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FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly — by Extension Editors and the Farm Labor Staff — April, 1946

TO ALL COUNTY AGENTS AND FARM LABOR ASSISTANTS:

This is the first Farm Labor News Letter prepared this year. We are planning to make it a monthly LETTER to keep you up-to-date on instructions from Washington, changes in situation and procedure, and to report some of the highlights from counties.

Some of the issues will contain summaries of surveys and studies made in various parts of the state concerning different phases of the labor program.

THIS IS THE YEAR TO WORK STILL HARDER

THIS is another year in which wartime food production levels must be secured. While there may be good prospects for a food supply above normal in the United States in 1946, officials of the United States Department of Agriculture estimate that the supply for the rest of the world will be about 12 percent below prewar levels.

The United States was one of the few countries to escape drought last year. Crops were sharply reduced as a result of drought in Africa, the Argentine, and the Far East.

Production was below average in Australia, India, China, Manchuria, and in some parts of Latin America. Russia has stepped up production but is still below prewar level.

Federal officials report that 100 million people will be starving in Europe this year. Several million may die of starvation in India. In China, thousands die by the roadside every day.

All this adds up to another year in which Farm Labor will be the critical factor in production. Without the necessary supply of workers in areas where shortages are acute, government goals to relieve the serious food deficits in foreign lands will not be realized.

The Farm Labor Staff must in every county be ready to assist farmers in using every means to find workers and to find ways of reducing work.

WE CAN help people realize how important it is:

TO PRODUCE more farm products and to grow victory gardens

TO CONSERVE by cutting every kind of waste; save on wheat and fats and oils; use more poultry, eggs, and fresh fruits and vegetables

TO PRESERVE home grown food products for home use

* * *

FOREIGN WORKERS WILL COME

IN ORDER to help farmers meet the labor needs for maximum production, we have again requested about 3,200 foreign workers but have been recently informed that our quota will be only about 2,500 for this year. The proportion of Jamaicans to Mexican Nationals will be about the same as last year, two-thirds Jamaicans and one-third Mexican Nationals.

The situation for Prisoners of War has not changed. Our last information is that none are available.

Certifications for foreign workers are arriving in considerable numbers. If you have not yet made your certification for foreign workers, do so immediately or it will be too late. Our orders must be placed well in advance. If certification has not been made at the time this NEWS LETTER reaches your office, telephone your order to the state office immediately.

* * *

TEXAS MEXICANS

REPORTS from the sugar beet companies indicate that they hope to recruit all or nearly all of the Texas Mexicans they need for spring work. They can not be sure of the number until workers begin to move north, some time in May.

* * *

WAGE BOARDS

WE WANT all counties to hold wage board hearings whether foreign workers are to be used or not. We are still waiting for a number of reports from counties on wage board hearings. Any county which has not sent in the results, is requested to do so at once. No deliveries of foreign workers can be made to any county unless wage board hearings have been held—and going wages established.

These wage board hearings have had a tremendous influence on stabilizing farm wages. Examination of reports of board hearings we have received so far indicate that wages will be somewhat higher this year than last.

* * *

(over)

ADVERTISE YOUR OFFICE

3

TO HELP advertise your office, a new recruiting poster "MEN WANTED FOR FARM WORK" was designed by Extension Editors and sent to all counties.

Cards and arrows, pointing the way to the Farm Labor office, have been ordered and will be out soon. Be sure that these are placed in spots where they will remain most of the summer.

Be sure to keep organizations and agencies working with veterans informed about the critical need for farm workers.

* * *

YOUTH POSTERS

A NUMBER of patriotic posters have been ordered from Washington to assist you in recruiting boys and girls of school age. These should reach you sometime during the latter part of April. They should be placed in or near school and other places where young people are likely to meet.

Since we have a smaller number of foreign workers and our need for farm labor is likely to continue to be high, we need to use all of the appeals we can think of to recruit additional local labor for seasonal work.

We do not have the patriotic appeal of the war this year; therefore, much more promotion work will be needed. The interest of non-farm workers must be sufficiently stimulated to get them to take farm jobs during critical times.

* * *

EQUIPMENT

ON APRIL 11, the Wisconsin Extension Service ordered 4,000 units of equipment for the use of employers of foreign (and domestic) workers while such workers are in the state. This includes bedding and eating equipment which is being purchased by Extension Service and is being made available to growers on a fee basis. If all of the equipment ordered is delivered, there should be a sufficient amount to care for all needs.

* * *

MORE VETERANS RETURNING TO FARMS

REPORTS from counties indicate that many more veterans are returning to farms this year than was the case a year ago. These returned veterans are one of our potential sources of farm labor. Through the Farm Labor Program many of these returned veterans may be helped to suitable permanent employment on farms.

While during the first three months of 1945 only 52 ex-servicemen were placed on farm jobs, during the first three months of 1946, 153 veterans have been placed, 53 in January, 49 in February and 51 in March.

* * *

(more)

HOUSING

INSPECTION of housing for foreign workers will begin as soon as all certifications for foreign workers are in, Glen A. Woodruff, of the office of labor, informs us. Whenever possible, his representatives will contact the county offices when they are inspecting housing in your counties.

* * *

SELECTIVE SERVICE

IT IS unlikely that the wartime policy of Selective Service in Wisconsin will be changed in the near future, Col. John F. Mullen indicated in a recent interview. Throughout the war this organization has given every consideration to the cause of agricultural production and has recommended for deferment every young man essential to agriculture. Under the established policy, local boards have been advised to take every precaution against taking key men from the farms. Col. Mullen is inclined to think there will be no change in method of establishing agricultural classification.

* * *

MONTHLY REPORTS

AS THE Farm Labor program progresses, monthly reports become increasingly important in this office.

As soon as activities begin in the counties, things begin to happen that we want to know about in the state office. Then, too, we must make our reports to Washington.

Last year reports were returned quite promptly. This year, only about one-half of them have come into the state office on time. Reports must leave your office by the third of the month so that we may tabulate them in time to make the deadline in Washington on the tenth.

Be careful about filling out reports. Fill in all of the spaces even if the answer is "zero". Use the reverse side of the report for narrative comments on county labor activities which you think may be interesting or important.

These comments on the situation in your county are greatly appreciated by the state office staff, by the Washington staff, and also by your fellow county agents. Other counties are interested in what you are doing and how you are doing it. Include them, and we will pass them on in the NEWS LETTER. Also, we would like your suggestions as to how the NEWS LETTER may be made more interesting and helpful.

* * *

This is a year of constantly changing conditions and the Farm Labor situation is no exception. There are spots in which the labor shortage will be as critical as ever, even more critical than last year. There are other areas where the situation is easing and conditions may continue to ease as the months go by. We would like to have you indicate these changes in conditions on your monthly reports.

