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FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued
Monthly

by the Extension Editors
in cooperation with the Farm Labor Staff

March
1947

TO ALL COUNTY AGENTS AND FARM LABOR ASSISTANTS

THIS first FARM LABOR NEWS LETTER to be issued in 1947 is reaching you just about the time you are getting set for a busy planting season. It is hoped that it will bring you pertinent facts, timely news, and an exchange of ideas which will be of value to you in your work.

Although most of the conversion to peace-time operations is supposed to have taken place, farmers and the farm labor personnel are faced with many of the same old problems they had to meet during wartime. Here are some of them:

First, The call for certain items still remains urgent.

Second, Despite the return of many ex-service men, farm labor is still short and foreign labor and migrant workers will be needed to achieve production goals.

Third, Although more machinery is available, farmers need help in learning to use both farm labor and farm machinery more efficiently.

IN PLANNING for the activities of the coming year, certain changes in general trends and in agricultural trends must be taken into account. How some of these trends affect the farm labor supply has been ably told by George W. Hill, Rural Sociologist of the College of Agriculture, when he addressed the Regional Farm Labor Conference in Chicago.

In his remarks, Mr. Hill pointed out the change in viewpoint and emphasis the Farm Labor program must take if it is to continue to be of great service to the farmer and to the nation.

The change in viewpoint is necessary, he said, because both the general and the national trends affect the farm labor supply. Following are some "quotes" from his talk.

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"..... there is no reason to think that a program developed for the war years will meet peace-time conditions."

"There is no road back from the agricultural revolution that has been experienced during the inter-war period and World War II."

"The increased use of machines was necessary to re-place farm workers not to dis-place them."

"With farm wages continuing at high levels there might be a tendency for inter-regional spontaneous migration of workers to form a larger portion of the work force than was true of the war years"

"With more family units requiring stopover facilities, consideration should be given to the establishment of supervised camping centers located at strategic points along the routes. Such centers should offer adequate, sanitary, eating and sleeping facilities"

"If more such families enter the migrant stream then more attention than in the past needs to be given to the educational problems of migrant family children in the areas of employment"

"The farmer is too much of an industrialist to be able to revert to his previous catch-as-catch-can labor methods. He has much more at stake than previously, hence his demands will likewise be more exacting. His highly coordinated and varied activities will require a dependable labor service."

Slight Change in Production Goals

THE 1947 production goals for seasonal crops are only slightly changed from the 1946 levels. Acreage for sugar beets is being increased 13%; for potatoes 6%; acreage for sweet corn and snap beans is 10% lower and for canning peas, 20% lower, according to a report released by Walter F. Katterhenry, Director, Wisconsin production and Marketing Administration.

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Farming is the most dangerous major industry, safety specialists tell us. It is three times as dangerous as working in the average manufacturing plant.

Records collected by the Farm Safety office of Agricultural Engineering, show that every year the accidents on farms cause labor losses equivalent to the labor performed by 500 men working full time.

In 1946, a total of 156 fatal accidents occurred on Wisconsin farms. Of these 42 were the result of accidents with farm machinery, with tractor accidents leading all the rest. In fact, there were 25 fatal tractor accidents in the state last year.

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On the National Front

THERE were 8,272,000 people at work on farms January 1, 1947 -- an increase of 7 per cent from the 7,732,000 a year earlier, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Proportionately, the increase of hired workers was much larger than the increase in family workers.

Farm wages for the entire country on January 1, were 10 per cent higher than a year ago and more than three times the January 1935-1939 averages.

In Wisconsin

THE DEMAND for year-round labor in 1947 will be a little easier than it was a year ago. This is due to the fact that more ex-service men are now on farms than in the first six months of 1946.

Reports from the counties indicate that the effect of the number of returning veterans was somewhat off-set by the fact that their return allowed many older men to retire. Also, many women and girls, who helped solve the labor problem on hundreds of farms in previous years, were able to withdraw from field work and the heavier farm jobs.

This means that securing year-round dependable help will still be a problem but that the shortage of this type of labor will not be as acute as it has been in the past few years.

FOR SPECIAL crops requiring summer workers there seems to be very little change in the local supply. More high school and college boys will probably be looking for work this summer. Industries will not be offering the same inducements to high school boys as they did during the war.

Foreign Workers

ACCORDING to a survey just completed, requests from the canning companies and vegetable growers indicate that they will need about the same number of foreign workers they used last year. Questionnaires were sent to all users of foreign labor, asking for estimates of the number of foreign workers expected for the season.

Migrants

ONE OF Wisconsin's main sources of workers in special crops have been Texas-Mexicans. Present demands indicate that canners and vegetable growers will need these out-of-state workers long after the FOREIGN labor is ended. In 1945, there were about 2,300 Texas-Mexicans in the state; in 1946, the number reached 3,500.

About 2,000 of these workers brought into the state every year are employed in the sugar beet fields. The rest work for vegetable growers and canning companies.

Cooperating closely with the Texas Extension Service and with mid-western states, this office is working out a program to facilitate the movement of these migrant workers to areas of need. Also every effort is being made to keep them employed full-time while they are in the state.

In the coming year, Wisconsin plans to have a native resident of Texas to work in the state as a liaison man. He will assist growers with problems of labor management, housing, interpretation and job instruction.

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LEGISLATION to extend the Emergency Farm Labor Act is still pending. A new bill, introduced to extend the farm labor law has passed the House and is now in the Senate. The extension of time will probably run until December 31, 1947.

Until the present program is either changed or modified, the job of Farm Labor personnel will be the same as it has been in the past, to assist farmers to get all available farm labor to places where it is needed.

Wage Boards Terminated

ALL WAGE and salary controls which were in effect to stabilize agricultural wages during the emergency period, terminated last November by order of the President. All state U.S.D.A. wage boards and appointments of members and alternates, terminated by the same order.

Report All Surplus Workers

Reports on the following subjects on the back of your monthly narrative report would be greatly appreciated.

1. The general labor situation.
2. Any work on labor saving work simplification.
3. New developments in custom work.

BE SURE TO REPORT ALL SURPLUS WORKERS IN YOUR COUNTY SO THEY CAN BE REFERRED TO OTHER COUNTIES.

DANE: IN JANUARY extension agents of Dane county reported some urgent cases where help was needed on farms and also some cases where men needed jobs in order to find a place to live.

There are still a number of families requesting farms on shares. Most of them want to rent on a 40-60 basis. There are, however, very few farms for rent on this basis. They also reported that they could place many more single men on year-round farm jobs.

FOND DU LAC: Requests for farm hands were on the increase in Fond du Lac during February. There were requests for 14 single men and 12 married couples and a backlog of 12 couples and 26 single men carried over from January. Farm operators in their effort to hire married men are making various arrangements for housing families.

Ten single men and ten married couples were placed during February. About 25 more single men could be placed if they could be found.

GREEN: Forty-two farmers filed applications for farm hands during February. Of these 28 requested married men. Farm labor supply is just as short as at any time during the war. There were more untenanted farms in Green county on March 1, 1947, than at any previous time.

SHEBOYGAN: In this county 12 township meetings are being held at which one hour is devoted to labor saving equipment. A series of slides covering labor saving machinery have been assembled. It covers all phases of operations and recent equipment.

WASHINGTON: There seemed to be a farm labor spurt each day during the past month, Washington county reports. Farmers are becoming alarmed at the small number of men applying for farm work and they are wasting no time in making their requests immediately. Twenty-nine different farmers asked for assistance in securing help, and a total of 16 were placed.

PEPIN: "The log cutting situation in Pepin county has been helped by two men who have secured a power saw and are now engaged in cutting logs for farmers for hire.

"Have one farm hand listed who has not yet been placed and still have an opening for a good all year-round man on a dairy farm. The labor situation seems to be about in balance here in the county."

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Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued
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By the Extension Editors
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April
1947

To All County Agents and Farm Labor Assistants:



Year-Round Help Still Short

THE UNFILLED orders for year-round farm labor according to March reports from counties are only one-half the number for March 1945-1946. But the shortage of this type of worker is still acute in about one-third of the counties.

Single men, of course, are in greatest demand. Some few counties report they can use married men with small families as hired help; a few others report a surplus of married

men who want to do tenant or share-crop farming. At the end of March, the following 11 counties reported 30 or more unfilled orders: Barron, Brown, Buffalo, Dane, Fond du Lac, Green, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Washington.

The following 11 counties showed unfilled orders for more than 10, but less than 30 workers: Columbia, Dunn, Iowa, Kenosha, Lafayette, Ozaukee, Portage, Rock, Sauk, Waukesha, and Waupaca.

The 297 reported placements of year-round workers made during March, 1947, were about the same number as were made in March a year ago, but 40 per cent less than in 1945 when strict draft laws and the employment stabilization program were in effect. However, the smaller number of unfilled orders seems to indicate that fewer farmers are asking for year-round workers, the main reason probably being the return of veterans to the home farms.

Refer Surplus Workers to Other Counties

THE PROBLEM of supplying year-round help can be relieved by the concerted effort of all county agents and farm labor assistants.

