their work. The bulk of farm women recruited were used on truck and market-garden farms, small fruit growers, dairy, poultry and seed growing farms.

The farm labor force of New York state is mapping out a campaign to give city girls a super-good vacation on farms this summer. They are arranging with managers to plan vacation schedules for employees willing to do farm work to help when needed in local crops.

The Women's Land Army and the Victory Farm Volunteers will be wearing the same uniforms in 1945 they did a year ago, says Miss Edith Bangham.



MIGRATORY
LABOR

A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL implies that the future may see increasing interest in legislation covering the welfare of migratory labor.

It also states that migratory labor is accepted as a continuing part of our system of agriculture even after the war.

The state has been allotted 3,100 foreign workers. Of these, 1,600 are Mexican Nationals and 1,500 Jamaicans.

MORE POW labor will be requested this year, says H. H. Smith, Rural Industrial Division of the United States Employment Service, because methods of handling men have been greatly liberalized.

FOREIGN WORKERS utilized in canning crop work last year put in a total number of 84,950 man-days. About 16.6 percent man-days were lost due to sickness amounting to only 1.7 percent and refusal to work only 1.5 percent. There were 5,151 man-days of Sunday work performed by these workers and this brought the utilization up to 89 percent of the total potential man-days contemplated by the contracts of employment.

SUGAR is a vital wartime need. Wisconsin is asked to produce 38 percent more beets than last year. That means 6,400 more acres of sugar beets requiring seasonal labor. County offices should check these labor needs well in advance, so that everything possible can be done to make seasonal help available.

CRANBERRY GROWERS are contracting for foreign and prisoner of war labor to help with the cranberry harvest next fall. Vernon Goldsworthy in "Cranberries" expects the crop next fall to be somewhere between 115,000 and 125,000 barrels. "Vines look good and everyone had a good flood on," he says.

CANNING PLANTS all over the state have been surveyed to determine the number of field and viner workers each plant will need.

On the basis of this survey, says Marvin P. Verhulst, Executive Secretary, in a letter to the Wisconsin Canners Association, some canners expected an immediate allocation of foreign workers. This, however, was not possible. To date the Sixth Service Command has not made any definite commitments of prisoners of war. As soon as they do, Extension will make allocations.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

ALL AGRICULTURAL DEFERREES, says Marvin Schaars, Chief, Agricultural Classification Section, under 26 years of age who are requested to have a pre-induction physical examination, will not be reclassified if they pass the examination. The large majority will be continued in 2C classification.

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, desiring agricultural employment should be referred to the county extension office, not to the County War Boards for placement.

Every World War II veteran should report to his local Selective Service Board for additional information concerning reemployment as well as his rights under the new G.I. Bill.

A Pat on the Back from the Secretary

"Ever since the war began, farmers have been working under great handicaps-- the greatest, probably, encountered by farmers in any major branch of agriculture...

"Dairy farmers have met and overcome these and other obstacles. Part of their success is a tribute to long years of patient research work of scientists and the teaching done by the people of the extension service.

"Long range programs to increase dairy production efficiency through better feeding, better breeding, and disease control have paid off handsomely during the war emergency. Cow testing, to mention just one of the specific programs, has been of tremendous help. Dairy farmers are grateful to the research workers in their laboratories and the extension people who took the new facts and new methods from the laboratory to the farmer.

"In fact, the whole nation is indebted to these people."

--The Secretary of Agriculture,
Claude R. Wickard.

Help Make the NEWS LETTER Better

We would appreciate your suggestions on how to make this NEWS LETTER a real service to county offices. Tell us what you would like to see in it and what we may just as well skip.

We and all of the county agents and labor assistants would appreciate your contributions from time to time of newsy events or of outstanding activities in your counties.



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly

--by Extension Editors in Cooperation
with the Farm Labor Staff--

May 1, 1945

To All County Agents and Farm Labor Assistants:

THERE'S A BIG JOB AHEAD

NO MATTER how the war goes the next few months, the overall need for farm products will certainly not decrease.

Demands from Europe and Asia are likely to be strong two years after the last shot has been fired.

While combat troops have not been getting "A" rations, plans are being made to return them to better meals after fighting stops in Europe.

No one is willing to have supplies of our combat troops limited.

Serious food shortages have been rapidly developing, it has been said, especially in meats, fats, oils and dairy products.

IN VIEW of these facts, there can be no let-up in producing on the farm front.

In a recent statement on labor needs, Arlie Mucks said Wisconsin needed about 50,000 workers this summer to help with growing and harvesting crops. About 13,000 of that number may be made up with 3100 foreign workers and 10,000 prisoners of war.

BUT

—there will still be 37,000 pairs of hands needed to make up the total requirement. To recruit that number and to get them where they are needed, will be the job of extension county offices in the coming months.

In 1944, those record supplies were produced because some farmer's wife learned to run a tractor; some city kid did chores with a willing spirit; some merchant closed shop so that he and his employees could help their farm neighbors save acres of crops.

We must tell them the facts over and over again. We must show them that producing the food supply is a highly essential and patriotic service to our country and to the starving people of liberated countries.



The Labor Saving-Caravan returned to Madison after touring 53 counties, a little weary but all intact.

More than 60,000 people visited the Caravan shows, reports R. C. Swanson, of the college of agriculture, who accompanied the Caravan on the entire trip. In six counties the attendance was above 2,000.

Supervisor of Farm Labor Arlie Mucks, Randall C. Swanson, the extension editors, and all others responsible for putting the show on the road wish to express their appreciation to all county extension offices, local committees and other organizations who assisted in making the Caravan a success. The large attendances which greeted the Caravan in every county was due in a large measure to the excellent cooperation received by local people.

Mrs. Floyd Duffee and Miss Edith Bangham add their appreciation for the assistance they received from home agents and their local women who helped demonstrate and explain the exhibits.

IF THE number of requests received for plans and designs for making farm machinery at home is any indication of what will actually be done, farmers, blacksmiths, and handy men are going to have a very busy season.

Exactly 341 plans for buck rakes were sent out, 216 hay hoists, 252 silage carts, 230 orchard ladders and 90 rubber tired wheelbarrows, and they're still coming in.

By the time the next NEWS is published, we may have a summary of all requests we have been able to fill from the mailing room.

ALL requests for material from visitors of the Caravan that could be filled either from the departments or the mailing room were gathered together and forwarded to the county offices. Some counties have sent two or three requests for materials.

Now about the things you requested that were not included:

- the Barn Cleaner, at present there are no plans ready for this piece of mechanism.
- the Grain Elevator was described in a publication from another college and when the supply was exhausted, it was necessary to send for a new stock. This should be available in the near future.
- the Manure Loader, Mr. Duffee is working hard to complete the plans for the tractor manure loader and those should reach you some time soon.
- the Grain Drill Guide and the Grain Drill Basket were so simple it was not considered necessary to draw specifications for their construction. The same was true for a number of other devices for which we received requests. These include: the hog dipping tank; rinse pail carrier, sack holder, sack cart, and some others.

Caravan (Continued)

MANY requests came in for the Kitchen Cabinet exhibited. They were referred to Mrs. Floyd Duffee, home economics extension, because a charge of 15 cents is made for the plans.

Other requests for home economics materials were also referred to the department because they had the supplies. When supplies were available from the mailing room they were sent from there.

Plans for the Milk House were exhausted. Evert Wallenfeldt, 301 Hiram Smith Hall, has a limited number of plans on hand now and will be able to fill current requests.

Three new publications on labor saving are available from agricultural engineering which may be had upon request.

*Foreign
Labor*



1. "Make This Motor Table." This leaflet contains easy-to-follow plans for making a simple table on which many kinds of hand operated equipment can be placed for motor drive.
2. "Brush Removal." Methods that have been found successful in removing all kinds of brush.
3. "A Home-Made Bale Loader." Plans and directions for construction of this bale loader published by another college but available for distribution from agricultural engineering.