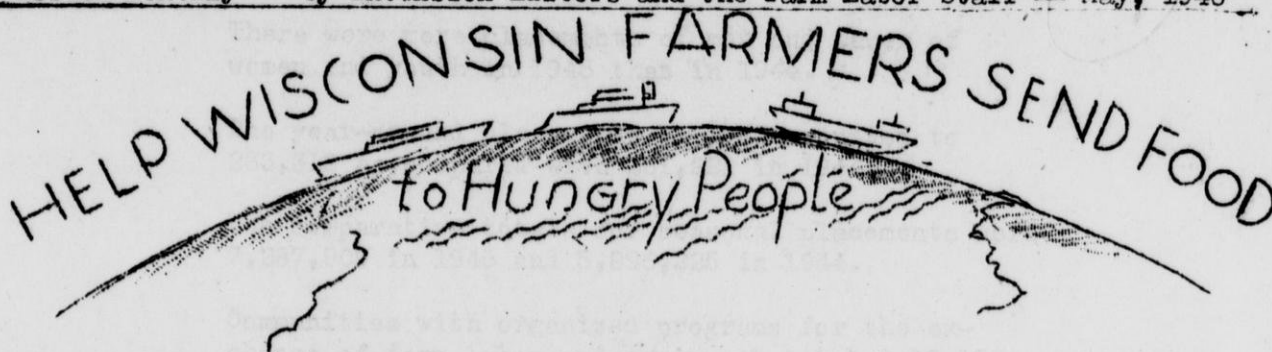
Arlie Mucks
State Supervisor of
Emergency Farm Labor



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly — by Extension Editors and the Farm Labor Staff — May, 1946



TO ALL COUNTY AGENTS AND FARM LABOR ASSISTANTS:

OUR RECORD FOR APRIL

WE WOUND UP the month of April with 1404 unfilled requests for workers after a total of 528 placements were made. Of the unfilled requests 83 were for seasonal workers and 1,321 for year-around help. The small number of requests for seasonal workers is partly due to the fact that the real demand for that type of help will not come for several more weeks. In the table below are shown the demands and placements for April 1946 as compared with a year ago.

1. The total number of workers placed:	1946	1945
Seasonal.....	215	180
Year-around.....	313	588
2. Veterans placed:		
On farms.....	39	7
As tenants.....	9	2
3. Married men housed.....	101	108
4. Number of workers requested by farmers:		
Seasonal.....	200	789
Year-around.....	718	797
5. Unfilled orders:		
Seasonal.....	83	1004
Year-around.....	1321	1343
6. Available for placement at end of month:		
Seasonal.....	139	56
Year-around.....	38	40
Total number of foreign workers ordered.....		5,500
Total number allotted to date.....		3,350

A REPORT from the extension office of information, shows that 7,521,225 placements were made by the 9,000 farm labor offices during 1945, as compared with 6,127,446 in 1944, a gain of 1,393,779 for the past year.

In terms of different individuals, the 1945 placements represent 1,794,000 men, 361,000 women and 741,000 youth, a total of 2,896,000. This shows that there were on an average of 2.6 placements per person.

There were more placements of men and fewer of women and youth in 1945 than in 1944.

The year-around placements in 1945 amounted to 233,316 as compared with 231,221 in 1944.

The comparative totals for seasonal placements were 7,287,909 in 1945 and 5,896,225 in 1944.

Communities with organized programs for the exchange of farm labor and equipment totaled 19,158 in 1945 and 22,017 in 1944.

* * * * *

FROM THE COUNTIES

DOOR: The shortage of farm workers is less serious than it might have been without the work accomplished by war prisoners who were employed in the county until March 1.



Heavy frosts did some damage to fruit trees. It has not been estimated how great the damage done really was.

LANGLADE: Seven elderly men and 47 women were placed during April for seed potato cutting.

FOND DU LAC: At the end of April, the requests for farm hands was 49% over the first four months of 1945. Twenty-one married couples were placed during the month. There seem to be more married couples

shifting from city to country and from farm to farm. Usually married couples pick a place to work and stay there, says L. J. Searl, farm labor assistant. This year couples are staying a few weeks or months and then decide they want a different farm.

MANITOWOC: Finding out how many veterans returned to farms, the farm labor assistant is convinced that the labor situation isn't quite as acute as was at first believed it would be.

POSTERS COMING

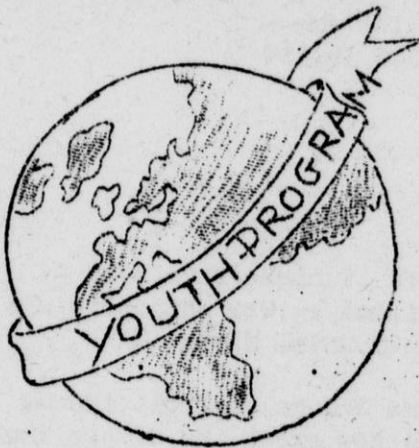
YOUTH posters and other patriotic cards and promotional material ordered from the federal office at Washington have been received and are being forwarded to the counties immediately, reports John A. James, assistant farm labor supervisor. If you have any extra "You Can Help" posters, please return to the State Farm Labor Office, Agricultural Hall, Madison. They will be distributed to counties requesting more.

YOUTH PROGRAM SHOWS RESULTS

AN EXCELLENT and complete youth recruiting program is being carried on in Barron county by Mollie A. Coe, farm labor assistant. Because it gives such a good picture of the youth situation in one county, and because the method may be adapted in many other counties, we are reporting her procedure in full.

One of the first things Mrs. Coe did was to hold meetings in each of the Barron county high schools to obtain registration for farm labor volunteers. The number of boys interviewed in each of the high schools was as follows: Chetek, 55; Rice Lake, 203; Dallas, 8; Prairie Farm, 40; Cameron, 58; Turtle Lake, 62; Cumberland, 66; and Barron, 140.

Lists of all high school boys expressing interest and willingness to work on farms were prepared. The information supplied on the lists included the age, weight, and previous experience in farm work and whether the boy could work at a full or part time job. These lists, together with other information were sent to farmers requesting youth for farm help.



Each boy who registered received a list of farm job openings in his own neighborhood so that he could contact the farmer of his choice and deal with him directly. The boys also received a card which was returned to the farm labor office when they were no longer available.

The results of this survey disclosed that of the 632 boys interviewed, 268 were needed on the home farms; 62 signed up for jobs immediately; 113 were available for full time jobs when school was out and 24 for part time work. Of the remainder, 117 will be working on non-farm jobs, 25 will enter military service and 23 were not employed and not interested in work.

Of the boys interviewed, 39 said they had "lifetime" experience on the farm and 13 others had four or more years experience in agricultural work.

* * * * *

SELECTIVE SERVICE

THE NEW Selective Service Amendment, providing for the non-induction of 18 and 19 year olds and fathers should help ease the farm labor shortage during the summer, according to Marvin A. Schaars, of the Selective Service headquarters.

According to the new law, men under 20 years of age will not be ordered for pre-induction physical examinations or be inducted.

The Act was extended for only 45 days, or until July 1. During this period the Congress must consider whether the act is to be further extended or permitted to expire. Young men reaching 18 years of age, however, must register on their 18th birthdays, Mr. Schaars states.

Arlio Mucks
L. G. Sorden
E. Long

FOREIGN WORKERS ALLOTTED TO DATE

4.