Whenever you have an applicant for farm work for whom you do not have a suitable job, discuss with him the opportunities in other counties of the state. If he is a man capable and willing, phone or write counties who are in need of workers and see what can be done.

If you do not know what counties need workers, the state office can act as a clearing house. A duplicate application card can be sent to L. G. Sorden. He will forward it to the counties needing this type of labor.

In no case should a card be sent for a man who is unwilling to leave the county or who cannot be recommended for farming by the county agent or the farm labor assistant.

The counties needing the largest number of workers are also the ones who are making the largest number of placements. This may mean that counties placing fewer number of workers, may have men available who could be persuaded to take jobs elsewhere, given the proper opportunity and incentive.

* Farm Labor Bill in Conference *

* ACTION taken on the Farm Labor Bill by the *
* United States Senate on April 8th, extended *
* the authority to conduct the current program through *
* December 31, 1947, with a 30-day liquidation per- *
* iod beyond that date. The bill, (H.R. 2102) was pre- *
* viously passed by the house, but because of changes *
* made by the Senate, was sent to conference to *
* compose differences. *

* It is expected that the conference report *
* will be accepted by the House and Senate soon. *

More People on Farms

REPORTS for the nation indicate that at the beginning of March there were about 4 per cent more people working on farms than a year earlier, according to the Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter.

"At this time of the year the number of people on farms usually increases. All parts of the country except New England and the South Atlantic States showed more farm workers at the beginning of March than was the case a year earlier.

"The working day is reported to be a little shorter on farms than during the war years. The average reported was a little over ten hours a day for farm operators and a little over nine hours a day for hired workers."

"In Wisconsin the spring season seems to be coming along slowly. It is too early to know the condition of winter grains and hay fields. Moisture was short in February. It was colder than usual and was the driest February on record in the state."

Prosperity and High Wages Go Together

HALF of the nation's farms use no hired labor at all. Nearly a third of farm operators hire labor sparingly. The remaining one-fifth employ 90 per cent of the hired labor Output per farm worker for the country as a whole has increased by 40 per cent. Labor costs per unit of production have more than doubled since pre-war days In general, the increase in farm product prices has come close to matching the increased labor costs per unit of product Prices paid by farmers for other production items have not risen as fast as wage rates. This fact, along with a marked increase in farm output during the war years, has meant that returns to operators and family workers have increased more rapidly than labor returns of hired workers..... High farm wage rates and farm prosperity generally go together; conversely, dollar-a-day wages and 30-cent corn historically have gone together " -- Glen T. Barton, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Send Reports in Early

WE would appreciate having your monthly reports in our office by the 8th of the month because our reports must be sent to Washington on the 10th. Only 39 out of 70 reports reached our office in time to be included in our statement to Washington for March. Every county should submit a report even when no placements have been made.

Higher Wages for Beet Workers

SUGAR BEET companies will have to pay higher wages for beet workers this summer than they did in 1946 according to a United States Department of Agriculture report. The 1947 wage rates have advanced about 7.8 over 1946 rates. For blocking, thinning, hoeing and weeding the rate will be 60 cents an hour, for pulling and topping, 65 cents an hour.

On piece work basis, blocking and thinning, natural whole seed \$14.00 per acre, segmented seed, \$12.00 per acre. First hoeings, \$4.00 and each additional hoeing, \$2.75. These prices must be paid to workers if farmers wish to be eligible for the 1947 sugar beet payment.

* IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO START A YOUTH *
* RECRUITMENT PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOLS *

Texas Representative Reports for Duty

GORDON LANSFORD of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service reported for duty the latter part of April. He will be working in Wisconsin and Illinois during 1947 to help improve working relationships of Texas-Mexican migrant workers and to help arrange for their full employment. He has lived with the Latin-Americans all of his life and speaks their language fluently.

REPORTS FROM COUNTIES

Barron: During March the demand for single help has been overwhelming. Only four single men applied for farm jobs. Two were under seventeen and without farm experience. At the present time we have 37 married couples wanting to share or cash rent. About the same number of farmers want monthly married help.

Dane: An exceptional number of people have been calling at the office during March asking advice about renting farms, obtaining renters, seeking farm jobs or seeking help on their farms. We referred a few prospective renters to farmers but due to the high cost of machinery and equipment, most of them cannot furnish money enough to swing a deal.

Fond du Lac: We have requests on file for 11 couples and 35 single men. By comparison last year at this time we had requests on file for 26 married couples and 58 single men. There were a total of 38 placements during the month -- 16 married and 22 single men. March, 1946, there were 17 married men and 10 single men placed. This would indicate that we are filling the orders better this year than last. Out of the single men placed, perhaps five or six were good men.

Labor Saving Machinery: We now have a list of custom machinery for hire. This is also available to farmers at the A.A.A. office.

Langlade: Three married veterans, desiring separate houses, were referred to Waukesha county. No single men were available to fill requests from Iowa, Outagamie and Waukesha counties. The evident growing surplus of workers who during March made inquiries for jobs with the larger potato growers, will accept general farm work. They are being channeled to dairy farmers, many of whom have some potato acreage.

Oconto: The demand for farm labor has not been heavy this month, but those who do want help want good men and are willing to pay good wages for this kind of help.

Racine: The men looking for jobs are mostly married men needing houses, which are almost impossible to get. Labor is going to be short this year without question. I am planning to get lists of high school students who may be willing to work on farms this summer. However, the patriotic motive is probably gone so I don't know how successful I will be.

Rock: Farm laborers are just as scarce as they were during the war. We have 23 jobs at present that we cannot fill. Some of the older farmers are planning to quit because they cannot handle their farms alone.

Sauk:

The farm labor situation in Sauk county is very bad. Applicants are very inexperienced and very independent as to their demands for wages, hours and housing. Wages are high for married men and housing usually satisfactory. Farmers are willing to make allowances for many things they would not have tolerated a few years ago.

One farmer advertised over the radio station in the northern part of the state and received a number of replies. Went to northern Wisconsin and Michigan to interview several married men who worked in the woods. One man was hired and another may be employed later.

Sheboygan:

We are confronted with a serious shortage of single men. Requests for 40 farm workers are on file at present. The labor shortage in this area is as critical at present as it was at any time during the war years. During the month, 16 workers were placed.

During the month meetings in 10 townships were held at which the topics of labor and machinery were discussed. The discussions covered the entire field of labor saving equipment and practices.

Washington:

Requests for farm help continued to pour in for March. We need single men with experience and farmers are willing to pay up to \$150 a month for them. At present we have about 50 requests for such help.

Waukesha:

We were successful in placing 35 men in Waukesha county during March. Of the total placed 15 were single men -- a substantial number in comparison with the previous month when we placed only about six. About 18 men were placed as tenants on farms where housing was furnished by the farmer.

We have a few married men available at present. Their lack of sufficient experience and lack of housing are keeping them from being placed. Labor saving machinery, cooperative buying and use of machinery are being discussed at many of our meetings.

Forest & Florence:

Men listed as available from Florence and Forest counties have only limited farm experience and are interested in securing farm work locally rather than going to other counties.

Rusk:

The end of the draft caused two farmers to request farm workers. Their hired men left their farm jobs April 1, 1947.



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

MAY 26 1947

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May
1947

TO ALL COUNTY AGENTS AND FARM LABOR ASSISTANTS



THE "HELP WANTED" sign is still up on many farms. In about 25 southeastern Wisconsin counties, farmers need both year-around and seasonal workers.

Unfilled orders at the end of the month for year-around workers added up to nearly 800 with but 43 counties reporting. There is a small surplus of married couples in some counties. Out of 16 men calling at the Dodge county office in a single day, eight were asking for farm help.

About 6000 to 7000 foreign migrant workers have been needed in Wisconsin every year besides the help that can be recruited in local communities. They are employed in the vegetable growing areas of the state, to work with canning crops, vegetables for processing, and in sugar beets.

About 2800 foreign workers are expected in the state this year. Some are already in the state and working on farms. Also, about 3500 Texas-Mexicans have been recruited by the sugar beet and canning companies, and vegetable growers. Some who arrived too early for sugar beet work, are employed in Oconto, Fond du Lac and Door counties, working in orchards, doing general farm work and odd jobs "by the day".

RAINS DELAY PLANTING

DUE TO EXCESSIVE rains and cold weather, farmers are about three weeks late with planting. On May 16, 60% of the pea crop had been planted. This is about three weeks late for the southern part of the state and two weeks later than normal in the rest of the state.

Although planting has advanced rapidly the past week or two, the late season is causing some shifting from peas to corn and beans. The delayed season, if followed by a sudden hot spell, will probably crowd work at harvest time into very short periods, with both early and late peas coming at the same time. This will require extra large labor forces both for plant work and viners at the time when general farm work will be most pressing.

FARM LABOR MEETING

ARLIE MUCKS called a conference at Fond du Lac on May 9 to lay out plans and discuss procedures for the 1947 season. Counties invited to attend were those having large numbers of migrant and foreign farm workers. County agents or farm labor assistants in 18 counties, representatives of the United States Office of Labor and Gordon Lansford of the Texas Extension Service attended. After the formal meeting agents reported on labor conditions in their own counties.