A total of 3100 foreign workers have been certified for Wisconsin, reports L. G. Sorden, assistant farm labor supervisor. Of these, 1500 will be Mexicans and 1600 Jamaicans, and the number may be slightly increased.

The first shipment of 10 Jamaicans arrived in the state on April 12, and were assigned to Dane county vegetable growers. Thirty more arrived last week who will be assigned to Ozaukee, Racine and Dane to set out plants, cultivate onions and other small crops; 15 more will arrive about May 3, of which 10 have been assigned to Dane and five to Milwaukee counties and 40 are expected to arrive about May 8.

EXAMINATIONS FOR YOUTH

THE U.S.D.A. advises physical examinations for youth employed on farms during the summer when they are expected to undertake strenuous physical work.

A signed statement to the effect that a boy or girl is in good physical health is not enough. Examinations of such youth should be made through local health departments, schools, physicians, and his staff.

HIGH WAGES--LONG HOURS

FARM wages are "a little on the sunny side" for the hired man but not for the operator. Wages during April were the highest on record. They were 17 percent higher than a year ago and 175 percent higher than in 1939. A scale of wages paid in Wisconsin since 1910 are about as follows:

Rates per day without board	Rates per month with board
1910....\$1.78	\$26.00
1920.... 4.35	62.00
1930.... 2.70	40.12
1940.... 2.03	29.29
1941.... 2.59	38.78
1942.... 3.30	50.80
1943.... 4.07	61.80
1944.... 4.62	70.67
1945.... 4.90	75.23

Farm wages have advanced faster than prices received for farm products and if this condition continues the man power situation will be more critical than ever.

Wisconsin farmers are again putting in long hours. The length of the farm workday for operators and hired men has been computed and released by the government recently. For Wisconsin on March 1, they have been computed as being:

Year	For Operators	For Hired Men
1940	11.4	10.9
1944	12.3	11.5
1945	12.0	11.1

DISCUSS FARM LABOR DRAFT

SIX meetings have been held in various parts of the state to discuss farm labor deferments. Representing the various departments were: Walter F. Matterhenry, chairman, Wisconsin USDA war board; Milton F. Button, director, Wisconsin state department of agriculture; Marvin Schaars, selective service; Col. John F. Mullen, Wisconsin state director of selective service; and Arlie Mucks for Extension.

The following issues were discussed and clarified:

1. A unity of thought was evolved about the hazy status of registrants between 18 and 25.
2. Farmers were assured that they will be able to retain all essential help.
3. Methods and procedures to simplify reviewing agricultural cases.



"LISTEN IN" ON THESE BROADCASTS

Monday, April 30, Wisconsin Women at Work.....Edith Bangham
 Thursday, May 3, Garden Work Schedules for Summer.....Anita Mason
 Monday, May 14, Neighbors in the Women's Land Army.....Mrs. Floyd Duffee
 Thursday, May 24, Children and Farm Work.....Mrs. Grace Robertson

This is a daily homemakers program heard over the state stations WHA and WLBL each week-day morning at 10:00 o'clock.

May 1, May 15, and May 29, and June 12 and 26 are dates on which there will be Farm Labor programs over WHA and WLBL at 12:30 at noon on the regular Farm program.

FROM THE COUNTIES

ONCE more in 1945 county agents are helping farmers round up all available farm machinery to get crops in.

J. F. Thomas, Waukosha, sent cards to each school district and to date received replies from 64 owners of combines who are willing to do custom work.

In the past two years Milwaukee county has held auction sales of unused farm machinery but this year dealers are picking up the "spares", repairing them, and getting them ready for sale.

At a farm machinery auction last year at Manitowoc, \$7,000 worth of used machinery was sold. The sale included about 800 pieces contributed by farmers who had no use for it and which were bought by farmers who needed it.

THROUGH cooperation with the welfare department 12 men (old age pensioners) mostly retired farmers were recruited and contacted to meet emergency chore calls on farms where essential deferred men were called for physical examinations. Barron county reports a high school recruiting program started early with meetings held in eight high schools on March 12 and 19.

SOMEONE suggested we tell something about the farm labor staff and the "Farm Labor News." Soooo--may we introduce:

PERSONNEL

- Archie Mucks, State Supervisor of Farm Labor;
- L. G. Sorden, in charge of Foreign Labor;
- George Baumeister, in charge of P.O.W.;
- John A. James, in charge of Victory Farm Volunteers;
- Erven Long, Statistician, College of Agriculture;
- Extension editors, 118 Agricultural Hall;
- Mrs. Floyd Duffee, in charge of Women's Land Army; and
- Miss Edith Bangham, assisting with Victory Farm Volunteers.



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly

--by Extension Editors in Cooperation
with the Farm Labor Staff--

June, 1945

To all County Agents and Farm Labor Assistants:

V-E DAY HAS NOT ALTERED FARM LABOR SITUATION

Just about one month ago victory in Germany was announced, but V-E DAY brought very little change to the farm labor picture either in the state or the nation. If anything, it is more critical than in the past two years.

This year an unusually late season is reflected in small placements to date. In 1945 total placements are slightly over 3,500 as compared with 5,300 in 1944.

May placements in 1945 are about 900 as against 1,350 the year before. Of the 3,500 farm hands placed this year, about 1,000 are for seasonal work.

An unpredictable season has made planning dates for the arrival of foreign workers very difficult, but thus far this year all foreign workers have been arriving at the time they were needed.

Localized industrial cutbacks have released some of the labor pressure for food processing in small areas. This has not in the least, however, alleviated general shortage of farm workers.

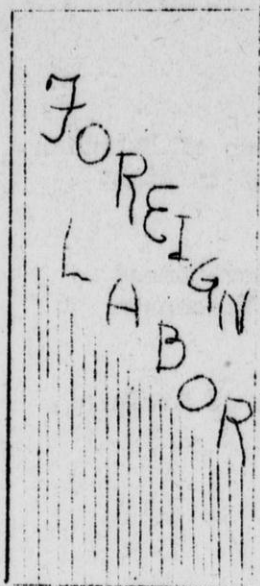
By July 1, it is estimated that there will be about 1950 Jamaicans and 1200 Mexican Nationals engaged in farm work in the state. There will also be a total of 10,000 War Prisoners in Wisconsin agriculture. Of these, 1,054 are for agricultural work only. Some of the remainder will spend a part of their time in agriculture, and a part in food processing.

Use Radio in Emergency

Arrangements have again been made by which Labor Assistants may use the radio facilities of their local stations when an emergency call for labor must be sent out.

The War Program Manager of the station will substitute the message for the regular Government message scheduled for that day.

This service has been helpful in the past not only to recruit emergency workers, but to inform them of bus routes and pick-up stops to take workers to jobs.



Foreign workers and Prisoners of War are going to furnish seasonal labor for about 45 counties during 1945.

They will be distributed among more than 150 growers before the season is over and hundreds more will be subcontracting them for short periods of time.

With the aid of foreign workers and the German prisoners, the prospects for getting the seasonal crops cultivated, harvested, and processed are very good.

SAME WORKERS MAY NOT RETURN

Except in a few cases, employers will not be able to get the same workers they had last year. This will be impossible because of the large number of men that must be handled during the year, and because they are distributed among several states. A few who have worked in industry during the winter are returning to their former employers.

What may be expected from these foreign workers can be estimated from last year's performance. These men worked long hours with daily averages about as follows:

Canning Crops..... 12 hours
 Truck Crops..... 10 hours
 Pickles..... 8½ hours
 Cherries..... 10½ hours

Foreign workers earned about one and one-half million dollars in Wisconsin during 1944. Average earnings in canning crops, truck crops, and cherries were from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per day. In each of these three major jobs, they averaged between 55 and 57 cents per hour.