THIS month we are including a list of temporary allotments of foreign workers based upon Wisconsin's 1946 quota. Some drastic cutting of requests was necessary to make the supply go around. A few cancellations have already been made and we expect some more. This may allow for some adjustment in allotments.

County	Company or Grower - allotments as of May 30	Jamaicans	Mexicans
Bayfield	Bayfield Canning Co., Bayfield.....		
Brown	The Larson Co., Green Bay.....	25	
Calumet	Valderez Canning Co., Hilbert.....	15	
	Hipke and Sons, New Holstein.....	23	
	Dundas Canning Corp., Dundas.....	30	
	Calumet Dutch Corp., Brillion.....	20	
	" " " Cedar Grove.....	20	
	Denton Asbusher, Chilton.....	1	
	Henry Heinmann, ".....	1	
	Lester Blonien, ".....	1	
	Chilton Canning Co., Chilton.....	15	
Clark	Owen Canning Co., Owen.....	10	
	Loyal Canning Co., Loyal.....	30	
Columbia	California Packing Corp., Arlington.....	80	
	Cambria Canning Corp., Cambria.....	25	50
	Fall River Canning Corp., Fall River.....		55
	Oconomowoc-Poynette Canning Co., Poynette.....	45	
	Pardeeville Canning Co., Pardeeville.....		25
	Richland Canning Corp., Friesland.....	45	
	Stokely Foods Inc., Columbus.....	35	
Dane	Sun Prairie Canning Co., Oconomowoc.....	45	
	Waunakee Canning Co., Waunakee.....	30	
	Stoughton Canning Co., Fall River.....	45	
	Postweiler Farms, Madison.....	6	
	Joe Racek, Mazomanie.....	12	
Dodge	Brownsville Canning Co., Brownsville.....	30	
	Clyman Canning Corp., Clyman.....		40
	Hustisford Canning Co., Hustisford.....	20	
	Brownsville Canning Co., Iron Ridge.....	15	
	Reeseville " " Reeseville.....	20	
	Star Canning Co., Lomira.....		25
	Waupun Canning Co., Waupun.....		40
	Central Wisconsin Canning Corp., Fox Lake.....	135	
	" " " " Beaver Dam.....	125	
	Stokely Foods Inc., Beaver Dam.....	30	
	" " " Horicon.....	45	
	" " " Astico.....		100
Eau Claire	Lange Canning Corp., Eau Claire.....	25	
Fond du Lac	Central Wisconsin Canning Corp., Ripon.....		70
	" " " " Rosendale.....		175
	Mammoth Springs Canning Co., Oakfield.....		30
	" " " " Eden.....		30
	American Stores Dairy Co., Fairwater.....	20	
	Stokely Foods Inc., Brandon.....		40
Grant	Klindt Geiger Canning Co., Cassville.....	12	
	Lancaster Canning Co., Lancaster.....	20	
	Grand River Canning Co., Markesan.....	40	
Green Lake	Markesan Canning Co., Markesan.....		50

(over)

County	Company or Grower	Jam.	Mex.	5
Green Lake	Dr. J. A. Freudenberg, Markesan.....		11	
	River View Canning Corp., Markesan.....		50	
	Fuhreman Canning Co., Berlin.....	50		
Iowa	Mineral Point Coop. Packers, Mineral Point.....	25		
	Cobb Canning Co., Cobb.....	30		
Jackson	Alma Center Coop. Strawberry Shipping Association Alma Center.....	100		
Jefferson	Libby McNeill and Libby, Lake Mills.....	25		
	Watertown Canning Co., Watertown.....		30	
	Waterloo Canning Co., Waterloo.....	18		
	Larson Canning Co., Ft. Atkinson.....	50		
Kenosha	Frank Schaefer, Kenosha.....	3		
Langlade	Antigo Canning Co., Antigo.....	25		
Marathon	Oconomowoc Canning Co., Stratford.....	30		
Milwaukee	Arthur Paetzke, Milwaukee.....	2		
	Joe Weiss and Sons, Milwaukee.....	8		
	Gene Tehan, Milwaukee.....		30	
	Rowen Urban, Milwaukee.....		5	
Outagamie	Elmer F. Root, Hortonville.....	2		
	Seymour Canning Co., Seymour.....	25		
	Fuhreman Canning Co., Appleton.....	60		
	Fox Valley Canning Co., Hortonville.....	60		
Ozaukee	Oswald Baehman, Thiensville.....		4	
	Fredonia Canned Foods, Fredonia.....	35		
	Krier Preserving Corp., Belgium.....	60		
	Knellsville Pea Canning Co., Knellsville.....		20	
	Saukville Canned Foods Inc., Saukville.....	25		
	Herman Hahn, Thiensville.....		4	
	Herbert Nieman, Thiensville.....	50		
Pepin	Durand Canning Co., Durand.....	12		
Polk	Stokely Foods Inc., Milltown.....	35		
	" " " Frederic.....	15		
Racine	John Stefanik and Sons, Racine.....		6	
	A. H. Horner and Sons, Racine.....	6		
	C. R. Nelson, Racine.....	6		
	V. N. Mordja and Sons, Racine.....		4	
	Duster Bros., Racine.....		3	
Rock	Libby McNeill and Libby, Janesville.....		45	
	Walsh Bros. Farms, Beloit.....		2	
Rusk	Stokely Foods Inc., Ladysmith.....	20		
St. Croix	Friday Canning Co., New Richmond.....	55		
Sheboygan	Feidel Canneries, Adell.....		20	
	Waldo Canning Co., Waldo.....	18		
	Elkhart Lake Canning Co., Elkhart Lake.....	20		
Trempealeau	Blair Canning Co., Blair.....	20		
Vernon	Dorchester Canning Co., Hillsboro.....	40		
Walworth	Libby McNeill and Libby, Walworth.....		45	
	Turtle Valley Farms, Delevan.....		21	
	Elkhorn Canning Co., Elkhorn.....	22		
Washington	Green Valley Food Prod. Corp., Germantown.....		15	
Waupaca	Mrs. Elsie Newman and Sons, Readfield.....	6		
Waukesha	Oconomowoc Canning Corp., Oconomowoc.....	60		
	Ewald Engel, Oconomowoc.....		8	
Winnebago	Arthur Lenz, Larsen.....	3		
	Winneconne Canning Corp., Winneconne.....	35		
	Wisconsin State Cannery Corp., Pickett.....	40		
Wood	Sampson Canning Co., Wisconsin Rapids.....	30		
Menominee, Mich.	Superior Sugar Beet Corp., Menominee, Mich.....		100	
	TOTAL	2201	1153	

JUN 29 1946



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly — by Extension Editors and the Farm Labor Staff — June, 1946

TO ALL COUNTY AGENTS AND FARM LABOR ASSISTANTS:

BUSY YEAR SO FAR

Just to let you know what has been going on around the state, we have set down this page of figures which include farm labor activities up to June 1. As the figures indicate, it has been a busy year so far.