Here are some of the points brought out at the meeting:

Wisconsin is the third state in the United States in the number of foreign workers used. It is second in this area in its record of utilization. Foreign laborers were employed 85% of the time while in the state in 1946. Inclement weather, illness and refusal to work were the main reasons given for not working the rest of the time.

Extension agents can and do give personalized services to farm workers looking for jobs on farms. They take them out to the farms needing help, introduce them to the farmer and get them placed on a suitable job before leaving them.

County agents reported that some applicants were interested in farming only to find a place to live. One farm labor assistant is warning farmers not to charge their married help rent, or they may have difficulty getting the family to move if they prove unsatisfactory. If rent is part of the wages, the worker can be evicted upon termination of contract.

Farmers, too, are getting to be more choosy about their help. Many farmers would like to take things easier and ask for hired help, but they want someone to fit into their situation perfectly or they turn the applicants down.

Calumet county representatives reported that they are working to get permission to import about a half-dozen Swiss boys who have indicated a desire to come to Wisconsin and work on farms. Contacts with Switzerland are being made through a Calumet county woman.

It is estimated that Wisconsin will have about 80% as many foreign workers in 1947 as were available in 1946. Most of the workers will be in the state by July 1. The number available to handle the pea crop is about as large as it was a year ago.

Although the foreign labor program has been extended until the end of the year, the additional appropriation required has not been made and may be delayed.

Fond du Lac county reported sending out questionnaire cards to sugar beet field men to find out the number and location of Texas-Mexicans now in the state.

FARM
WAGES

"FARM WAGES continued to set new high during April. The increase is estimated by the United States Department of Agricultural Economics to be about 10% higher than a year ago."

"From January 1, until April 1, most of the increase was in monthly wage rates, reflecting rather strong demand for dependable year-around workers." Wage board hearings in Wisconsin indicate that wages for workers by the hour will be five cents per hour higher. Farmers are also paying higher rates than a year ago for year-around workers.

"During the war, farm workers increased production about 40%. That higher output per person justified a higher wage which the farmer had to pay to hold his workers or to attract others.

"Because of the higher production of the workers, the labor cost per unit of production has not increased at the same percentages as the actual wage increase. Labor cost per unit has doubled; other costs have not increased to the same degree as did labor costs. Therefore, the farmer has still fared well in spite of paying higher wages." -- Paul Nystrom, "Conference Reports."

OFFICE
DISPLAYS

RECENTLY L. J. Searls, farm labor assistant in Fond du Lac county, sent us a photograph of the Farm Labor Display booth he arranged at a Farmers' Institute held at Ripon.

We would like to hear what some of you have been doing about making attractive office displays and putting up signs and arrows to show where the Farm Labor office is located. It is just possible that you have had some ideas that others could use and also that you might benefit from the efforts made by extension agents. Joe Shaughnessy, Milwaukee, has taken the arrow off the Farm Labor signs and tacked them up in Milwaukee railroad stations.

If you have done anything about putting up signs, posters, photographs to attract applicants for farm labor, please let us know about it in your next news letter.

FARM
SAFETY

FARMING is the most dangerous major industry, safety specialists tell us. It is said to be three times as dangerous as working in the average manufacturing plant.

Although fatal farm accidents occurring the first four months of 1947 were fewer than in the first four months of 1946 (34 as compared to 48), statistics show that we are just entering the season of high fatalities. The Farm Safety Specialist provides the following list of fatal accidents so far in 1947:

8 machinery	4 animals	3 falls	
8 fire	3 wood cutting	2 fire arms	6 miscellaneous

* * * * *

About three-quarter million tons of truck garden crops for fresh market and processing are produced in Wisconsin every year.

HERE are four parts of the Texas-Mexican migrant program as it is to be carried out in Wisconsin during 1947.

TEXAS-
MEXICAN
MIGRANTS

1. Texas Extension Service has on their payroll 34 people who contact workers during the winter in Texas to teach them responsibility towards jobs, to help them understand the need for sanitation, and how to get along with people in other sections of the country.

2. Texas liaison men have been sent to the various states where Texas-Mexicans are employed. Gordon Lansford, of the Texas Extension Service will work on this part of the service in Illinois and Wisconsin. He will help migrants and their employers to gain a better understanding of their work, their opportunities and their responsibilities.

3. Overnight stopping centers and information stations for migrants have been established in a number of states. Migrants not having jobs, can get information at these stations as to work available. Attendants also keep them from going to areas where they are not needed. Weekly, and in emergencies, daily information is supplied to these stations by the various states. These centers notify state offices of migrants who are on their way there to work, giving the exact location of their job and the number of migrants in the group.

4. A "Gulf-to-Lakes guide" to farm jobs will soon be available for distribution to migrants, informing them in what areas workers may find jobs and at what approximate dates this work will be ready. A time-table and map of Wisconsin seasonal crop areas needing migrant labor will be included in this guide.

YOUTH

THE YOUTH recruiting program carried on in cooperation with city schools, is showing some good results.

In Sheboygan county more than 50 high school boys signed up for pea harvesting. They are taking the places of foreign workers used the past few years. Some of the huskiest boys, hand picked by teachers, go out into the fields year after year. They show a good spirit and do not feel they can leave their jobs until the end of the season. Some of the high school teachers, who are helping with recruitment, have been employed by the canning companies.

In Fond du Lac county about 150 boys are recruited each year to help on farms during the summer. The same number has been signed up for the summer of 1947. About 60 of these boys stay on the farms all summer and most of them go back to the same farms they were on the year before.

As agricultural production increased, the amount of work performed by farmers also increased. By 1946, two farm workers accomplished as much work as three workers during 1935-1939 period.

COUNTY COMMENTSBROWN

Unfilled orders for the month of April are 35% greater than for April a year ago.

Our greatest problem is securing single men from 16 to 60. We have a surplus of married couples and are sending them to adjoining counties.

COLUMBIA

The trend is for workers with experience - accustomed to operating different types of machinery on farms.

DADE

The telephone strike slowed up office business a great deal. Farmers were unable to order workers and making placements was difficult.

DOOR

Texas-Mexicans arrived in Door county too early for sugar beet work. A group of twelve was placed by the farm labor assistant with neighboring farmers. They picked stones, hauled manure, did other odd jobs "by the day" and worked in the orchards. The twelve have been fully employed working from one farm to another.

GREEN

The demand for farm hands increased during April. We know there are many others in need of help who did not register at the extension office.

OCOONTO

Seven Texas-Mexicans arrived in the county. They have been put to work on farms and in local industries on a day-by-day basis. Texas-Mexicans are very loyal workers when they like the "boss". They have been coming to Oconto for many years working between spring and fall beet work. But no matter what the job was they were working on, they would leave everything when they heard this particular company needed workers.

OZAUKEE

Three canning companies have ordered 120 Mexicans and two truck gardeners have requested 14 Mexicans through this office.

POLK

Many farmers requesting workers have been referred directly to the high schools when they were interested in getting the help of boys that age. High school principals and agricultural school teachers have been most cooperative, says Myron Groskopp, farm labor assistant.

WAUKESHA

Labor saving practices and time saving ideas have been the keynote of our meetings, says Melvin Grantman, Waukesha. Cooperative buying and use of essential farm machinery is encouraged at each meeting.

VILAS

It is expected that Mexican help will be needed for the potato harvest next fall.

Experience with machinery is one of the qualifications most frequently asked for by farmers requesting farm help, labor assistants report.

* * * * *

By the thirteenth of the month of May, only 38 farm labor reports reached this office. Thirty-three counties had not reported.



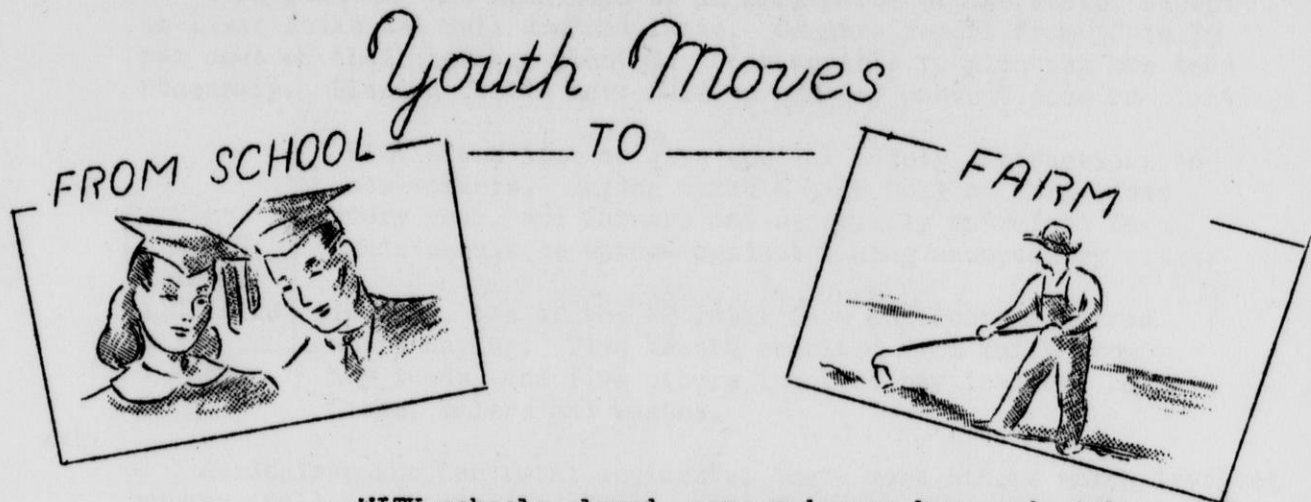
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WITH schools closed, more and more boys and girls are signing up for summer work on farms. Reports from counties show that city and school youth volunteers will again furnish a substantial proportion of the placements made on farms in Wisconsin.