By shifting them from one crop to another a high percentage of their time was utilized by contractors. Very little time was lost due to illness or other factors. In per cent utilization they rated about as follows:

Crop	% Utilization	Daily Earnings
Canning Crops	89 %	\$6.54
Truck Crops	86 %	5.48
Pickles	89 %	3.72
Cherries	91 %	5.58
Apples	86 %	6.26

BAHAMIANS LEARN DAIRYING

Twelve Bahamian families and 32 single men, a part of the group of Bahamian dairy farm workers allotted to Wisconsin, are now at work on farms in eight Wisconsin counties.

They have been secured through cooperation with the British Government partly to help relieve the labor shortage and partly to learn how Wisconsin farmers manage their herds and their dairy farming.

They have shown eagerness to make adjustments, but need a lot of training, farmers who have given them a trial, report.

POW'S EASE LABOR SITUATION

Major J. A. Westbrook, in charge of Prisoner of War relations for the Sixth Service Command, made some things quite clear about prisoners when he recently visited Madison. He said:

1. They are here because we must have their help to plant and harvest crops.
2. They must be kept occupied. They get jobs to do and they do them or they do not eat.
3. They are kept under armed guard and returned to camps at night.
4. They receive modified, standard, army rations.
5. They are not coddled but are given just and human treatment.

POW
LABOR
SATISFACTORY

THE COUNTIES REPORT

Milwaukee

More than 135,000 victory gardens have been planted in the county this year. That is 12,000 more than we had last year. City and county officials cooperated in providing public owned lands for garden purposes.

Pepin

Farm folks in this county have shown how to cooperate in civilian war services in a big way. They do it by means of service committees set up in 1942.

There are war service committees in each township and school district, and they have assisted with labor, war food production, nutrition, garden home economics and other war programs.

RATES
FOR
HOME
JOBS

"Could women establish job rates for definite tasks just as men have done?" asks Mrs. Floyd Duffee, in charge of Women's Land Army.

Some tasks, such as darning, patching, ironing, caring for children, hulling strawberries and making jam are all jobs which can and frequently are done by village women in or for the farm home.

Such jobs could have standard rates of pay or rates for work exchange set up by committees of farm and village women. Once they have been agreed upon, both farm and village women could enter into a business-like agreement in getting essential tasks done.

Custom rates could also be established for the loan of a pressure cooker, canners, or for other equipment that could be used by more than one family.

If any community has established such rates, or attempted a business exchange among women, we should like to hear about them. Other communities are anxious to try such plans.

Some women employed by farmers last year got along so well, they applied directly to growers for their jobs this year and have been reemployed.

Mrs. Duffee continues to get letters from city girls who wish to work on farms during the summer. Most of them want outdoor work, but a few have expressed willingness to do part time housework if at least 50 per cent of the work is out-of-doors.

L. G. Sorden of the State office is still getting letters from city boys who want to work on farms. Some want part-time work and others would like to work all summer. If you have use for any of these boys, let us know.

Occasionally we also get letters from adults requesting farm jobs. Such requests are forwarded to the counties who deal with the applicant directly.

IN RICHLAND CENTER a group of businessmen were mobilized recently to clear away the wreckage of a barn blown down by the wind. Mr. Dyke, the farmer who was unable to hire help was very grateful to have the work done.

SCHOOL RECRUITMENT in Sheboygan county has been completed. More than 5,000 students were contacted. The Farm Labor Assistant showed the "Victory" film and gave the students a "pep" talk. Boys and girls from the fourth to the tenth grade were particularly appealed to because that age group is most in demand for bean picking and berry picking. The acreage in both has increased which will require more students for picking.

TELL US AND TELL ALL

Some very good letters are coming in from the counties and we should like more of them. With the permission of Mollie A. Coe, Farm Labor Assistant, Barron county, we are using Mrs. Coe's letter to show what we mean:

"I received the copy of Farm Labor News this morning. It has a wealth of information and is just what I have always wanted -- a monthly bulletin from the state office giving state news, figures of interest and suggestions on how other counties have met their particular problem.

"Out county seems to be right in line with prevailing wages paid in the state, but, if what the farmer tells us is true, they seem to work longer hours up our way. It may be a lack of sufficient power machinery -- or could it be a lack of manpower? I think it may be both, and I admit failure when it comes to supplying manpower requests and needs as the crop season approaches. We have a list of 196 farmers who will need seasonal and day labor.

"The high school recruiting program uncovered 215 boys available for farm jobs, 51 already on the job. Day labor needs will have to come from urban adults who can be spared occasionally from their regular work; from tired farmers too old to put in full time, and our old age pensioners. One of our old age pensioners recruited last winter to do chore work has stayed and is doing a full time job.

"Right now I am recruiting bean pickers for Stokeley and Inderrieden Canning Company. This is the easiest type of recruiting as children 11, 12, and 13 are so eager in their responses. The difficulty here is a dependable number, but if only 50 per cent of those who have signed up actually work, it will take care of our needs."

This is just one county. We know your county has a different set up and your problems are different. But if we had 55 such letters, all telling their own peculiar problems and what the Farm Labor Assistant is trying to do about them -- if we had these 55 letters all pinned together in a neat little volume -- we would have a history of the Farm Labor Activities of this state that could not be excelled by any state.

HOW ABOUT IT?

you write one good letter of what is going on in your county this year and include your comments on the "NEWS"?

Lively preparations are going on in every county to recruit boys and girls for special farm jobs during the summer. Each county is taking responsibility for providing the necessary part-time workers from their local communities.



Nearly one thousand girls and boys were recruited for "after school farming" in Rock county. Labor Assistant Grant Ritter and Mr. John James of the College of Agriculture held meetings in six high schools, two in Janesville and four in Beloit, which started recruiting off in high.

Similar meetings have been reported in Barron, Ozaukee, Langlade, and Sheboygan counties.

In Juneau county the Farm Labor Assistant and the County Superintendent visited three high schools to recruit labor for the summer. In two townships every boy in the school had a farm job.

In Dane county response to recruiting efforts was very high, says Mr. J. L. Torney. The poster "Enlist for Service on the Farm Front" was placed in every high school that had an agricultural teacher. Some of the high schools signed up 100 per cent. Each boy and girl was given a signed card to carry which shows that his name is on the honor roll.

Because some of the spring work was very urgent and there was no other help in sight, some of the boys have been getting off a day a week to help drive tractors on farms.

Deerfield (Dane) closed schools at 2:30 so that children could help on farms where they were needed. Most of the children in the various townships of Dane county are absorbed in food production in one way or another.

For Milwaukee county boys and girls, Joe F. Shaughnessy had some inexpensive VFW buttons made that the boys and girls who have volunteered for summer farm work may wear as soon as they go on a farm job. It seems to be considerable encouragement to have something to show that they are giving their services without waiting for the certificate in the fall.

Pepin county reports that most of the boys and girls in that county come from rural homes and are already on farm jobs, working with their fathers or brothers. In counties that are predominantly rural it is difficult to recruit additional labor from the high schools.

Polk county canvassed all high schools in the county, reports Ira Jones, Farm Labor Assistant. He sent information sheets with the title "You Can Help" and places to fill in necessary information to every student. Of these, 267 were returned with a possible 58 boys available for full and part-time farm jobs during the summer.





FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly

--by Extension Editors in Cooperation

July, 1945

with the Farm Labor Staff--

Facts and Figures

Reports from 52 counties in the State office July 10 show that 1125 farmers requested 1694 farm workers during June. This does not include the demand for foreign labor and prisoners of war needed for harvesting and processing special crops.

Besides this demand there is also a large potential demand which is never reported to the county offices or to the Farm Labor agents.