		Seasonal	Year round
No. of domestic workers ordered per month:	January	175	779
	February	108	701
	March	136	973
	April	200	735
	May	198	670
No. of unfilled orders on hand:	January	178	1262
	February	210	1227
	March	273	1513
	April	88	1453
	May	338	1648
Available for placement June 1:	January	2	2
	February	-	30
	March	1	32
	April	2	10
	May	130	64
Total number of placements:	January	29	256
	February	92	249
	March	76	295
	April	215	323
	May	160	314
Training in utilization of labor:	January	75	75
	February	50	75
	March	50	75
	April	75	158
	May	75	183
Selective Service cases investigated:	January	384	
	February	880	
	March	872	
	April	1050	
	May	1122	

Bayfield Cannery and Growers Make Plans for Bean Harvest

Getting pickers for the bean harvest is an annual problem in every county producing beans for canning. This year canners and growers in Bayfield decided to work out an efficient program for the 1946 crop. At a meeting held early this spring, an attempt was made by the two groups to pool their efforts in a more effective manner, the county agent reports.

Among the proposals mutually agreed upon were matters of recruitment, transportation, assignment of pickers, hours of work, and minimum quantities to be picked by both adults and children.

It was agreed that local help was to be given preference of employment. No outside help is to be called until no more local help can be recruited. Growers not complying with established regulations will not have their beans accepted at the canneries.

All Equipment Arrived in Wisconsin

For the past several years, sleeping and eating equipment for foreign labor camps was leased from the army. This year Extension was authorized to purchase supplies for farmers and growers in the fruit and vegetable growing areas who ordered foreign workers. More than 20,000 pieces have been purchased which include 3,000 beds, 9,250 blankets, 4,000 dining room and kitchen units.

All equipment ordered has arrived in Wisconsin and will be delivered before July 1, except about 1,000 pillows being shipped from Ogden, Utah, which are still on the way.

There will be some shortages, due to cuts made in amounts allowed for purchase. Attempts have been made, without much success, to make further purchases through the War Assets Administration. Some orders received recently have been filled from materials not required by growers who cancelled foreign help ordered. Counties still short should call J. A. James, of the College of Agriculture, for information concerning these surplus articles.

It is hoped that it will not be necessary to move much of this equipment in the fall and that persons now having it will clean and store it ready for use next year. To date the government has not authorized Extension to sell this material. A service charge will soon be collected for the use of equipment this year.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTIES

BARRON Sixty-six bean pickers were recruited in Barron county and organized into groups, ready for the call to the fields.

The Farm Labor assistant, Mrs. Mollie A. Coe, teamed up with the U.S.E.S. and together they put on a "Farm Labor and Farm Training for Veterans" program over the local radio.

A considerable amount of time is being spent by the labor assistant in surveying farm openings both for the purpose of determining the greatest need for workers and for finding the farms which offer the greatest advantages for high school boys.

BUFFALO Of 20 men referred to the Farm Labor office only one had previous experience on the farm. At present 159 Buffalo county farmers are still begging for help.

COLUMBIA Texas-Mexicans are not arriving as rapidly as expected. They are badly needed by onion growers to weed. In the meantime, sulphuric acid sprays are being used to reduce rampant weed growth.

DANE We expect the demand for seasonal help to jump during June because haying and tobacco transplanting seasons will be in full swing, reports R. V. Hurley. Both of these jobs require extra help.

An increase of applications for employment from high school boys is expected because industries cannot employ these boys. Contracting firms cannot get materials to keep the boys working.

DOOR The biggest cherry crop in the history of the state is anticipated in Door county. Orchardists and farm labor agents are busy preparing for the rush season. They are now getting set to recruit pickers from neighboring counties where they can be spared.

Wisconsin youth stand ready to take their places in the food production program for 1946. In many counties hundreds of them have enrolled for summer jobs as these reports from counties show.

J. F. Shaughnessy, Farm Labor assistant, Milwaukee, writes that he will have more boys wanting farm jobs than he can place. Industry is not taking so many boys during the vacation period this year. Shaughnessy suggests that other counties who might need these boys contact him at 218 West Wells Street, Milwaukee 3, or call Daly 0893.

In Langlade county Herbert Hoeft carried out a successful youth recruiting campaign in cooperation with school officials. A total of 650 boys and girls enrolled for summer work on farms.

Fifty-nine city boys and three girls signed up for the entire summer. Of these, 44 boys are returning to the same farms on which they worked last summer. This alone would indicate that the youngsters gave a good account of themselves last summer.

For seasonal work, city and village youth signed up as follows: 50 boys and 17 girls for haying; 2 boys for pea harvest; 76 boys and 211 girls for potato picking; 32 boys and 2 girls for potato harvest other than picking; 17 boys and 46 girls for bean picking.

Of the village and city youth, 116 had jobs for the summer work other than in agriculture, the survey disclosed.

With the closing of the high schools, the labor situation in Marathon county should ease considerably.

A survey made of all high schools in the county, showed that about 400 boys and girls will be working on farms this summer. Some will be helping on the home farms and others will be working for relatives or neighbors. Another 40 town boys and girls volunteered for farm work during the summer.

About 170 boys and girls have been recruited for weeding, hoeing and harvesting cash crops in Oconto county. The recruiting program was carried on with the assistance of the high schools. Three good crews have been organized in local communities where boys and girls can work in their home communities under supervision of an adult leader.

LANGLADE "Eight of ten different volunteer leaders who assisted with the Farm Labor Program this past month are members of our USDA Council," says the report from Langlade county.

PEPIN The help situation in Pepin county is considerably improved this summer by the return of many of the boys from the armed services. Most of these boys have returned to their home farms but some are operating farms for themselves. A few are working as hired men on other farms.

Another indication that the work situation is going to be better is the fact that a number of high school girls have volunteered to do corn detasseling work. Some of this group worked last year and some who have never worked before have volunteered. Last year when detasseling started there were not enough workers. This year enough have already signed up.

The present rate at which boys and girls are volunteering for bean picking, would seem to indicate that there will be enough volunteers this year without special recruiting effort.

PIERCE The farm labor situation has apparently eased up a bit in Pierce county due partly to the favorable weather during May which permitted spring work to move along without delays. Also, there are about 50 to 60 boys taking on-the-job training and operating their own farms which has taken up considerable slack in the county help situation.

RACINE A number of our larger truck growers are getting Texas Mexicans by direct contact. Generally this is some of the old help coming back and in some cases bringing other families.

WASHINGTON The labor situation in Washington county is still acute. To remedy their plight, they are trying to get some Milwaukee youth through the Milwaukee Farm Labor office. Any person will be accepted, experienced or inexperienced. Many of the farmers need help, but not always a full time or competent hired man.

WAUSHARA All year round help is very scarce. Cucumber growers will need some help and are counting on getting some of the sugar beet workers in their off-season, who can return to the beet fields in time for the harvest.