Some boys are already on farms working part time. Groups of high school boys from Poynette (Columbia county) helped in an emergency by setting out cabbage plants for farmers.

About 75 to 100 boys have been recruited in Fond du Lac county as a result of their annual school round-up.

A survey in Marathon county disclosed that 467 boys and 102 girls are doing farm work this summer either on the farms of their parents, relatives or neighbors.

In Washington county farmers are requesting high school lads to substitute for hired hands who are hard to get. Youth placements for the month of May in this county took precedence over every other kind of work.

In Eau Claire county more high school boys are asking for farm jobs than can be supplied with work, probably because of a general slackening of industrial employment in that county.

CANNING TO
BEGIN
JULY 1 to 5

The pea crop throughout the state looks good so far, with uniform stand and very little water damage. Early peas are in bloom with indications that canning might start about July 1-5.

The orchard crops are a little late, but a good crop of fruit is expected. The orchards look good and it is expected that the cherry harvest this year will dovetail, between pea harvest and corn canning, much closer than the average year.

Corn planting has been held up in many parts of the state, except on light soils and well drained lands. Cannors report from 30 to 75 per cent of their acreage planted. Considerable re-planting has been necessary. Flooded fields have held up and may prevent some re-planting.

**AVOID
HAYING
ACCIDENTS**

THIS IS the time to give special safety instructions to new workers. Haying takes a high toll of farm lives every year, and farmers and especially untrained farm hands should be warned against taking unnecessary risks.

In 1946, ten of the 42 fatal farm accidents occurred while haying. Five deaths resulted from falls from hay loads, and five others involved hay loaders, hay forks, balers and wagons.

Aside from the ten fatal accidents, there were others which involved mowers, pulleys, rakes, and hay ropes. While the latter were not fatal, they caused serious injuries, large hospital bills, and much loss of time on the farms at a time when man hours count heavily.

**GULF
TO
LAKES
GUIDE**

A SUPPLY of the "Guide to Farm Jobs" issued through the Extension Farm Labor Program, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., has just arrived at the State Office.

The guides should be given to anyone interested in seasonal farm jobs in Wisconsin. These will help them find places where workers are needed. On pages 28-29 crop time-tables for Wisconsin will be found. More of the guides may be ordered from the State office, if needed.

**PLACEMENTS
FOR MAY
'46 & '47
COMPARED**

IN May, 1946, a total of 868 workers were ordered by 558 different farmers but at the end of the month there were still 1986 accumulated requests for workers unfilled, with 50 counties reporting. This year, a total of 634 workers were ordered by 396 different farmers, and at the end of the month 753 orders remained unfilled with only 42 counties reporting. Altogether more placements were made in May this year than in May a year ago. All of this seems to indicate that help is a little easier to get but that farmers are needing just as many workers as they needed during the past several years.

Nearly twice as many farm youths and more than double the number of tenants were placed in May, 1947, as in the same month a year ago.

May 1946 and 1947 PLACEMENTS COMPARED

	1946		1947	
	Seasonal	Year-round	Seasonal	Year-round
Men	65	278	270	351
Women	39	--	14	1
Youth	56	31	102	26
Tenants	--	18	--	44
	<u>160</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>422</u>

Total Placements, May 1946 - - - 487

Total Placements, May 1947 - - - 808

The demand for foreign workers has been less than in previous years. This would seem to indicate that farmers can get more local help this year than they could for several years past.

TEXAS-MEXICAN MIGRANTS

TEXAS MEXICAN migrants who have been recruited almost exclusively for sugar beet and vegetable work in the past, are now being recruited by the canning companies for both field and plant work in peas and corn.

Because the cold weather delayed planting and later retarded the work in sugar beets, many Texas-Mexicans who came into the state early in May were left unemployed. Farm labor assistants in all of the southern and eastern counties have been busy trying to keep the unemployed migrants working for individual farmers. They performed all sorts of farm and industrial jobs, but a large number of them remained unemployed.

In Kenosha and Racine counties some were employed by vegetable farmers, cutting seed potatoes, helping with hemp, and others worked for the railroads.

In Sheboygan, employment was found for almost all of them at a good rate of pay.

In Montello (Marquette county) they set out tomato and cabbage plants and weeded onions. They will be kept busy there until the first of July.

In Columbia county they hoed pickles, and weeded onions and in Waukesha county they worked in asparagus.

WORKERS
MEET WITH
BOSSSES

HERE STILL seems to be some question as to why Wisconsin needs to import workers from out of the state. Migrant workers are brought in only when needed to supplement local labor. At present there are about 2500 Texas-Mexicans in the state. Most of them are under contract to sugar beet growers for thinning and blocking beets.

Recently a meeting was called in Sheboygan county for the Texas-Mexican workers, to give them an opportunity to talk things over with their prospective employers. The meeting was attended by 40 migrants and men from the sugar beet and corn canning industries. The Extension Service was represented by Gordon Lansford of the Texas Extension Service, Wilbur Hoelz, Farm Labor Assistant, Sheboygan, and R. L. Rowbotham, Wisconsin representative at large.

The sugar beet and canning companies are interested in having the Texas-Mexicans stay in the state during the summer to complete harvesting sugar beets in the fall. Corn canning companies need them for picking sweet corn during the off season.

Both parties made their needs known, Mr. Lansford acting as interpreter. The corn canners wanted the men for picking sweet corn and offered to use the trucks. They also said the women could work in the plants at 60¢ an hour. The workers promised to consider an offer to harvest corn on a piece rate basis after a chance to talk things over with their truck drivers.

Sheboygan county is only one example of the way in which Wisconsin and Texas Extension Service are working out a cooperative program for improving labor conditions of migrants.

Not all objectives of workers and growers were reached but the meeting was a long step toward a practical solution and better understanding of seasonal work problems.

Good Place for Married Man

Wilbur Hoelz (Sheboygan) has several jobs for married men on farms where adequate housing is being furnished.

Tom Parker (Pepin) has a good job for a married man. The farmer left to work in a neighboring county after having been on the same place for five years.

On his visit to some of the Texas-Mexican groups in the state, Prof. George Hill observed that the children of these families have no toys to play with, since they came in crowded trucks with little room for provisions.

Several of the counties have taken his suggestion and started their 4-H clubs on projects to collect discarded and used toys to distribute to these children. Richard Looze, Farm Labor Assistant, Brown county, writes that 4-H clubs in Brown, Outagamie and Kewaunee counties have already started on such a project.

These Texas-Mexicans are performing a valuable service on Wisconsin farms. Small attentions like these will give them a feeling of welcome and help them acquire a pride and responsibility in the community. They will then want to return to Wisconsin another year to do the stoop labor jobs they are so proficient at and that local workers refuse to do.

**HOUSING IN
THE SPOTLIGHT**

HERE is some indication that housing is one of the serious shortcomings in the migrant labor program, and some of the sugar beet growers are taking steps to correct some of the conditions under which migrant workers families must live.

One sugar beet fieldman in Sheboygan county recently equipped the migrant workers' quarters with electric lights and was rewarded with a fiesta by the workers on Saturday night. He also installed garbage and trash containers and placed signs, in Spanish, over them to tell the Texas-Mexicans how to use them.

Gordon Lansford, Texas migrant specialist is filling a definite need in the migrant labor program. He has been called on by both employers and employees in Illinois and Wisconsin to mediate disputes and misunderstandings. In several cases workers were ready to move out but agreed to stay after the issues were settled. It is gratifying to note that both Texas-Mexicans and their employers are coming to county agents' offices when problems arise.