Placements for the month of June added up to 1307, of which 941 were for seasonal and 366 for year-round farm jobs.

At the end of the month, 1983 requests remained unfilled; 810 of these were for seasonal and 1173 were for year-round farm labor.

Since January 1, 1945, 4144 local or domestic farm hands, both seasonal and year-round have been placed by county offices.

This number is far below the 1944 report which showed a total of 10,935 at the end of June. Of these 6,225 were seasonal and 4,710 were for year-round employment.

The greater demand for farm labor in 1944 was due to the fact that the canning season and other early summer jobs were well under way by the end of June, while this year they had hardly started.

It is now expected that the importation of foreign workers, the prisoners of war, and large numbers of Texas migrant workers of Mexican descent, will be sufficient to meet the general need for seasonal work in the special crops. That does not mean that there will not be a continued shortage of help on the general farms.

Farm Wages

Wages are practically the same as last year except on the lowest paid farm jobs where there has been a slight increase. Wages for bean picking have been advanced to two and one-half cents in at least five counties, Clark, Brown, Price, Oconto and Shawano.

While a number of service men formerly on farms are being discharged, they are not returned to farms in proportion to the numbers that left the farms.

A total of 3,080 foreign workers, 1214 Mexican Nationals, and 1866 Jamaicans are now employed on farms cultivating and harvesting special crops.

In addition to these there are about 8,000 German war prisoners employed in the processing plants. Most of the field work is done by Jamaicans. The in-plant work is done by POW's wherever they are needed.

The use of POW's depends entirely upon the help shortage in local areas. In no case are they brought in before a campaign for help was conducted in the counties. When local help for the canning plants failed to materialize, the need was supplied from the prison camps.

These prisoners of war are distributed among 300 different contractors in more than one-half of the counties of the state. About 300 are working for vegetable growers, weeding onions, carrots, and beets; 165 are working on the cranberry bogs near Wisconsin Rapids; 120 are in Door county orchards, and 30 are working in a poultry plant in the Lake Geneva area.

Many requests have come in from individual farmers for POW help with haying. They are sent to the farms whenever they can be released from the canneries for short periods of time.

More Equipment Used Than Last Year

The army is experiencing some difficulty in meeting requests for equipment, says J. A. James of the College of Agriculture who is handling all requests and transfers of equipment for labor camps.

He suggests that transfers from one grower to another be made as promptly as possible so that all equipment may be in continuous use.

While last year more than 28,000 pieces of equipment were furnished to labor camps through the Extension Service, the number of pieces furnished to date has added up to more than 40,000. Virtually all of this equipment has been shipped by truck from Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Only two or three consignments were processed from Camp McCoy and Truax Field.

In 1944 about 60 orders were furnished to camps in the state but the number so far this year is already well over a hundred.

Agricultural Extension Service secures army equipment for all labor camps of Jamaicans, Mexicans, and some youth camps. Requests come through the county agent's office but the contract is made between the user and the Extension office.

After the labor camps break up in the fall all equipment must be cleaned and returned to the army.

FOREIGN
LABOR

CAMP

EQUIPMENT

Farm Labor Program in Full Swing

Letters coming in from the counties show that the Farm Labor Program is now approaching its peak.

WE
HEAR
FROM THE
COUNTIES

Milwaukee

The continuous rain and cold weather resulted in a late season for vegetables and canning crops which greatly retarded the normal call for help on day-haul farm jobs during June, says Joseph F. Shaughnessy, Farm Labor assistant. By June 19 not a single call for that type of help had reached the Milwaukee office. A year ago, on that same date, nearly 3,800 boys and girls had been placed on farm jobs near Milwaukee.

Over 100 boys looking for summer jobs on farms assembled at the vocational school on Tuesday, June 19, to meet with farm labor assistants from Washington, Ozaukee, Dodge and Milwaukee counties. They were interviewed by the various labor assistants and 40 were assigned to jobs on farms in the various counties. The names of others were held in reservation for future calls.

"Homesickness" is most frequently reported as being the cause for boys leaving farm jobs after they have been placed.

Kewaunee

Some high school boys were working on farms as early as the middle of June reports Kewaunee county. Many of the boys made their own arrangements to work on farms of friends and relatives. Good wages prevail in the county.

Waushara

Two grain and fertilizer drills owned by Waushara county were extensively used by the farmers who did not have equipment with which to apply their commercial fertilizer.

The drills were used by 50 farmers on 664 different acres of land. The gross income from the drills was \$245.50. A farmer was hired to transport the drills to those renting them and to supervise the machines in case of breakdowns. Both drills are still in good condition for another year's use.

Menitowoc

Because machinery is so scarce and labor so hard to get, making home made devices to speed up the work has become a general practice on the farm.

In this county 103 new buck rakes were made during the past winter after farmers attended a buck rake school.

With an estimated saving of six days of manual labor per machine for each farm, a total of 618 work days will be saved during the harvest season.

Fond du Lac

From Fond du Lac county Charles J. Searls reports: "We had a good training course for farm boys last year which is still bearing fruit. The boys were told in a series of lectures just what was expected of them, how to handle livestock, something about crops and how farm machinery must be used and what may be expected from each piece.

"Every boy knew how to drive a tractor before he was sent to the farm. Farmers who employed these boys a year ago, were so well satisfied they went directly to the school early this spring and asked for the same boys."

Barron

A survey was made in Barron county to learn whether any crop land was lying idle this summer because of lack of labor. Five farms were found in the town of Chetek and two in Maple Grove. Through the press an effort was made to find farmers who were in a position to take on the extra acreage. Demonstrations on fast and efficient picking were given to prospective workers by John A. James of the College of Agriculture before picking began.

Rock

R. C. Mitby, of Rock county, reports a total of 241 placements made during June. Requests came in from 64 farmers. About 60 boys and girls were recruited to pick strawberries on the Gerald Hipp farm near Janesville.

At 3:30 on Wednesday afternoon, June 27, a call came for 50 boys and girls to pick peas on Thursday and Friday, for Harold Peters, Riverside Gardens, Edgerton. For Friday he needed even more and 75 were sent down. The crop was taken care of and the Navy boys in training at Madison had some nice fresh peas for their dinner.

Two dorn growers having a large acreage of hybrid seed corn will be needing 400 or 500 boys and girls for detasseling and Mr. Mitby is making plans to supply that help when it will be needed.

Ozaukee

"We have several problems besides the constant problem of 'shortage of full-time, able-bodied farm hands'" writes Raymond Nedden, farm labor assistant.

One of their problems according to his report is recruiting enough youth for picking beans and weeding such vegetables as beans, lima beans, carrots, onions and beets. Another is to supply adequate help for the grain harvest in July and August.

In 1943 and 1944 groups of city workers were organized to take care of emergencies and they are going to try the same thing this year. A captain was appointed to head groups who could help out. Shocking crews of five or six men were organized to shock grain, pick potatoes or do other necessary work. The captain called the crews together when emergencies arose and they worked from six until nine o'clock. Twenty crews worked in seven different communities.

Ozaukee (Cont'd.)

For the individual operator, Mr. Nedden states, the picture is about the same as last year. Farmers and their families will have to work harder than ever to keep production up.

Polk

After canvassing all high schools for boys we received applications from 267, writes Ira Jones. A possible 58 of these boys were available for part-time or full-time farm jobs.

Some of the farmers are still rather skeptical about hiring boys with whom they are not personally acquainted. Others want men who can go ahead with all kinds of work without further direction. This is asking too much of the type of help we are able to supply, Mr. Jones states. But he thinks that if farmers have a little patience with this 'Youth Power' they will find the youth work out quite satisfactorily.