Arlie Mucks
L. G. Sorden
E. Long

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF THE 1945 EXTENSION FARM LABOR PROGRAM JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1945 ^{1/}

(48 STATES AND HAWAII)

RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT

Number of orders received from farmers for farm labor 1,842,597
Estimated number of different farmers with whom one or more workers were placed 669,380
Total number of farm labor placements 7,521,612

	SEASONAL PLACEMENTS ^{2/}	YEAR-ROUND PLACEMENTS ^{2/}	TOTAL SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND PLACEMENTS
MEN	5,336,561	^{3/} 200,769	5,537,330
WOMEN	657,678	13,158	670,836
YOUTH	1,291,419	22,027	1,313,446
TOTAL	7,285,658	235,954	7,521,612

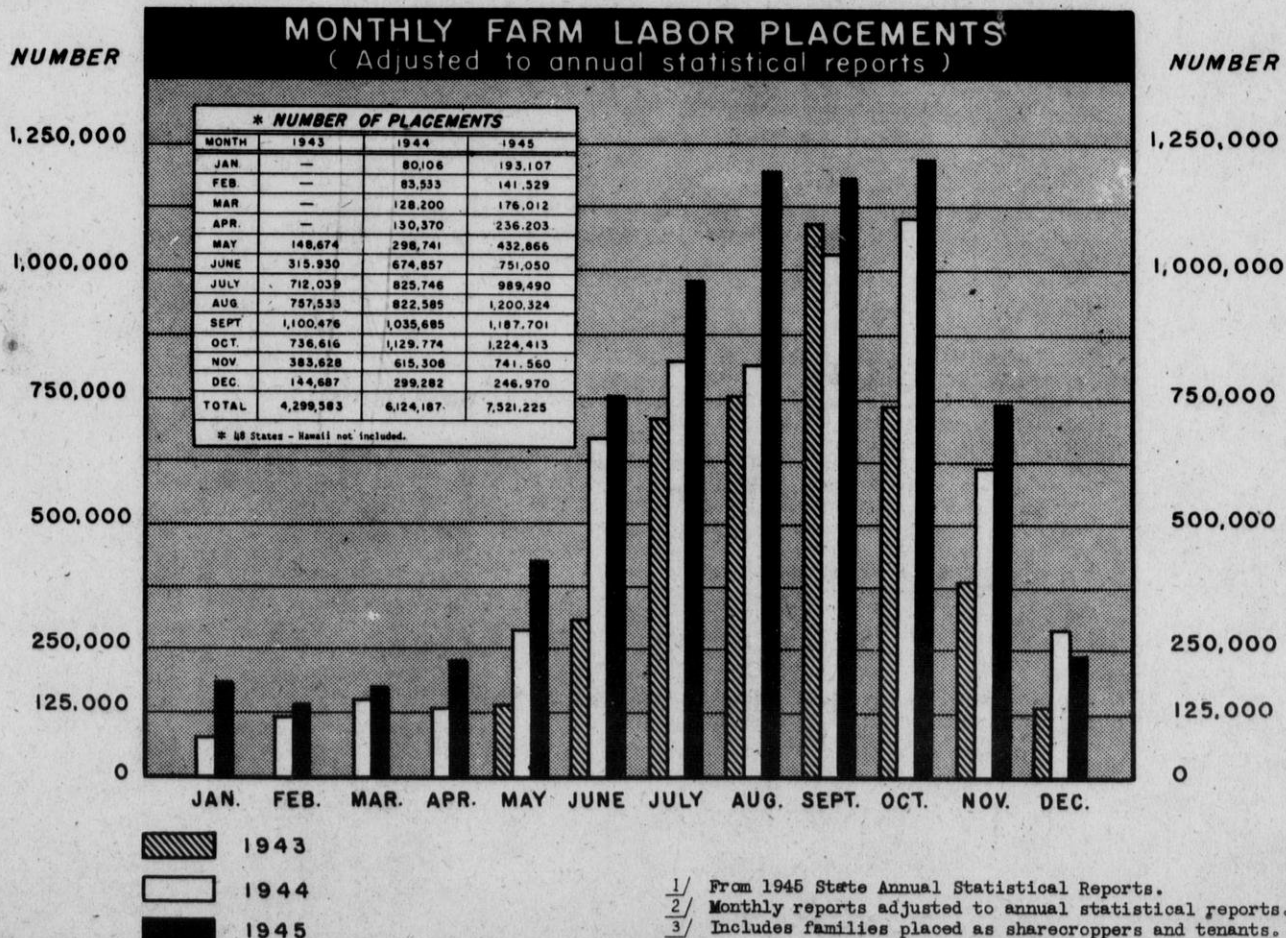
Estimated number of different individuals placed:

a. Men 1,794,379
b. Women 380,536
c. Boys (under 18) 464,538
d. Girls (under 18) 276,806
Total 2,896,259

Estimated number of persons (in addition to those placed), not regularly engaged in agriculture, who did farm work as a result of efforts of volunteer leaders or of educational programs 573,960

Estimated number of youth placed who lived in:

a. The farm home where employed. 147,711
b. Farm labor camps 28,168
c. Own home (transported daily to and from work) 565,465
Total 741,344



HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Number of intrastate workers whose transportation was paid wholly or in part from Extension Farm Labor funds	15,373
Number of farm labor camps receiving financial support from Extension Farm Labor funds	404
Number of different workers housed in facilities provided wholly or in part from Extension Farm Labor funds	97,336

TRAINING AND LABOR UTILIZATION

Number of farms assisted through meetings, farm visits, neighborhood leaders, or by other personal contacts in regard to labor-saving methods, sharing labor and equipment, etc.	944,293
Estimated number of man-days devoted to obtaining more efficient utilization of labor--	
a. by Extension workers	93,685
b. by volunteer leaders	88,883
Total	182,568
Number of communities with organized program for exchanging labor and equipment	19,193
Number of organized training courses conducted.	1,116
Number of different individual workers trained for farm work:	
a. Men	171,568
b. Women	34,008
c. Youth	133,995
Total	339,571
Number of farm people, labor foremen, and supervisors of youth labor given organized instruction in regard to training and use of inexperienced labor. . .	108,096

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Number of agricultural workers on whom information was supplied for use by Selective Service 1/.	625,782
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ORGANIZATION

Number of placement offices operated--	
a. by employed personnel	3,734
b. by volunteer leaders.	4,021
Total	7,755
Number of county farm labor advisory committees	2,165
Membership of county farm labor advisory committees:	
a. Men	27,865
b. Women	3,446
Total	31,311
Number of subcommittees of county farm labor advisory committees:	
a. City, town, and village mobilization committees	2,931
b. Victory Farm Volunteer subcommittees	1,297
c. Women's Land Army subcommittees	325
d. Camp and other committees	1,005
Total	5,558
Number of county farm-wage boards	1,430
a. Number of hearings held	2,401
Number of volunteer leaders assisting with the farm labor program (includes members of committees).	89,869
Days devoted to farm labor by:	
a. County agricultural agents (employed on regular Extension funds)	123,459
b. Other Extension personnel (employed on regular Extension funds)	58,621
c. Personnel employed on Farm Labor funds--	
1. Farm labor assistants (field)	340,943
2. Farm labor clerks	341,228
3. Camp personnel.	21,599
4. Other personnel	56,083
d. Employees of the U. S. Employment Service paid from Farm Labor funds under contract with the Extension Service.	20,587
Total	962,530

1/ Includes some duplication since information was supplied on some workers more than once during the year.