- DANE: More orders for men reached our office during May than we could supply, reports Thomas Skaar. Demand for year-round single men was especially great,
- DOOR: Judging from the time the cherry blossoms popped out, the crop will be about 10 days later than 1946, says Martin Mathey. He has had 15 Texas-Mexicans working in the Evergreen Nursery, in addition to the 12 doing odd farm jobs around Sawyer and Forestville.
- EAU CLAIRE: For the first time in several years, the supply of farm workers exceeds the demand. A number of workers are not placed because they demanded higher wages than the farmers were willing to pay.
- FOND DU LAC: Lawrence Searl reports he placed Farm Labor signs in hotels, the railroad stations and at strategic places in the country.
- PEPIN The volunteer leader program in Pepin county is still functioning, says Tom Parker and cites the following example of community cooperation: Kenneth Molin of Pepin together with relatives and neighbors got together one evening, and sowed 55 acres of flax for a man between 8 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock the next morning. They used equipment that was used by other men during the daytime.
- POLK: One of the best ways of finding farm workers and jobs, says Myron Groskopp is in discussion with farmers after 4-H and other Extension meetings.
Several farmers are continually asking for help because they cannot keep men.
- SAUK: Rain and cold weather have delayed operations. We anticipate a great shortage of help when field operations do open up, says Frank Campbell.
- VILAS: Labor for tree planting has been getting 75 cents an hour with 90 cents for foremen, says H. M. Smith. A total of 150,000 Jack Pine seedlings were planted at a cost of \$590 for labor.
- WASHINGTON: A total of 17 year-rounds workers were placed and three youths accepted seasonal jobs, says E. E. Skaliskey.
- WAUKESHA: Marvin Grantman got 10 men from the Rescue Mission in Milwaukee for an emergency job bunching radishes.
On a noon radio program, Gordon Lansford was interviewed to explain the migrant labor program. Men wanting farm jobs were also urged to come to the county agent's office.
- WAUSHARA: The farm labor situation is still an acute problem. Industrial employment in this and adjoining counties being more attractive to most potential farm help - both from the standpoint of wages and working hours, reports F. W. Ocain. Farmers are reluctant to exceed 50 to 60 cents an hour for day labor.



FARM LABOR NEWS

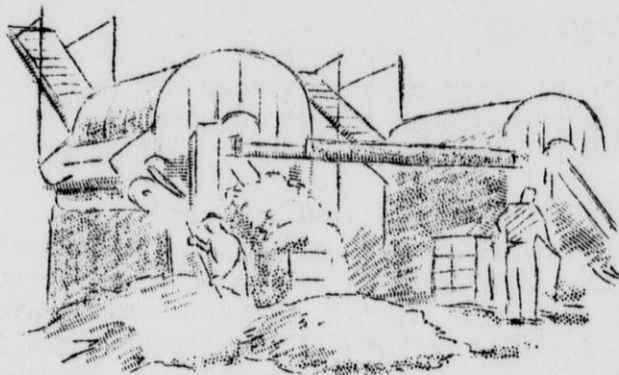
Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

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July
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The Harvest is Underway



EACH month, since the end of the war, the critical labor situation which harassed farmers for the past two years, has become less and less serious. Labor is still short, but each year there has been an easing in the number of requests which remain unfilled at the end of the month.

In some counties there are more high school boys and girls under 16 years of age applying for seasonal work than can be placed. More boys 17 and 18 years old are getting the jobs this year.

This year, also, at least 1000 more Texas-Mexicans are available for seasonal work and many of these have been helping out on regular farm jobs when not needed in seasonal crops. About as many foreign workers are in the state as last year. As a result, the demand and supply of seasonal labor are just about in balance for the present.

According to the state employment service and many individual canners, there is less difficulty in supplying in-plant workers than last year or during several years past. At present there are more than 4200 Texas-Mexicans in the state and about 2700 foreign workers of which 90 per cent are Mexican nationals.



Pea Harvest is at Peak

I N EVERY county where canning peas are grown, the harvest is now on in full swing. Peas are good and are coming fast. In some plants workers are putting in 20 hours a day. One canning company reports the average crop per acre this year runs about 2800 pounds of

shelled peas. The five-year average for the state is about 1700 pounds per acre.

According to the Crop Reporting Service, Wisconsin farmers planted about 130,000 acres of peas this year. Processing got under-



way about June 28 in some of the plants and several others started operations the first week in July. The peak of the canning season was reached July 12-15.

Present estimates set the production at about 113,750 tons or more than 10,000,000 cases of 24/2's.

Canning corn will begin some time after August 20. Most of the canning companies do not expect to begin until about September 1.

Cherries Are Late

THE cherry crop is about ten days later this year than usually and picking is not expected to begin until about the last week in July. It is still too early for pickers, looking for work, to go to the orchards.

However, Door county growers expect a good crop and will be needing pickers during the entire month of August. Over 3,100 foreign workers have been ordered for picking. The following numbers are expected to be available: July 28, 1,360; August 4, 2,775; August 11, 3,125; August 18, 3,125; August 25, 3,125; September 1, 500. In addition, 2,700 foreign workers are also expected.

Migrant Workers

IN Door county, 4-H club members are collecting toys for the children of migrant workers. Women, members of various women's clubs, are collecting surplus clothing for babies and little tots.

The collection of toys was started by 4-H clubs in Brown county some weeks ago. Their toys were delivered to the migrant workers camps recently where they were most graciously received.

Lawrence Searl, farm labor assistant in Fond du Lac county, is encouraging local people of that city to take an interest in the social welfare of the migrants who come into the county every year to do seasonal work on farms. These workers are urgently needed by farm folks producing special crops and are giving excellent services to their employers and the state.

Waushara Pickle Growers Organize

CUCUMBER growers in Waushara county at a recent meeting appointed a committee of three men to organize small and large growers into one group so they could bid for labor more effectively with sugar beet growers.

The committee of three are contacting all pickle growers in the county to encourage them to organize. After this organization has been formed, it is their purpose to appoint other committees to contact sugar beet growers in neighboring counties for the use of Texas-Mexican labor. Picking cucumbers dovetails very well into the interim between blocking and harvesting sugar beets.

There are good prospects at present that a large part of the Texas-Mexicans will be kept in the state if they can be employed in the areas where they will be available for the beet harvest when the time comes.

Many Texas-Mexicans who arrived too early for the beet work and canning crops during May, were kept busy at odd jobs while they were waiting. In Ozaukee county, 82 weeded beans and corn; 75 hoed cabbage for a couple of days on the Owens farm in Columbia county; 40 weeded onions in Marquette county, and others in Waukesha county were kept fully employed in vegetable crops.

Mexicans Arrive by Plane

The first assignment of foreign workers to arrive in Wisconsin by plane landed at Truax Air Field on Tuesday afternoon, July 16 at 3:30. The plane, a converted C-47, property of "Nation-wide", brought 30 Mexican nationals from Dodge City, Kansas, where these workers had completed their work in sugar beets. Another group of 30 arrived on Wednesday at 2:00 P.M., July 17, four hours after they left Garden City, Kansas.

The young Mexicans, clean and alert looking with their quaint baggage and large straw hats made a colorful picture as they poured out of the fuselage. One or two proudly displayed shiny new traveling bags, but the majority of them brought their belongings in multi-colored raffia hand bags, or had them done up in their woolen sarapis. Broad grins seemed to indicate that they were pleased with their journey and happy that responsible people and a photographer were there to welcome them.

The charge of railroad coach fare plus one dollar per person, makes it practical for the government to use this method of transportation because the workers do not lose the usual two or three days of work in shifting. It is also economical because the five or six meals necessary on trains and the cost of escort are eliminated. The pilot, when questioned about the Mexicans' willingness to travel by air, said they all ran for the plane as soon as they knew they were going to fly.

The Mexicans were met by Glen Woodruff of the Office of Labor and L. G. Sorden of the Farm Labor Office of the College of Agriculture. They checked arrivals with pass-ports and identification cards and assigned them to representatives of canning companies who were waiting to take them to their jobs in busses or cars.

In assigning them, every effort was made to place workers in groups congenial to themselves. Their preferences were respected in every case possible so they could work with relatives or "buddies" while they were in Wisconsin.

Youth

Single adult farm hands are still short and counties have been encouraging experienced high school boys and enthusiastic inexperienced boys to take jobs on farms during the summer. This has worked out quite successfully in several counties.

In Langlade county, one of the canning companies is trying to get along with local help only. High school boys and girls over sixteen years of age have been recruited. More than 350 boys and girls, men and women responded to the recruiting program. A large number specified willingness to work in the fields.

To discourage the large labor turn-over of the past year, wages were advanced 5 to 10 cents an hour. The recruiting was done by appeals over the radio and by several advertisements placed in local newspapers.

In Rock county, 31 boys are taking the place of field workers for canning companies. If the weather is right, about 600 additional boys and girls will be needed for detasseling. They have been recruited, are listed, and ready to be called.

In Columbia county, 14 youth picked berries, 28 set out cabbage plants, and 12 were placed with farmers to help put up hay. In Pardeeville, Columbia county, the canning company is trying out local youth for plant work. About 35 boys were asked to meet with representatives of the canning companies. They explained to the boys the nature of the work to be done and what they would expect of them. All the boys were in favor of trying out the work and so far everything has worked out satisfactorily.

Eight boys from the city of Milwaukee took farm jobs in Dodge county. The farm labor assistant arranged a meeting of farmers and boys. He talked a little on the problems of employment, of teaching boys the ways of farm folks and farm work, and also discussed wages.

Ten Milwaukee boys, recruited in that city, were placed on farms in Ozaukee county. Most of these boys had some farm experience.