Sheboygan

This county has a considerable acreage of beans, reports Wilbur Hoelz, farm labor assistant, which require a large number of boys and girls from 10 to 14 years of age for picking. A record is kept of children who may be reached by telephone and these key youngsters are called when there is a demand for pickers. They collect all of the children in their neighborhoods. On one occasion last year, more than 700 youngsters were collected in this way and 12 school buses took them to their jobs. The plan is expected to work as well this year.

Langlade

The potato harvest is the big problem in this county, writes Herbert F. Hoeft, farm labor assistant. A canvass of the schools has been made which shows that most of our pickers will be from age groups between 11 and 13 for boys and 14 to 16 for the girls.

About one-third of our boys come from farm homes and are already employed full time on farm jobs. A number of the city boys from 14 to 16 are returning to farms on which they worked last year. A number of women are also employed harvesting these small crops throughout the season.

A heavy growth of vines has made the pea crop especially difficult to handle this year. It requires nearly a double amount of labor to take care of the crop. This should be encouraging news for the cattle feeders who are looking for pea silage to supply a part of their necessary feed.

Marvin Schaars Reviews "Selective Service" News

Selective service policies respecting the classification of agricultural registrants have remained unchanged for many months, except that a 2C classification for a man between the ages 30 through 37 is now for an "indefinite" period rather than for a maximum of six months. The 2C classification for men under 30 is for a maximum period of six months. Upon expiration of a deferment, a local board must reopen the case and consider classification anew.

In order to determine whether continued deferment is warranted, the local board will address a letter to the registrant requesting information as to the current status of agricultural production and manpower on the farm. The cases of men 30 through 37 are "reviewed" at the end of each six month period but no "reopening" is necessary unless reclassification is to be made.

Farm boys having a 2C classification may again work for canning factories this summer, provided they receive approval to do so from their local selective service boards. The maximum period of such temporary cannery employment is three weeks. The procedures and the policies affecting such temporary employment are the same as those during 1944.

An analysis of some 27,000 forms 45W on farms where men under 26 years of age are employed reveals the following:

Average war units per farm	44.4
Average war units per unit of manpower	22.9
Average gross income per farm	\$5844
Average gross income per war unit	\$ 132
Average number of units of manpower per farm	1.9
Gross income per manpower unit	\$3076

Although 22.9 war units per manpower unit is the average for the state, in many counties this average is exceeded considerably and on individual farms by a great deal. The largest county-wide average of war units per manpower unit was 29 -- the lowest was 16. On certain farms as many as 40, 50, and in some instances even more units are produced by individual workers.

The County War Boards have been very cooperative in certifying registrants either for deferment or non-deferment. Roughly, 86% of the registrants were recommended for retention on the farms, 6% for non-retention, and 8% in which the War Boards were non-committal.

It is to be noted that certifications are no longer to be sent by the local war board to the State Director of Selective Service but directly to the local selective board with which the registrant is registered.



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly

-- by Extension Editors in Co-operation
with the Farm Labor Staff --

August, 1945

To all County Agents and Farm Labor Assistants

* * *

"CUT BACKS in contracts, resulting from cessation of hostilities, will undoubtedly create labor surpluses at least temporarily. I do not believe, however, that this will appreciably affect the farm labor situation for this summer's harvest season."

H. G. Lorden

* * *

Placements Up -- Says U.S.D.A.

FARM LABOR placements made in the United States by farm labor assistants during the first six months of 1945, were 33 percent greater than for the same period in 1944, according to the Agricultural Extension service semi-annual report.

In filling 1,645,279 farm jobs, 250,000 farmers were benefitted. Of these 124,318 were for year-round farm jobs and 1,520,961 were for seasonal work.

States reporting the largest number of placements were: California, 67,356; Arkansas, 64,474; Texas, 58,818; Idaho, 52,055; and Washington, 41,889.

States surrounding and including Wisconsin show a decrease rather than an increase in placements. This is due at least in part to the late season in the corn belt; the placement of seasonal help not really beginning until about July 1. Also, other states commonly include foreign and interstate placements in their totals.

Wisconsin placements up to July 30, total 7,265 domestic workers. This is in addition to the 1900 Jamaicans and 1200 Mexicans placed in agriculture by Extension and to 10,000 War prisoners working in harvesting and processing canning crops. There were also hundreds of Texas Mexicans employed by the sugar beet industries, in hemp mills and with canning companies.

* * *

Fewer but Larger Farms

PRELIMINARY figures of the 1945 census show the average size farms in the state have increased 7.8 percent since 1940.

The average size farm in the state is now 132 acres. In 1940 it was 122.5 acres.

Other figures show an increase in farm lands from 22,876,294 acres in 1940 to 23,619,525 acres in 1945. During this same period the number of farms dropped from 186,735 to 178,909.

For the nation as a whole, farms are 10 percent larger.

* * *

Incomes Reach New High

WISCONSIN farm incomes have reached a new high of \$744,000,000 in 1944. Tabulations recently completed by the WISCONSIN CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTER show the following results:

The gross farm income increased 1.4 percent over 1943 and 162 percent over 1939.

The index of prices received by farmers was 206 percent that of the 1910-1914 average for Wisconsin (field and truck crops excluded) the index is 204.

* * *

More Important Than Weight or Age

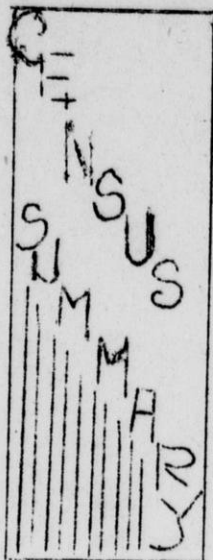
NEW YORK'S Farm Labor Supervisor has found in an investigation of 1741 city boys who worked on farms last year, that the factors of Selection and Supervision were more important than age, weight and terms in school.

* * *

Praises Farm Labor Effort

THROUGH the establishment of the Farm Labor Office, the county agent has taken a step in the right direction in urging men, women and children of sufficient age to register for harvest work, reports the VERNON COUNTY CENSOR.

The issue then rests with those individuals, and immediate enrollment cannot be too strongly urged, the editor continues. Vernon county is facing the worst labor shortage they have ever experienced, and further delay may entail loss of crops, he says.



What You Did During July

	Seasonal	Year-round
Men	409	243
Women	139	6
Youth	2,418	45
Families as Tenants	---	18
Totals	2,966	312

In addition: 1101 cases were reviewed for Selective Service.

* * *

Weather Complicates Labor Shortage

ALTHOUGH the labor shortage continues to be the major problem, the unseasonal weather has complicated the shortage still further causing many delays.

Successive rains delayed haying and many farmers found corn needed cultivating and grain was ready for cutting with a good portion of their hay still to be harvested. Farmers, busy with haying, could not help with the pea harvest and canning operations. In some counties tobacco was ready to be planted at the same time the hay and the pea harvest was going on.

The cool wet weather also delayed the canning corn harvest for about two weeks which made a considerable spread between cherries and canning corn. Consequently about 1,000 foreign workers, released from the cherry harvest about July 13, were available for other agricultural work until September 1.

On August 14, the State office reports there were 421 Jamaicans and 114 Mexicans who had not been placed after release from the cherry orchards.

In order to keep these people in the state for picking and canning corn and harvesting other fall crops, it was necessary for the state Farm Labor Office to find placements on farms for small groups of foreign workers.

For this type of labor farmers pay foreign employees 55 cents per hour and deduct \$1.00 a day for their board. Corn canning is expected to begin about September 1.

We Can One-third of the Nation's Peas

Several counties reported the 1945 pea crop to be the best they ever had. Cool rainy weather prevailed throughout the season, preventing peas from ripening and hardening too quickly. While 1600 pounds per acre is the usual amount expected, some counties reported peas running better than a ton per acre and some fields yielding as much as 3500 to 4200 pounds.