May 21, 1946



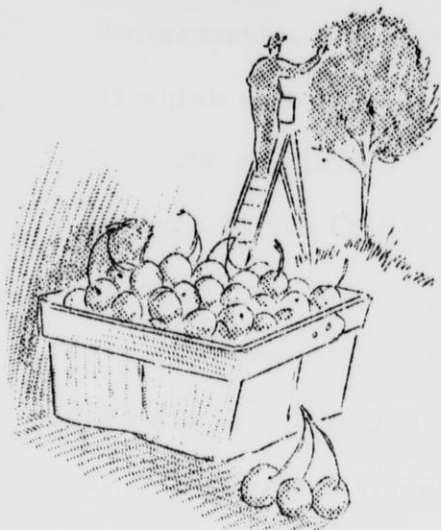
FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Issued Monthly

By Extension Editors in Cooperation
with the Farm Labor Staff

July, 1946



To All County Agents and Farm Labor Assistants:

Passed First Labor Peak

The state has successfully passed the first labor peak.

The pea harvest has just been completed.

Haying is done or well under way in most parts of the state.

Grain is ripe in the southern and eastern counties. Much of it has been combined and more is cut and shocked, waiting to be threshed.

The cherry harvest is in full swing and the largest crop in the history of Door county is being picked, processed, sold and shipped just as fast as available plant facilities can handle the fruit.

Beans will be ready for picking about August 5th and the harvesting of sweet corn which will usher in the next big rush is due to begin about the 15th of August.

FOREIGN LABOR

RAPIDLY changing conditions during the spring and summer of 1946, brought many changes in the schedule of assignments for foreign labor. A survey made early in March by L. G. Sorden and Erven Long showed that fruit and vegetable canners and growers requested between 4,000 and 5,000 foreign workers.

(more)

With no war prisoners available, and Jamaicans and Mexicans preferred by most growers, a request for 3,200 of these workers was made by State Farm Labor officials.

Early in May several canners cancelled or reduced their early orders. Consequently, the state cut its orders to 3,000 Jamaicans and Mexicans, some of which were already in the state.

The day before delivery it was announced that the supply of foreign workers in the United States was so low that the Office of Labor was forced to substitute other West Indian natives.

As a result, Wisconsin received 1,452 Jamaicans, 196 Barbadians, 29 Bahamians, 5 Hondurans and 1,924 Mexican Nationals. By the end of July a total of 3,606 foreign workers were in the state. They have been employed in harvesting peas, weeding and hoeing vegetable crops, weeding and thinning sugar beets and picking the early cherries.

Lack of Plant Labor Adds Difficulties

After a slow start in cold rainy weather which set the pea crop back about two weeks a sudden hot spell changed the situation and the crop matured earlier than was expected. Peas came in faster than plants could process them and began to pile up in the canneries. In July some extra Mexicans were brought into the state directly from Mexico and were put into the pea fields to complete the harvest before being sent to the cherry orchards to help harvest the cherry crop. This allowed some of the field workers to be released for work in plants which eased the situation in the canneries and helped to complete the pea harvest on time.

The pea pack now completed, while estimated to be somewhat less than the 1945 total, is higher in quality. Peas considered acceptable under war-time

(more)

conditions were skipped by canners in 1946 and rather large acreages were left for seed.

Labor Needs Met

Despite the many difficulties, canners' needs for foreign labor were well supplied and most of them on time. That the foreign labor available to the state was handled with efficiency, is shown by the fact that large numbers were shifted over an area of about 3,000 miles with almost no loss of time or crops.

Canning Peas 6% Under 1945:

Production of processing peas is estimated to be about 6 per cent under the 1945 yield, but considerably above the 10-year average, the Crop Reporting Service announced on July 24. Total acreage planted and yield per acre are also slightly below 1945 but above the 10-year average.

ITEM	1935-44 Average	1945	1946
Pounds per acre (Shelled Peas)	1,570	2,270	2,100
No. of Acres Processing Peas in Production	116,640	152,000	150,000
TONS Produced (Shelled Peas)	93,090	170,200	159,600

Farm Labor Funds for 1947

Favorable action by the Senate on the Third Deficiency Bill (HR6885) passed July 16, assured funds for the operation of the Farm Labor Program during the year 1947. The Farm Labor item, included in the Bill passed both the House and Senate without a change in wording.

Foreign Workers Give Satisfaction

Employers of foreign workers voiced almost unanimous approval for the quality of work done by foreign workers this year. They are giving better services than last year's group, and are probably the best that have been employed in the state. This may be due to the fact that the office of labor was able to recruit workers from better places in the Islands and to contact better Mexican workers.

Farmers Use Foreign Labor

Most canning factories are using foreign labor for other crops between the pea and corn harvest. Some of them have arranged with farmers in their communities to use this labor during the slack between the pea and the corn pack.

At the end of the pea pack, workers released from peas were sent to the cherry orchards in Door county. The Barbadians and Bahamians, however, were sent East in exchange for some Mexicans. More workers, directly from Mexico are being loaned for the cherry harvest. We may be asked to keep some of the Mexicans for the fall crops and release Jamaicans to other states in their places.

Door County Says "Thank YOU"

The generous response by the people of the state to the appeal for cherry pickers was most gratifying, say county agent G. I. Mullendore and Farm Labor Assistant Martin Mathey. County agents have given cooperation to the limit of their possibilities in getting their county people to recruit cherry pickers, Mathey emphasized. He wishes to thank all who have assisted.

Groups of pickers of 30 or more have come from as far south as Rochester and as far north as Ironwood, Michigan. The campaign, carried on in 19 counties consisted of three advance newspaper stories prepared by Farm Labor staff which were sent to the county agents who released them to their local papers. They received liberal space in papers, county agents report.

Seven radio stations had paid contracts for spots and announcements which were also prepared by the farm labor staff.

On July 31 the Door County Farm Labor assistant was able to report the following number of recruits on the job:

Door county men, women and youth	2641
State domestics " "	700
Out of State Whites	608 (Michigan)
State Colored (Racine County	13
Out of state colored	151 (Louisiana)
Texas Mexicans	365
Indians	<u>659</u>
	5137

A total of 2257 foreign workers were in the state at the end of July making a total of more than 7300 workers now picking the history-making crop of 1946. Plant crews and company officials are working night and day to get the cherries picked and processed while they are in prime condition.

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Ralph Mitby, Rock county, reports that he has not only had more requests for farm help during the month of June, 1946, than in 1945, but also that he was better able to meet the greater demand. He placed 825 different youth in detasseling corn in Rock county, and at the same time an additional 123 doing other work. Earlier, he placed 144 boys and girls in strawberry harvest.

WAGE RATES

Wage rates for hired farm workers in the United States were eight per cent higher on July 1 than they were a year ago, and the highest on record, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Since April 1, wage rates have risen 10 per cent, about double the usual increase during the quarter. June rates were 331 per cent of the 1935-39 average for this date and 390 per cent of the 1910-1914 average.