Two city boys from Waukesha were placed on year-round farm jobs last year and stayed the year-round commuting to school over winter. Some other boys are being approached with such a plan but thus far have not committed themselves as being willing to remain all winter.

In Praise of the Youth Program

C. E. Roach, Outagamie farm labor assistant, at the close of his 1946 annual report, has this to say about the farm labor youth program as he sees it:

"The program involving the placement of town boys and girls is very sound and of benefit to agriculture in general. In this way farmers are not only solving their problems of today, but are building for the future.

"No one knows how long there will be a labor shortage on the farm. It is fairly sure that farm manpower will remain hard to get for some time. By using city youth in 1946, farmers are training labor for peak harvest seasons for next year and the next. Farmers can well afford to keep in contact with this supply.

"When boys and girls go to the farm to live, they learn at first hand the hard work it takes to produce food. When they go home, they have made new friends among the farm people and have a better understanding of farm products, problems, and production costs. Understanding between rural and urban people promises greater peace and progress for our nation.

"Without this understanding, farmers cannot expect town people to pull with them in making progress for agriculture. Without it, misunderstandings that have already existed between labor and industry might become wider. Boys and girls who go out to work, help to bring city and farm closer together."

Mr. Roach has been a school principal at Black Creek and Easton, Wisconsin, is at present teaching in Roosevelt School, Appleton, and has been a clerk of Circuit Court. Inasmuch as he has also had considerable farm experience and has worked with youth on the farm labor program, his opinion carries the weight of one experienced with youth as well as farm problems.

COUNTY COMMENTSCalumet:

The chief problem so far has been getting ready for the Mexican nationals who are arriving for the pea pack. Individual farmers have their labor problems pretty well in hand, says A. W. Gordon.

Dane:

Farmers are still in desperate need for steady help in haying and corn cultivating.

Most of the high school boys asking for jobs during the month of June wanted special jobs, such as detasseling corn, harvesting peas or picking cherries. We also registered 17 high school girls who wanted to detassel corn. Three boys were placed on farms, although farmers are reluctant to hire young boys without experience.

Door:

The last week or ten days men and boys have been calling for work. They came from Colorado, Louisiana and from other counties in Wisconsin expecting to get into cherries. We have been able to take care of them so far by placing them in resorts as dishwashers, taking care of riding stables, picking strawberries and on construction jobs, says Martin Mathey, farm labor assistant.

At present, we are still holding to July 28 as opening date for the cherry harvest. A very hot spell may open the harvest season a little earlier, probably July 21.

Green:

The demand for farm labor will continue strong for the next several months, Green county reports. Requests for farm help continue to pile up with very few placements being made. There are now 45 requests on file that have not been filled.

Fond du Lac:

We had 29 requests for single men and filled most of them with school youth. We still have a large number of school youth available for farm work. We have talked to some of them about going outside the county, but they do not want to go so far from Fond du Lac, Searls reports.

Langlade:

Tuesday, July 1, saw the largest number of unemployed men and women being interviewed by the Wisconsin Employment Service and the Wisconsin Industrial Commission since April. Only one young man was interested in farm work and he was not interested until later.

The Antigo high schools will open September 2, so very little help for potato harvest may be expected from high school youth, Herbert Hoeft reports.

Marathon:

Henry Lussier, farm labor assistant, reports an unusual request. A family in Wilmette, Illinois, wanted to place a 12-year old boy on a Wisconsin farm and offered to reimburse the farmer for whatever expense would be involved in giving their boy farm experience. The boy was placed.

This county has about 2500 to 2600 acres of peas and expect to have an output of about 225,000 cases for the season. About 51 boys and men have signed up for work in the fields and plants from the Wausau area. One farmer has planted 110 and another 114 acres of peas.

Oconto:

More youth over 18 are available for field work such as picking beans, cucumbers and potatoes.

Pepin:

There continues to be a shortage of married men on farms. This county now has a total of four places where married men would be offered year-round employment.

Farmers in this area are competing against employment situations in Menomonie and Eau Claire where workers from these areas report that they are making from \$200 to \$250 a month.

Rock:

We have met the farm labor needs so far. This includes the demands for general farm work, haying, baling, strawberry picking, silo filling, and canning factory field work.

Over 350 high school boys from Janesville, 39 from Orfordville, 21 from Milton, and 6 from Clinton were recruited for detasseling corn which will begin about August 1.

Requests have also come in for 20 supervisors from two growers. Newspapers and the local radio have been very helpful in making farm labor needs known to the public, Ralph Mitby, farm labor assistant of Rock county reports.

Vilas:

Farm labor is hard to secure because the wages offered by resorts and summer home owners are very high, ranging as high as \$1.50 per hour. Loggers are slowing down their cutting projects due to the lack of a market for unpeeled pulp. Good peeled pulp is \$16.00 per cord.



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued
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by the Extension Editors
in cooperation with the Farm Labor Staff

August
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SEASONAL FARM LABOR STILL SHORT

JUDGING from the number of requests received for foreign labor, the state will be short about 1100 seasonal workers for all crops on farms from the period of August 25 to September 25.

Special effort will be needed in all counties to recruit male help for snapping sweet corn, and single workers as well as families for the potato harvest in northern counties.

In some areas help is much shorter than in others. Any county, recruiting able bodied men not needed locally, may refer such workers to the agents in the following counties: Brown, Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan and Waukesha.

Workers are still needed to harvest potatoes in Langlade, Vilas and Oneida counties. Both single workers and family groups can be used.

As a result of cooperative effort between several counties and between sugar beet and cucumber growers, Texas-Mexican sugar beet workers have been recruited to pick cucumbers for pickling in Waupaca and Waushara counties. These counties now report that their labor needs have been fully met.

JULY PLACEMENTS

JUST to let you know what happened around the state, during July, a few figures have been set down to show the number of placements made in various groups.

In all about 8,000 seasonal workers and 215 year-round workers were placed by 45 counties reporting.

Of the seasonal workers placed, 1,000 were Mexican-Nationals and 1,500 Texas-Mexicans. More than 3,000 of



the seasonal workers placed were youth. Counties leading in youth placements were: Rock, 738; Sheboygan, 723; Door, 564; Columbia, 455; Langlade, 73; and Waukesha, 69.

These figures show about 3,000 fewer placements than in 1946. This is due, in part, to the fact that the delayed Door county cherry crop was much smaller than a year ago and a large number of their workers were not included in the July report.

Reports from Door county indicate there were about 1,800 foreign workers, 1,200 Texas-Mexicans, and 500 Indians in that area. Some estimates put this year's cherry crop at about 18 million pounds.

SET UP INFORMATION STATION

TO HELP keep Texas-Mexicans in the state for corn, potato and vegetable harvest, the Extension Service set up an information station on the main highway to the cherry orchards at Sturgeon Bay, under the direction of Gordon Lansford, Texas representative for migrant workers, and R. L. Rowbotham, of the State office.

Two Texas-Mexicans were employed to keep the station open for 24 hours a day. Questionnaires were filled out on migrant workers going into the orchards or leaving them.

From the questionnaires, the names of the crew leaders were obtained, number of workers in the crew, where they came from, and in what crops they expected to work after the cherry harvest.

They also learned how many were "free lancers", who could be recruited for work in vegetables, potatoes or canning crops following the cherry harvest.

AGREEMENTS WITH U.S.E.S.

REFERRING to Farm Labor 105, "Revised Procedure for Agricultural Workers cooperating with United States Employment Service", the following cooperative action has been agreed upon between Acting Secretary of Labor Keen Johnson and Secretary of Agriculture Clinton B. Anderson. This action was necessary under Public Law '40' approved April, 1947:

1. Current information regarding farm labor demands should be furnished to the local employment office by the Agricultural Extension Service. The information should include the character of the job and area of employment.
2. The Employment Service should refer all job applicants to the nearest Extension office for placement on farms.

3. The Agricultural Extension Service should report final disposition of applicants referred to the Employment Service office.

V.F.V. Editor Visits Wisconsin

MISS ROBERTA CLARK, representative of the Victory Farm Volunteer Division, Farm Labor Office, Washington, D.C., visited Wisconsin youth working in the fields on August 4. She came to Wisconsin to observe how youth helped farmers care for, and harvest, their crops, and so contribute to the general food production.

Miss Clark got several good glimpses of the youth program as carried out in this state.

Promptly at 6:30 on Monday morning, she was at the Rock county court house in Janesville, to see how Ralph Mitby, farm labor assistant, hustled some 250-300 youngsters into trucks and sent them off to the cornfields to detassel hybrid seed corn.

Five trucks left the courthouse at 6:30 loaded with boys and girls. Others left at 6:45 and 7:00 o'clock.

By 9:30, Mitby and Miss Clark were at Beloit where 200 more boys and girls were assembled. After explaining the program of work to the youngsters, Mitby registered and screened another hundred for detasseling work in that area.

Although it was one of the hottest days of the season, Miss Clark, with J. A. James and Mrs. Sophia Ormond of the state office, drove on the same day to Ozaukee county where they interviewed farmers who had employed youth for the past several years to do general farm work and to weed, hoe, and harvest row crops.