* * *



A TOTAL of nearly 10,000 German war prisoners working in 41 branch camps under Fort Sheridan's supervision were engaged in harvesting and processing Wisconsin's enormous pea crop during the month of July.

To help furnish the required help for the pea crop, 700 prisoners were transferred from five branch camps in upper Michigan where they had been cutting pulp wood. When the peak of the harvest season has passed, the prisoners will be returned to Michigan.

A prisoner of war camp, opened at Sturtevant on June 4, has been a source of greatly needed help for Kenosha and Racine truck crop producers and general farmers.

Since the middle of June not one man-day of work has been lost by the prisoners. Demand for prison labor far exceeded the supply and growers have obtained an additional 100 workers.

Prisoners have been used for hoeing, weeding and cultivating truck crops. They have also been used in general farming operations for haying, grain shocking and threshing. They have been satisfactory help and their employment has meant the difference between harvesting the crops and losing them.

* * *

Fruit Growers Cooperative in Bayfield plan to use German prisoners for the apple harvest after bean canning has been completed. This would keep the P.W.'s busy from September 1 to about November 1.

* * *

Job Training for 2600

JOHN HOLMES, principal of the Marion High School, Door county, employed by the Extension Service, gave a job training program in cherry picking to more than 2600 foreign workers and prisoners of war. Training was sometimes given to workers but more often to field supervisors in fields and orchards.

Mimeographed instructions prepared by John James of the College of Agriculture, translated into the Spanish and German languages, were used.

Foreign labor has delivered an average of 30 pails per man of cherries daily. The averages for a nine day period showed Jamaicans picked 28 pails per day, Mexicans 22, and German prisoners 17.

* * *

"Method Sheets" for farm labor training have been prepared in German and Spanish by Mr. James for picking beans and apples, snapping corn and working in sugar beets. The instructions have been requested in large numbers by growers and processing plants.

* * *

FROM
the
COUNTIES

BROWN

Six married men, eight single men and one woman, all from the Welfare department were placed on farms with other families. They are filling year-round jobs.

When 87 Jamaicans had completed the pea harvest in Brown county, 60 of their number were released to help pick cherries at Sturgeon Bay.

FOND DU LAC

Reports four farm couples placed during the month and 89 men on seasonal jobs. Twelve P.O.W.'s were placed on one farm and there have been requests for 19 more that could not be met.

FOREST AND FLORENCE

The hay and small grain crop looks wonderful, states a report from those "way up North" counties. Several farmers are using pick-up balers and they are working out very well. Farmers have managed to get along this season by trading help and machinery.

The fruit crop looks very good especially the berries.

KEWAUNEE

A number of men laid off in the shipyards in Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sturgeon Bay, have been employed on farms which helped the labor shortage to some extent.

Custom balers and hay choppers have put away much of the large hay crop this summer. Balers still having a lot of hay to bale in the fields encountered a wire shortage.

Local cherry orchards are having no trouble selling all of their fruit to "pick your own" customers.

LAFAYETTE

Placed 24 P.O.W.'s for four hours shocking oats after the viner closed on July 31. Eight were placed for 10 hours and 19 more were requested for August 1.

MILWAUKEE

Reports placing five boys in Ozaukee; seven in Dodgeville; two in Washington; one in St. Croix and one girl in Ladysmith during July.

ONEIDA

Labor in Oneida county has been more critical than ever before. There has been a greater demand for youth from the resorts and the registration for farm jobs has suffered.

Bean acreage in this county is up about 50 percent but the crop is so late, picking will not begin until late August.

ROCK

Boys and girls in Rock county have made a great contribution this summer. Quite a number of them have helped with haying, hay baling, cutting weeds, harvesting and doing odd jobs. More than 250 boys and girls have registered for detasseling corn, and 422 have been placed on farm jobs.

RUSK

Farm labor problems were numerous. Prison labor could not be released from the pea canneries in time to help with haying and help was very short. The only way the crop could be harvested was by the cooperative work of the farmers.

SAWYER

Because of the late season the corn crop in Sawyer county may be very short. There will not be much ripe corn and farmers are trying grass silage to round out the feed crop.

WALWORTH

A total of 297 foreign workers were placed in the county during July. Of these 27 were Jamaicans; 105 Mexicans; and 165 German prisoners.

WASHINGTON

Only boys from 9 to 13 have asked for work picking beans or cherries. Bean picking began August 13.

* * *

Crawford Apple Crop Short

Crawford county's apple crop, it is estimated, is down to 300,000 bushels this year as compared with last year's crop of 805,000 bushels. The early crop, the Dutchess, and Wealthy of Crawford will be big but the late apples, McIntosh and Delicious in Gay's Mills are rated a total loss.

The tomato crop is very good, the weather so far having been especially favorable.

* * *

Make Every Hour Count

Even with P.O.W. labor in Barron county the peas came so fast that it was difficult to supply the needed labor. But by using every available man every day the harvest was accomplished. During the month of July, 26 different farmers used 69 P.O.W.'s a total of 859 hours and 96 selective service "share-labor" men helped 89 farmers a total of 294 days.



FARM LABOR NEWS Page

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly by

--Extension Editors in Cooperation
with the Farm Labor Staff -----

September, 1945



To All County Agents and Farm Labor Assistants:

Farm Labor Shortage Tightest in Years

THE END OF THE WAR has not brought an end to labor problems on Wisconsin farms. On the contrary, the pinch of a short labor force is being felt more keenly now and is more wide-spread than at any other time during the entire emergency period.

Workers, released from industry by termination of industrial contracts, have not filtered back into farm jobs. Many counties are reporting that not only is labor for special crops scarcer than ever before, but supplies of general farm labor have reached an all-time low.

Sauk county, in which Badger Ordnance is located, reports that very few of the thousands released have taken farm jobs.

It is true that a few workers previously employed in industry have sought farm employment. Their numbers, however, are more than off-set by the movement of farm men between 26-38 years of age, who had been deferred to agriculture but who now have taken other positions.

The current critical situation in seasonal crops is expected to continue until the last week in September, but should taper off as the corn pack is completed.

The situation on general farms is expected to remain tight the rest of the harvest season.

The same situation is reported in nearby states, although they may have reached the peak of their demand earlier.



Boy Scouts as Victory Farm Volunteers

BOY SCOUTS, camping at Harstad Park from July 25 to August 15 with Ralph Whaley, camp director, did their bit in helping to relieve the farm labor shortage in Eau Claire county.

The Scouts detasseled corn for hybrid seed corn growers near Fall Creek and Augusta. The work gave them an opportunity not only to earn merits and their own expenses, but also to return to their homes with a nice bit of cash.

While on the job, scouts were classified in three classes, "A", "B", and "C". They were judged on ten points and all who qualified on all of the ten points the first day advanced to class "A" and received 50 cents per hour for their work.

Those who were delinquent in one point remained in class "B" and received only 45 cents for their work.

For one offense they were penalized one day and for a second offense, two days. For a third offense, the boys were placed in class "C" and their wages were cut 10 cents per hour.

This method of rating proved to be very satisfactory and most of the boys remained in Class "A" throughout the period. Total earnings for the group were \$1,346.00, of which the scouts received \$943.00, and the camp \$403.00. The boys were charged \$1.00 a day for board and were served excellent meals. Average earnings for the boys were over \$45.00 each.

Youth has also played an important part in the bean harvest throughout the state. More than one-half of the counties in the state grow green and wax beans and most of those beans have been picked by boys and girls, primarily between the ages of nine and 15 years.

In lake shore counties where "terrific" yields as high as 5,300 pounds to the acre are reported, "swarms of youth" picked the lion's portion of the crop. More than 1,000 youths were picking beans for one canning company in Ozaukee county.

Farther north the potato harvest is in full swing, and here again women and children are helping to save the 1945 bumper crop. In Langlade county, of more than 600 pickers only 11 were men. The rest were women and children.