Wages for farm work have advanced rapidly since 1941, the report indicates. On July 1, 1941, daily wage rates without board averaged \$1.98 compared with the present rate of \$4.84.

BROWN: The labor problem is easing up in this county because high school boys are willing to work on farms this summer. Fifty-three men, women and youths were placed on farms and gardens during the month of June. Efforts are still being made to secure help for field work and cherry picking, reports R. J. Looze, Farm Labor Assistant.

The majority of cherry pickers will be mothers and boys and girls between 12 and 16 years of age. They are being transported to the orchards daily. Twenty-six Jamaicans, housed at Firm Dell farms near Oneida were used by the Larson Company at Fort Atkinson and are now working for the Seymour Canning Co.

COLUMBIA: Columbia county is again cooperating with canning companies and vegetable growers to help supply the labor needed. About 200 people from the vicinity of Portage have been recruited for canning factories. Five buses in addition to cars leave Portage daily carrying workers to the canning factories.

Reports from Columbia county state that they are keeping most of their foreign workers over between the pea and corn pack for regular work in the canning factories.

DODGE: About 30 high school boys from Milwaukee were placed on Dodge county farms again this year. This program is in its third year and farmers in the county like the kind of help they are getting from these boys. Single and young married men are still hard to get.

GREEN LAKE: The farm labor situation is generally better. All but a few farmers were able to care for their crops during the rush season. Only two canning companies had foreign labor. The others were able to secure local help.

DOOR: The cherry harvest is now in full swing. County agents in 19 counties have been contacted in an effort to recruit enough pickers from the near-by counties. Herbert Schwartz, farm labor assistant, who has been touring the eastern part of the state and upper Michigan reports excellent cooperation from all the counties and extension agents.

Door county expects to have about 6,000 pickers for the entire cherry industry. Of these about 2500 will be foreign workers, 1650 domestic workers recruited from other counties and about 2,000 pickers from Door county.

Camps have been inspected for both foreign and domestic workers. Many improvements have been inaugurated in the housing set up all over the county. These preparations made by growers will do much to make 1946 more comfortable and will reduce the number of complaints of former years.

The rate at which pickers are arriving at present would seem to indicate that the cherry harvest will be well taken care of.



FARM LABOR NEWS

Extension Service, University of Wisconsin, Madison

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August, 1946

Sorden Sums Up The Situation

ALTHOUGH there are still some workers needed, the labor situation in canning corn harvest has eased somewhat. The acreage in the state planted to sweet corn was the largest in history. Dry weather, however, forced the abandonment of some acreage. So, in the end, about the same number as last year will be actually harvested.

The anticipated total yield per acre is about 60-80 per cent of last year's all time high.

To harvest this corn, the farm labor office had planned to have three to four thousand foreign workers, Jamaicans, Barbadians, and Mexican Nationals in the state to supplement the local labor supply.

However, at the last minute, recruitment of Mexican Nationals was cancelled by the Mexican government and Wisconsin was left with a shortage of about 1,000 workers. Since then, but too late for the corn harvest, the Mexican government has allowed recruitment to be resumed.

Since the 21 of August we have been trying to replace these Mexicans. Luckily we were able to get in about three hundred Mexicans from Nebraska, more than half of whom had to be delivered to potato growers in the Rhinelander-Eagle River-Antigo region.

Some Texas Mexicans, all citizens of the United States, recruited by individual canners have come and others, who were in the state, stayed for the corn harvest.

Through the cooperation of the Kansas Extension Service, twenty-four interstate domestic workers were recruited for picking sweet corn. Wisconsin Extension Service arranged transportation for them.

In northern Wisconsin, county agents and farm labor assistants were able to recruit 31 workers for southern and central plants. Eleven of these came from Taylor county, four from Price, three from Ashland, five from Bayfield, and eight from Iron county.

Foreign Workers Needed

THERE will still be need for foreign workers after the corn has been harvested. Erven Long of the farm labor office points out that there are still such major crops as vegetables, apples, sugar beets and cranberries to be harvested.

More than 200 Mexican Nationals are now harvesting potatoes in Vilas, Oneida, and Langlade counties. These workers arrived from Nebraska potato fields and will be needed most of the month. A good crop is reported by most growers.

Severe frost damage in the northern half of the state, released foreign workers in that area for work in the corn fields of the southern counties. Foreign workers employed in pickles and corn in Oconto, Milltown (Polk) and others from Ladysmith and Shiocton, were moved south where they were needed for corn picking.

Marvin Schaars Resigns

MARVIN A. SCHAARS, who resigned from Selective Service, wishes to express his sincere appreciation of the fine cooperation he has had from the county agents and farm labor assistants these past four years during which he has been dealing with agricultural deferment problems.

Erven Long Accepts Fellowship at Chicago

ERVEN LONG, assistant in the state farm labor office, is leaving the University of Wisconsin September 14, to do graduate study in agricultural economics at the University of Chicago where he has been granted a Farm Foundation fellowship.

While on the farm labor staff, Long has been in charge of surveys and reports, in which capacity he has done several research studies of real importance to the farm labor program. He has also assisted in the foreign labor program.

The entire staff regrets very much to see him go, for his services have been extremely valuable during the past three years. However, we congratulate him on his receiving this excellent fellowship and wish him well in his studies at Chicago.

Rumor of High Wages Attracts Help

THE HELP SITUATION has changed decidedly since the beginning of the war. Lloyd Thompson, Vernon county farm labor assistant, reports a fine response to a news article appealing for help in the tobacco harvest.

Rumors got around that wages would run from one to three dollars an hour. This really brought the people in from all directions, he says. He had as many as fifty people register in one day, the majority without experience.

A check showed large growers were paying \$1.00 to \$1.50 per hour, some furnishing room and board. One of the largest growers said that in all the years of crop raising, this year had everything beat for applications from people from outside areas. He turned away as many as sixty people wanting work.

Vernon county is now in the midst of harvesting one of the biggest crops of tobacco in the history of the county, reports Thompson. The late crop is especially good.

Shortage of experienced labor for harvesting is the No. 1 problem. But farmers are also worrying about a shortage of curing sheds and tobacco lathe. It is impossible to get these materials or to build shed room under present conditions.

* * *

Rock County Record Speaks For Itself

by Ralph Mitby, FLA

Boys and girls recruited for detasseling	889
Adult Supervisors	47
Men placed (seasonal)	30
Youth seasonal, not detasseling	105
Men placed year-round	30
Youth placed, year-round	3

Total placements for July 1125

Total placements for June and July, 1946 1443

The 1125 placements made in July, 1946, exceed the total number of placements made in 1943, the first summer the Farm Labor Program was in operation in Rock county.

FROM THE COUNTIES

About 45 Indians from Shawano county are working in the potato fields in Langlade. Local growers are transporting those who come from a distance. Other groups from Aniwa, Birnamwood, and some from Lincoln county are driving back and forth daily. More farm folks are expected to go to work in potatoes as soon as silo filling is completed.

Potato growers with 30 to 60 acres are having the biggest problem getting workers. Some, having started, laid off their crews to fill silo. Those men have gone to work elsewhere in the meantime.