On Tuesday, Miss Clark visited some of Ozaukee county bean fields, where about 250 boys and girls, many with their mothers, were picking beans. These youngsters were from 10 to 15 years old, and earning from two to six dollars a day. One woman was reported to be picking 600 pounds every day. At two cents a pound, she would earn the tidy sum of \$12 a day.

From there Miss Clark went to Sheboygan county to hear Wilbur Hoelz tell how he organized youth in his county and on to the orchards of Door county, where youth, adults, migrants, and foreign workers, were busy bringing in the cherries.

THIRD BUMPER PEA CROP IN CANS

THE THIRD straight bumper pea crop has been harvested in Wisconsin and estimates put the total at about 12,300,000 cases from 135,000 acres, worth around \$35,000,000.

This compares with 14,000,000 cases from 152,000 acres in 1946, and 15,750,000 cases from 160,000 acres in 1945, an all time record yield.

While the 1947 tonnage is not as great as in 1945, the quality is far better and a much higher percentage of peas will meet the 'fancy grades'. The best yields were running a ton to the acre.

Around 1,500 Texas-Mexicans and 2,700 foreign workers, almost entirely Mexican Nationals, were used for pea canning in the state. These, with all available local labor, took care of the harvest.

City Youth Harvest Peas

IN COLUMBIA COUNTY 35 high school boys met with the farm labor assistant and representatives of one of the canning companies to work out agreements for summer work.

The boys were told what was expected of them and that they must do a good job because not all farmers were sold on the idea of having city youth pitch peas in the fields or at the viners. They did a splendid job harvesting and stuck with the job until it was done. They worked sometimes as much as 15-16 hours a day and were paid 75 cents per hour.

In Marathon county, twenty husky boys from Wausau high school, arrived in the town of Stratford to help with the pea harvest. They were as welcome as "a good soaking rain followed by cool weather" the plant manager said. They were the finest young men they had ever had, and, he said it would do your heart good to watch them in the mess-hall.

The Wausau boys were housed in dormitories built by the company and were fed 'lumber jack' style in the company's own mess-hall. Others stayed on farms in the area where the plant operates.

In Rock county 29 boys were used for field work during the pea harvest. In Sheboygan county most of the high school boys were placed either in the canning plants or in the fields doing field work.

Many of these boys, even the 15 year-olds, pitched peas in the fields and at the viners. They took over all of the work formerly done by foreign workers or adults. For the first time, 15 year-olds were used in the "pinches" and they did a good job.

Comments from Counties

LANGLADE:

About 350 different people filed applications for seasonal farm employment in Langlade county during July, Herbert Hoeft, farm labor assistant, reported. About 125 were needed in the canning crops. Seventy-five had accepted other jobs and were not available when called.

Several family groups and a number of individuals from Langlade county left for Door county to pick cherries. No labor shortage is expected in this county until potato harvest begins.

OUTAGAMIE:

We have several farms where we could place good, single farm hands. Placements can be made immediately for year-round work. These men must be experienced with farm work, reports C. E. Roach, farm labor assistant.

POLK:

The 60 Mexican Nationals who harvested the peas at Milltown, Polk county, will remain to pick sweet corn, according to Myron Groskopp, farm labor assistant.

He also reports that there are two married men with children interested in farm work who cannot be placed because farmers are short of housing quarters.

WINNEBAGO:

Of the 66 workers available at the end of the month, only one was over 15 years of age, reports Karl Callies, farm labor assistant.

Several married men with families are available and could be placed on farms that provided separate housing.

WASHINGTON:

Enough local labor was recruited in and around West Bend to supply the field and plant labor of the West Bend Canning Company. No labor was imported.

About 130 men and 40 women, all Texas-Mexican migrants, were employed in the fields and at the viners by the Rockfield Canning Company.

Reconditioned barracks, formerly used by German War Prisoners, are now being used to house both Texas-Mexicans and Mexican Nationals, who work at the Rockfield plant.

At Granville and Jackson, 16 x 20 feet houses have been built for them.



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued by Extension Editors in Cooperation
with the Farm Labor Staff

September 26, 1947

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Busier Than Ever

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER have been busier this season of the year, says L. G. Sorden, than in any year since Extension took over the responsibility of providing emergency farm labor in 1943.

Demands for seasonal farm workers were more difficult to fill during this period than ever before. Even during the greatest emergencies, farm labor for special crops was never as short as during the weeks sweet corn was being canned.

There are several reasons for this:

First: A continued hot spell brought the corn harvest on with a rush so that workers were needed in all areas at the same time. One canning company reported that they completed their canning in two weeks which normally takes four to five weeks.

Second: Wisconsin's allotment of foreign workers was smaller than in previous years.

Third: The shortage of workers made it necessary to shift them constantly. As soon as one job was done in one area the workers were shifted to complete the work in another area. There has never been so much shifting of workers in the history of the program.

However, good weather contributed to an uninterrupted harvest, and as far as the farm labor office was able to determine, very little corn was passed.

5900 Out-of-State Workers

About 5900 out-of-state workers assisted with the harvest of seasonal crops during September. Of these 2400 were Mexican Nationals, (foreign workers) and about 3500 were Texas Mexican migrants.

A survey of workers between September 4 and 12 showed that about 1000 Texas-Mexicans were snapping sweet corn, 1700 were picking cucumbers in Oconto, Waushara, Brown, and Waupaca counties. Others were harvesting potatoes in Oneida and Langlade counties. The remainder were harvesting vegetable crops and onions in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Jefferson, Walworth and other truck crop producing counties.

This is the first time that Texas-Mexicans have been used to any great extent in northern counties to harvest potatoes.

Potato growers from these counties report that the Texas Mexicans are some of the best workers they have ever had. The same report came from the cherry orchards. In fact it is reported that they picked cleaner and did less damage to the trees than any other workers.

Apple Harvest Begins

The apple harvest in Door and Brown counties started about September 25. Although the harvest is from ten days to two weeks late, Wealthies and other mid-season apples are being harvested now. The crop is fair in volume and of good quality.

About 97 foreign workers are now in Door county and 30 in Brown county helping with the apple harvest.

Apple growers in Kenosha and Waukesha counties have also requested out-of-state help for harvesting their crop.

Move Workers to Sugar Beets

Special effort has been made this year to direct Texas-Mexican workers to sugar beet fields after they have completed the harvest in other crops.

The two sugar beet companies were furnished with a list of the number and location of Texas-Mexicans available for fall work. Special efforts were made, particularly in Waushara and Oconto counties, to get workers who had completed the cucumber harvest which ended about September 20.

There seems to be a real shortage of willing labor available for harvesting sugar beets which will begin about September 29. Labor needs in vegetables, potatoes, and apples have been met as demands occurred. Two other crops, tobacco and cranberries, apparently will not require any out-of-state labor. The high wages paid by these growers and the recruiting carried on locally and in surrounding counties, attract a sufficient number of workers to harvest the crops.

Foreign Workers Moving Out

This is the last year in which the Agricultural Extension Service will operate the farm labor program, one part of which consisted of directing foreign workers to various seasonal crops in the state.

Mexican Nationals, Bahamians and Jamaicans are being shipped to other states, largely to the west to harvest sugar beets. about 1000 have already been shipped and further shipments will be made in the next week.

Wisconsin's quota of foreign workers is 380 after October 15. Most of the workers will have left the state by November 1.

Office of Labor Closes

The office of Labor, Glenn Woodruff's office, which has been working with Extension in the foreign labor program, is closing October 15. Only one man, Paul King, will be retained. He will work with the Chicago office in completing shipments of foreign workers from the state.

Remember the Statistical Report

Statistical reports are due in the state office on October 15. Be sure that your report is in at that time. It will be necessary for us to make our final annual report to Washington before the end of the year. So---do not delay---let's have your report at the earliest possible date.

Narrative reports should be written for every county and will be a part of the regular county agent annual report.

Youth

In Rock county, three times as many corn detassellers were placed during late July and early August as were placed in 1943, the first year of the program. The total placed in those few days was a larger number than was placed for all types of farm work in 1943. Total placements for June, July and August, which amounted to 2037, was twice the number of workers placed the first year of the program.

Due to extremely hot weather, the detasseling season, which usually lasts about four weeks, was crowded into 12 days. This called for an exceptionally large number of workers to be supplied in a short time and resulted in the records made.

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COMMENTS FROM COUNTIES

DANE:

Due to exceptionally dry weather, during August, most farmers in Dane county have been able to get caught up with their farm work.

The rains of August 28 and 29 revived corn and tobacco to such an extent that many farmers will need more help for the harvest than they originally anticipated.

DOOR:

The cherry crop reached more than 18 million pounds. The crop was light compared to last year but not bad compared to other normal years. This is the first time Texas-Mexicans were used for cherry picking. They proved to be good workers and if they can be recruited in large numbers for 1948, Martin Mathey, farm labor assistant, believes that cherry growers will have no trouble getting cherries harvested.