The bottleneck there was the lack of heavy labor to handle sacks. One grower reported that over 5,000 sacks had to stay out over night for lack of men to handle them, and another said 1,000 sacks of potatoes were drenched twice in the rain because they stood in the fields over Sunday.

Even 15 year-old boys and girls were sewing sacks and handling them in the warehouses.

(Over)



Adams county reports that types of inquiry coming into the office have changed in the last few weeks. The number of farmers requesting information for farm building and remodeling indicates that they are getting ready to remodel and rebuild.

Numerous calls are also coming in from people who have purchased or wish to purchase land. In most cases the land in question has not been suitable for agricultural purposes.

- Barron --- To meet emergency needs, nine American Legion Posts were contacted and urged to organize grain shocking crews from six to nine o'clock in the evening.
- Brown --- Indians were recruited in Brown county to help pick beans on a 60-acre plot. Several groups of boys and girls from the surrounding towns were recruited and sent to the bean fields. The labor office is again organizing farmers into groups for filling silos because temporary labor is unavailable. Indians have been recruited in Iron county to pick potatoes.
- Door --- More than 5,800 workers were placed by Extension in the Door county cherry orchards. Of these 2140 were war prisoners, 1200 Jamaicans and Mexicans, and about 2500 civilians. Crops were shorter than last year but are expected to total 12 to 14 million pounds. Sixty-one P.O.W.'s are now picking apples in Door county.
- Grant --- Volunteer workers from Lancaster and Fennimore went out into the county in groups to help farmers shock grain.
- Jefferson --- While demands for regular farm help have increased, the supply seems to be more limited than ever. No responses were received from advertisements and appeals made at places where men were being released from war production.
- Kewaunee --- Boys who have been working on farms all summer and who are now returning to school are complicating the labor situation in Kewaunee county. There is no labor available to replace them.

A number of men without steady jobs since the shipyards closed will not accept farm work until they have tried all other sources of employment or have used up their unemployment compensation. However, some of the unemployed from the cities were secured to help farmers with threshing.

- Langlade --- At the beginning of the month Langlade county was in need of about 100 able-bodied men to help with the potato harvest. War prisoners are now being used for this work.

Six girls in Outagamie county formed a team and worked all summer. Their first job was pulling mustard weeds from a field of oats. At four o'clock the phone rang in the farm labor office and a female voice said: "This is Pat. We've nearly finished this job; where will the next one be?"

This team worked steadily all summer, pulling mustard, weeding carrots, detassoling corn, always calling before finishing one job, and inquiring where the next one would be.

Few Returned Veterans of World War II Placed

ONLY A FEW discharged service men have been placed on farm labor jobs to date. In seasonal jobs, Bayfield placed one, Langlade, 2, Waushara 1. On year-round jobs, Columbia placed 1, Fond du Lac 2, Lincoln 1, Manitowoc 1, Marathon 1, Outagamie 1, Rusk 2, and Vernon 1.

Judging from interviews held with discharged service men, Jefferson county reports that these ex-soldiers will not be ready to accept regular employment on a full-time basis for three to six months after discharge, even those who definitely intend to return to farming as a business.

Returning
War
Veterans

Domestic Workers Recruited and Placed
During August, 1943, 1944, 1945

	August	1943	1944	1945
Men over 18, Seasonal - - - - -		2010	1750	917
" " " Year-round - - - - -		517	509	230
Women, Seasonal - - - - -		327	828	330
" Year-round - - - - -		7	8	1
Youth, Seasonal - - - - -		2894	4535	4503
" Year-round - - - - -		20	53	31
TOTAL, Seasonal - - - - -		5231	7113	5750
" Year-round - - - - -		544	570	262

Ozaukee --- Emergency crews organized by the farm labor assistant shocked 117 acres of grain in about 125 hours. Some of them helped with threshing. About 150 bean pickers were recruited. These boys and girls are between the ages of eight and 15 years and, because of an exceptionally heavy crop of large beans, are reported to have earned between \$3.00 and \$8.00 per eight-hour day.

Twenty-five city boys from Milwaukee, aged 14 to 16 years, were placed on Ozaukee county farms. Eight stayed for 45 days or more, eight remained about one week, and nine stayed for only one or two days.

Polk --- German war prisoners were used to advantage in Polk county after the pea pack was completed. They have done 9,722 man-hours of work doing such general farm jobs as haying, harvesting grain, threshing, digging sewers, digging post holes for R.E.A., cutting pulp wood and logs, and working in the lumber yards. With some of the boys returning to school, farmers will again be short of help for silo filling.

Price --- Recruiting for the cranberry harvest will begin the last week in September and is being promoted through personal contacts, newspaper articles, display advertising, circular letters to former harvesters, and advance registration cards distributed by mail.

Rock --- Over 1,000 placements have been made during the summer months, most of the requests being for youths, of whom there was always a generous supply available. Over 550 boys and girls detasseled corn and the farm labor office received fine comments on the work done for the growers.

During August, 61 different farmers requested help and a total of 252 placements were made. Of these, 23 were men and youths over 18 and seven, women under 18; 219 youths under eighteen were placed. Work consisted of a variety of farm jobs, haying, baling, threshing, picking tomatoes, and general work on farms.

Vernon --- The biggest tobacco crop ever harvested in the county is reported by Vernon county, and the increased acreage calls not only for more labor, but also for more shed room, hanging poles, and tobacco lathes, all of which are hard to obtain.

Of the 4,122 farms, tobacco is planted on 2,640 of them. For the past five years an average of more than 7,500 acres has been planted to tobacco. Recruiting for labor has been an important activity for the farm labor office, which is making every effort to get experienced help. As much as \$1.50 per hour is being offered to men with experience. The average worker is paid from 65 cents to \$1.00 per hour.

Washington --- A few cases of polio developed in the county, after which some areas were quarantined and children were restricted from picking beans in those areas. Jamaicans were brought into the county to complete the bean harvest.

Waushara --- The greatest demand in this county has been from growers requiring labor for the cucumber harvest. A recruiting trip among Texas Mexicans in the Fond du Lac area netted 36 workers who filled in on several emergency jobs. Additional acreage planted to cucumbers has brought production to the highest in the history of the county, and earnings of workers have been particularly good.

(Over)

Closing of war plants or return of veterans has not in any way increased the available labor supply for this area, and the shortage is expected to continue right through the fall harvest season.

Wood -- More than 1450 bean pickers were recruited in Wood county where about 100 tons of beans were picked per day over a ten-day period. The bean harvest is about two weeks late and the problem of securing enough pickers has increased since the return of boys and girls to school.

Cranberry growers met to re-contract for war prisoners for the cranberry harvest this fall.

Only a few returning veterans have asked for placements and these only because they knew farmers were badly in need of help. The office has assisted several veterans in locating farms and has given general information on G. I. loans.



FARM LABOR NEWS

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To all County Agents and Farm Labor Assistants:



*What about
1946?*

Foreign workers and German prisoners of war are being transferred to other states at a rapid rate. They're going largely to western states to harvest crops there.

What About 1946?

If we had the answer to this question we might have the answer to the problem of what the farm program will be in 1946.

That there are reasons why Wisconsin will need a foreign labor program in 1946 has been pointed out by L. G. Sorden and E. J. Long of the Extension farm labor staff. Here are some of the reasons they give for this need:

1. There is a smaller supply of year-round labor on farms now than at any time during the emergency. Men over 26 years old, deferred for farm work during the war, are no longer held by draft regulations. Many of them are leaving the farms for other occupations.
2. Increasing quantities of truck and vegetable crops are being produced on fewer but larger farms. The bulk of the work on these farms is now done by foreign and migratory labor.
3. Canning factories are taking on an increasing proportion of the field work for farmers.
4. Neither people released from industry nor returned veterans are returning to farm work in any appreciable numbers.
5. Fewer persons than before the war are content with seasonal employment on truck farms. Increased living costs make mandatory a year-round income.
6. The reserve manpower in northern counties that previously furnished considerable seasonal labor has disappeared and will not again, in the immediate future, be available.