Cranberry growers are offering 90 cents to \$1 per hour for rakers and 75 cents for common labor in the cranberry marshes of Wood county. The call for harvest workers comes from Donald Rowe, county agent. Workers are also needed for trucking, handling and sorting berries. Board and room are furnished at most of the marshes and the applicant is given a choice of which marsh he desires to work. The season, which began the first week in September, is expected to last about four to six weeks.

More than 500 boys and girls were placed as bean pickers by H. J. Lushier, farm labor assistant in Marathon county. About 100 were placed daily at different farms during the picking season, many of which were transported in trucks furnished by canning companies.

Waushara county could use several families as tenants, reports Milton Thompson, farm labor assistant of the county. Any leads on such help would be greatly appreciated.

While recruiting workers for corn picking in southern counties, Andrew Murnick, farm labor assistant, Price county, got a good all-over picture of the county labor situation.

He spoke to business men, community leaders, men on the street, and the postmaster to get as much information as possible. He got tips on a few unemployed and also some not fully employed. His effort resulted in recruiting five men to send to southern counties.

Most of the men were busy. They were employed in the resort industry, pulpwood, and other local industries. Also the labor shortage was increased recently by several new work projects started, one the REA and the U.S. Forestry and Highway Relocation project which pay 75 cents per hour. Many wood cutters in that area are getting \$15 a day and up.

More than 90 bean pickers were recruited during July in Barron county according to Mollie Coe, farm labor assistant.

Buffalo county reports they are still short about 160 year-round farm workers. The number has been accumulating since the beginning of the year.

Herb Smith, farm labor assistant in Crawford county reports that high school boys of his county again turned in to do their share in helping with haying and harvesting when no adult help was available.

More than 500 workers were given job training in Door county cherry orchards according to Martin Mathey, farm labor assistant.

Bean picking went along at a good clip in Juneau county during July, reports Alfred Lawrence. More than 180 youth were employed.

Fine cooperation with the United States Employment office and representatives of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission has been of great help in meeting the labor shortage in Langlade county, reports Herbert Hoeft, farm labor assistant.

Thirty-two out of 48 World War II veterans were placed on farm jobs for field work for the canning companies. They were referred to the farm labor office by the other agencies. But more than that, after the word got around, about an equal number sought their own jobs on farms.

W. J. Rogan, Marathon county, reports that 36 cherry pickers helped with the cherry crop in Door county. Thirty of these were picked up by a Door county grower and transported to the orchards.

During July, 376 Milwaukee youth were placed on farm jobs, reports Joseph F. Shaughnessy, farm labor assistant of the Milwaukee office. Also, 74 men were placed on year-round farm jobs during the same month.

Weeding and hoeing vegetables kept 84 boys and girls busy in Outagamie county. They were placed by extension workers.

Several married men in Ozaukee county have registered for farm jobs, according to Ray Nedden, farm labor assistant. He was unable to place them because farms did not provide suitable housing. Sixty-six youth were placed picking beans and weeding.

Farmers were asking for seasonal labor to assist with harvesting and threshing in Pierce county during August, reports R. R. Mortimer. That type of labor was short, but the shortage was largely overcome by exchange of help, good weather conditions, and the combines which kept rolling along quite rapidly.

Twenty-seven men and 11 families were placed on year-round farm jobs in Sheboygan county by Wilbur Hoelz during July.



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October, 1946

HARVEST OF LATE CROPS AHEAD OF NORMAL

On thousands of Wisconsin farms the harvest of late crops is practically completed. If this ideal October weather holds out a few days more field work in sugar beets will be finished, two weeks earlier than usual.

While the fine weather had much to do with getting seasonal crops harvested early, having large numbers of foreign workers in the state again this year was another big help. Their presence made it possible to push the harvest over the peak at just the right time.

High wages provided the incentive to do more and better work than Jamaicans and Mexicans have ever done before. Most of the foreign workers are leaving about the first of the month for the West or South. A small number will be kept during November by vegetable growers and a few will be retained all winter.

Peak Figures for 1946

From a peak of 3560 foreign workers, 1242 were left in the state on October 19. They were harvesting apples, vegetables, potatoes, cranberries, sugar beets, and cabbages for kraut. Of these, 538 were Jamaicans, 615 Mexican Nationals, 56 Barbadians, and 5 Hondurans. This year it was possible for growers to complete the season's work with 2830 foreign workers for pea harvest, 3559 for cherry picking, and 2826 for canning corn pack. These are top figures and include work in other crops particularly vegetables.

Bumper Apple Crop Harvested

About 200 foreign workers helped harvest Wisconsin's bumper 1946 apple crop. Door county employed 131 men, Kenosha 46, Waukesha 10 and Winnebago 11 workers. The 1946 crop is estimated at about 1,020,000 bushels, or three times as large as the 316,000 bushel 1945 crop, the Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporter estimates. This is $1\frac{1}{2}$ times larger than the figures for the ten-year average reported as being 698,000 bushels.

About 760 Jamaicans, Barbadians, Bahamians and Mexicans were used to work in sugar beets. In previous years mostly Mexican Nationals and Texas Mexicans were employed. This year more than one-half of the beet workers were of other nationalities.

We Hear From the Counties

- Bayfield: Over 40 women and 117 youth assisted with potato harvest in this county, Emmett Sullivan, farm labor assistant reports.
- Crawford: Farm wages were very good, reports Herman Smith. Tobacco harvesting paid the highest wages, often as high as \$2.00 per hour for spearing. General farm work averaged about 65 cents an hour.
- Fond du Lac: The demand for single, experienced farm hands for year-round work is still higher than the supply, reports L. J. Searl. There seems to be a surplus of married couples interested in farm work. These men have had some farm experience but not enough to satisfy operators. "We had five evening meetings at which we showed labor saving moving pictures. A total of 605 people attended," Searl said.
- Green: We could place 40 good reliable, single men if they were available, reports E. O. Baker, farm labor assistant.
- Kenosha: Placed 59 year-round men on farm jobs during September, E. R. Jorgensen's September figures show.
- Langlade: Herbert F. Hoeft, farm labor assistant, reports fairly good results recruiting labor for potato picking from other counties. Aniwa, Birnamwood, Gresham, Mattoon and Shawano responded generously. From Lincoln county many came from the village of Gleason and the eastern sections. A total of 674 workers were placed, of which 246 were women and 74 youth.
- Marathon: About 50 people wanting work in cranberries were referred to Wood county.
- Pierce: We have a number of farmers who have asked for married men and we have not been able to supply them as yet, reports R. R. Mortimer, farm labor assistant.
- Milwaukee: Placed 35 men, 1 woman and 5 youth on year-round farm jobs during September, J. F. Shaughnessy, farm labor assistant reports.
- Sheboygan: Eighteen year-round and 985 seasonal workers were placed in this county during September according to W. E. Hoelz.
- Wood: More than 200 men were recruited for the cranberry harvest in this county, D. R. Rowe reported. A large number of women were also recruited for sorting cranberries after the harvest.

Arlic Mucks,
L. G. Sorden.