Orchardists might well cooperate with growers for use of Texas-Mexican labor since cherry harvest dovetails very nicely with labor used in beets, corn and apples. It will mean considerable expense to convert their housing to accommodate family groups.

FOND DU LAC:

L. J. Searl, farm labor assistant, is still taking pictures--both "stills" and movies of labor saving machinery made by farmers in his county. He had a display of them at the county fair.

GREEN:

"A few short-termers are still moving from farm to farm," reports E. O. Baker, county agent. Extension workers have taken a very firm stand on transient workers of questionable caliber and are very cautious about placing applicants. Farmers expect that workers sent out from the Extension office have been approved by the Extension people.

LANGLADE:

Potato harvest is in full swing, reports farm labor assistant Herbert Hoeft. School authorities agreed to call a school holiday if necessary to save the crop. Many growers contacted help used in previous years and reported good results.

Tuesday, August 26, only 35 men and women filed unemployment or readjustment claims. This is the lowest number for any one week since the war.

MARATHON:

More than 700 youth were placed on farms during August to pick beans. The prolonged hot weather cut the picking season for both wax and green beans.

OZAUKEE:

High school youth were recruited on a part-time basis to help canning companies process sweet corn, Ray Nedden, farm labor assistant, reported. About 800 youth, aged 10 to 16 years, picked beans for one canning company.



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To all county agents and Farm Labor Assistants:

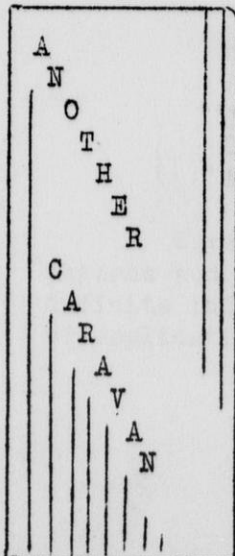
ANOTHER HARVEST BECOMES HISTORY

FARM LABOR for special crops was harder to find this fall than at any time during the past five years. As soon as chilly weather set in, migrant laborers left for the warmer states to pick cotton and to do other kinds of work.

In order to meet the harvest needs of other states who were just as short-handed as Wisconsin, foreign workers were withdrawn from this state before the harvest of vegetables, potatoes, apples and sugar beets was completed. This is the first year since the beginning of the program that such action was necessary.

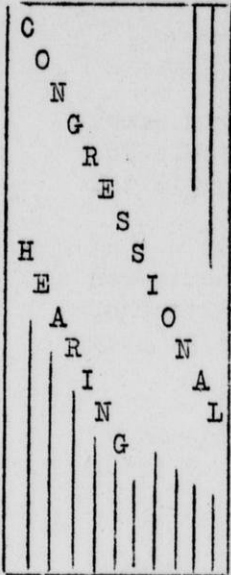
However, the favorable weather continuing throughout the month of October, made it possible to get most of the food crops in sooner than was expected. Hardly a day was lost because of cold or rainy weather and very little of any crop was lost.

The exceptionally fine weather particularly affected the harvesting of sugar beets. Although the labor picture looked dark early in the season, the long continued good weather plus the 1000 Texas-Mexicans, 300 Mexican Nationals, 83 Bahamians, and 45 harvesting machines completed the work on schedule. The first Mexicans to finish sugar beets were shipped back to Mexico on October 31; the rest will leave the state for Mexico by November 8.



A NOTHER CARAVAN, this time a Dairy Caravan demonstrating the Efficient Production and Processing of Quality Milk, will be on tour during the coming months.

The Caravan, financed partly through farm labor funds and partly by counties, is planned to demonstrate methods which will aid the farmer in producing high quality milk, using the most efficient time and labor saving methods.



Probably no more than 30 counties can be accommodated. To date more requests have come in than can be filled. In a number of cases, two or more counties are holding joint meetings at some central point.

WISCONSIN farmers who had ideas or proposals to offer to the United States Congress on a long term national agricultural program, were invited to appear at a hearing in Madison, held by the House of Representatives Agricultural Committee on October 24.

At the hearing which was held at agricultural hall, the following groups mentioned the need of a government sponsored foreign and migrant labor program for agriculture: The Grange, Cash Crops Cooperative, Cannery Association, Muck Growers Association, Cherry and Apple Growers.

The speakers representing these organizations stressed the need of a foreign labor program until enough local and migrant labor was available for farm work in special crops. Some of the growers expressed their willingness to pay a part or all of the costs of bringing foreign workers into the states, but hoped that the federal government would continue to help in recruiting the labor, making contracts, supervising the welfare of the workers, and assisting with the distribution of the workers so all labor would be utilized to the fullest possible extent until time of deportation.

The need for guidance of migrant labor was also indicated. Speakers on Farm Labor pointed out that a program should be carried on and further developed, which would help the orderly direction of these workers from areas of surplus to areas of need. Such a program should include the work already started in many areas of providing better housing, education and health facilities to migrant workers who come in year after year.

Although the above views are held by Wisconsin canners and growers, there seems little possibility at present that a government program for importation of labor will be adopted. A few grower organizations are trying to arrange with immigration and naturalization service of the United States Department of Justice, to keep a very small number of workers in this country.

Several county agents have inquired about bringing in displaced persons and other aliens to work on farms. We have been unable to get any definite information on the success of such efforts. However, any inquiries or applications should be addressed to

Joseph Savoretti
Assistant Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization
Service, Department of Justice
Franklin Trust Building
Philadelphia, 2, Pennsylvania

MIGRANT HOUSING IMPROVES

THERE has been real progress made in housing foreign workers and Texas migrant families. Reports made to the state farm labor office from out-of-state visitors indicate that Wisconsin has more and better housing for migrant workers than many other states.

Considerable improvement has been made in existing housing and many new structures have been erected. Much has been done in improving and re-converting barrack buildings purchased from the government, to make them more suitable for family use.

More interest has also been shown by people in various communities in regard to the education of children of the migrants who live in their midst from early spring to late fall.

Exactly where the responsibility for education of these children belongs is not clear. The State Department of Education places the responsibility upon county school authorities. Some work and investigation have been started on this subject, but not enough to make a conclusive report at this time.



THE HOURLY earnings of foreign workers increased year by year. In 1946, the average earnings for foreign workers in canning crops were 68 cents. Earnings for peas, which were on an hourly basis entirely, were 65 cents per hour. In canning corn, where much of the work was by the ton or on piece work basis, hourly earnings were 71 cents. The average hourly rate for foreign workers in all crops was 70 cents an hour in 1946.

At the beginning of the 1947 season, a minimum wage of 60 cents per hour in vegetables and 65 cents an hour in other crops was set for foreign workers in this state, by the farm labor officials of the state. A good share of the workers earned more than the minimum with an average wage approximately 5 cents an hour higher than 1946.

During the sugar beet harvest, workers were paid 70 cents an hour or the set piecework rates, whichever was the greater. No foreign workers were used for blocking and thinning sugar beets.

AVERAGE HOURLY RATES PAID IN CANNING CROPS:	1944	.55
	1945	.60
	1946	.68
	1947	.70 - .75

AVERAGE HOURLY RATES FOR OTHER CROPS:	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>
Sugar beets (blocking and thinning)		.41	.45
Sugar beets (harvesting)		.51	.66 (one company)
Pickles			.62
General farming		.56	.68
Apples		.58	.67
Cherries		.65	.90
Vegetables	.56	.56	.60

Columbia

With the shortage of foreign labor at the time canning corn was being harvested, many corn fields had to be passed because corn became too hard for processing.

Dane

Most September requests in Dane county were for labor to harvest tobacco or fill silo, reports Thomas Skaar, farm labor assistant. The first killing frost occurred September 29. It is estimated that at least 75 per cent of the corn was out of danger from frost. About 98 per cent of the tobacco was harvested before the frost came, the report says.

Door

All available man power in Door county was recruited for the apple harvest in the latter part of September and early October, reports Martin Mathey, farm labor agent.

The crop was large and good in quality. The rate of pay was high enough so pickers could make a good day's wage.

Green

When farmers were filling silos in September, many needed more help than they could get. A large number of requests were filed in the extension office that could not be filled.

Langlade

In Langlade county the potato harvest started two weeks later than usual and the first killing frost did not come until September 21. Weed burners and chemicals had to be used to kill the vines to permit digging.

County agents and their offices in Shawano, Marathon and Lincoln counties have been most cooperative in assisting us with our labor problems during this harvest season, reports Herbert Hoeft, farm labor assistant. We certainly feel indebted to them, he says. E. L. Mott, Federal Extension Agent, Department of Interior at Neopit, (Indian reservation) also cooperated.

The Texas-Mexicans proved their worth as potato pickers. The four growers who are employing and housing them, state that they are very dependable, and without them they would have been unable to harvest their crop. They would like to have them return, and several other growers are planning to build facilities to house migratory workers next year.

Waushara

Family type Texas-Mexican labor is the most desirable for cucumber harvest, reports F. W. Ocain, farm labor assistant in that county. The crop is picked "field run" and all grading and sorting is done mechanically at the receiving stations.