During the past months farm labor assistants from different counties have furnished the two radio stations, WHA and WLBL with interesting broadcasts about the labor problems in their respective counties.

Speaking for their counties were, E. R. Jorgenson, Kenosha; William D. Brownson, Outagamie; a transcription made at Fond du Lac featuring Lawrence J. Searl describing corn tasseling techniques; Wilbur Hoelz, Sheboygan; Cecil Bohling, Portage; and R. J. Looze, Brown county.

More good programs have been planned for October and November:

October 30 - E. J. Long

"The Wisconsin Farm Family Labor Force"

November 13 - L. G. Sorden

"What About Farm Labor in 1946?"

November 27. - Arlie Mucks

"Farm Labor Handled a Big Job in 1945"

* * *



A fine collection of pictures has been coming in from the counties, says Arlie Mucks, State Supervisor of Emergency Farm Labor, and more are coming in almost every day, saying still more pictures are on the way.

So far we have heard from the following counties: Barron, Brown, Dane, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Pierce, Polk, Racine, Sheboygan, Vernon, and Walworth.

* * *

One of the problems that need attention in the near future is the status of the farm laborer in the United States, an editorial in the New York Times stated recently.

For many years, the editor points out, the "hired man" has been in a category distinct from other forms of labor. His status has changed little in the last generation and it seems probable, he added, that in the years ahead, trained farm workers will become increasingly recognized as a group. In the future farm labor should share some of the benefits that labor as a whole enjoys.

* * *

Honorably Discharged



Remember
his badge
of honor.

A number of ex-service men in the Camp McCoy area are interested in farm work or in getting established on farms, reports Monroe county. They are married to girls from the area but are not natives of the state. They are coming to the county office for information and advice.

Investigation showed other boys returning from the service were interested in starting on Wisconsin farms. As a result of the inquiry, McCoy officials suggested the county agent establish a regular contact at the camp for such returned soldiers who wish to get in touch with the proper agencies and opportunities for farm work or farm ownership. No definite schedule has been set up so far.

* * *

In Outagamie county a committee of various agencies met to set up an advisory board for returning service men and women.

County officers reported that of the seven or eight thousand men who served in the armed forces only one thousand had returned to date. Jobs were plentiful and there was no trouble placing soldiers.

The Kimberly-Clark Corporation reported that 75 out of 76 men had taken their old jobs and another company reported all of the 35 men who had returned were back with their organization.

Discharged veterans listed by the register of deeds of Barron county were checked every week and a letter was sent to ex-service men who had previous farm experience, inviting them back to the farm and an opportunity to get help in finding a place. They found 76 who had experience but to date none of them have taken farm jobs. All have long records of service and are entitled to a period of rest.

* * *

The case for deferment of agricultural workers for all except fathers between the ages of 18 and 25 is weakening, says Marvin Schaars, agricultural representative of the Selective Service Board, and he gives these reasons for his belief:

1. Less food is set aside for the armed forces. While in the past two years, 10 to 13 million men were being supplied with food, their numbers are rapidly being cut down to about three million.
2. Much less food is needed for lend lease.

As a result, agricultural workers who have been considered essential to the war effort are no longer considered so essential. Mere curtailment of production resulting from the induction of one worker would not be sufficient grounds for deferment. It is quite likely, however, that Boards would be very liberal in cases where operations would have to be completely suspended.

* * *



Almost without exception, counties report that the farm labor situation was more difficult during September than at any time since the Emergency Farm Labor program began.

Several reasons are offered for the continued scarcity:

RUSEK

So far as year-round workers are concerned, the trend this past month has been quite the opposite from what might have been expected. With returning veterans, release of workers from defense plants, it was believed many men would be available. But we find soldiers unsettled and undecided and industrial workers more interested in city jobs.

ROCK

Farmers in this area have to compete with industrial wages and cannot offer enough to interest them even when the men are idle. Tobacco growers, offering \$1.50 an hour could not get local help even at that wage.

WASHINGTON

Civilian labor for farm work has almost faded from the picture. To make the situation worse, farmers have the idea that they should be able to hire help at \$10.00 to \$15.00 less per month than earlier in the year.

None of the returning veterans are asking for farm jobs. They are taking their time to decide what they want to do.

DOOR

While 7,000 shipyard workers were laid off in this area, most of them were transients who returned to their former homes. Local people out of work are accepting unemployment insurance in preference to farm jobs.

ADAMS

With record crops in every line expected, farm labor shortage is as bad as at any time in the past two years.

Available labor cannot be hired to work on farms, the main objections offered being hard work and long hours. Consequently, farmers depend almost entirely on family labor and neighborhood exchange help. Machinery is the greatest help and it is receiving more care and repair.

While some farm jobs are being passed up by choosy candidates, reports show that farm labor assistants are still using all of the tricks in the bag to attract workers to farm jobs and are getting the job done in spite of increasing difficulties.

WASHINGTON

Business men were approached to secure help for the grain harvest. In one community business men agreed to close their shops to help save the crops. One-half of them closed one day and the rest the next day so all of them could help the farmers.

The farm labor assistant arranged meetings in all high schools which were attended by principals and boys of working age. As a result of these meetings, boys were given permission to help farmers over a 30-day period, if superintendents, parents and school principals gave their consent.

MARINETTE

Five schools gave their pupils five days vacation to allow them to assist with the potato and corn harvest.

BAYFIELD

Prisoners of war helped to harvest the apple crop. Rotating this help gave a fairly even distribution which greatly helped the harvest, of both beans and apples. The variation of dates in planting beans in two different townships, worked out for the greatest benefit to growers in both townships.

LINCOLN

Finding one helper for the Harrison Cheese factory, saved 40 farmers the inconvenience of sending their milk 35 miles to another factory. The cheese maker was about to close the factory on account of ill health when the labor agent found another cheese maker.

JACKSON

High hourly wages paid to cranberry rakers near Black River Falls, proved to be attractive enough to induce sufficient labor to harvest the crop. Indians, small farm owners, and boys are raking in the harvest.

WOOD

Six farmers asked for help to fill silos. Probation officers cooperated with the county agent to provide temporary help.

SHEBOYGAN

A goodly number of farm boys have come home from the army on 30-day leaves during the past month and would have been of considerable help except for the heavy rains which delayed the work. Those who requested extension of furlough were quite successful in getting them.

CRAWFORD

The price for picking apples jumped to 25 cents a bushel to attract the needed help, but in spite of the high price paid it was difficult to get enough pickers--even for a light crop.

ONEIDA

Experience with recruiting help for potato picking in Oneida county shows that local people are primarily interested in earning "pin money". They take farm jobs for a short time. If they could be persuaded to stay with the job until the end, farmers who finish their harvest early could help on other farms.

* * *

Farmers are in the Market for Machinery

SAUK

The labor situation seems to be more acute than at any time since Pearl Harbor which seems to indicate that workers prefer factory work.

To the farmer this means adoption of labor saving practices and devices such as fast milking methods, use of field and forage choppers, ensilage cutters, automatic barn cleaners, combines, grain elevators and automatic water systems with water piped to various buildings on the farm.

As materials become available, the farmer has expressed himself as being in to market to purchase these materials which will make it easier to do the work on the farm with less dependence on hired help.

ADAMS

Help for corn picking was reported scarce, but the purchase of mechanical pickers solved most of the problem. When the frost hit about September 29, about 60 percent of the corn was mature. More corn was picked with mechanical pickers this year than usual.

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