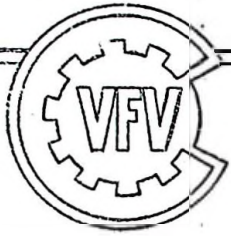


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
*Extension Service*, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS

April 5, 1945

For your information

TO ALL ASSISTANT STATE FARM LABOR SUPERVISORS, VFV:

Subject: News Letter

INTRODUCING . . . . .

Roberta Clark and C. P. Dorsey, who became members of our VFV staff on April 2 succeeding Nancy Blaine and Kenneth Ingwalson, respectively. Miss Clark comes to us from Virginia Extension Service, where she has been serving as assistant editor. Previously, Miss Clark was information assistant for the West Virginia AAA committee. She began her career as a public-school teacher of journalism and English upon graduation from the University of West Virginia in 1940. Mr. Dorsey is on leave from his position as assistant State club leader and State VFV supervisor in West Virginia. Mr. Dorsey has held the positions of county agent and district agent prior to his appointment as assistant club leader in 1942.

INSURANCE

The VFV accident insurance policy will again be available in all States this year. The benefits and cost will be the same as last year. Later on, you will be informed as to the companies that will write the policy, and application forms will be sent to you.

Jack Weaver reports that in New York arrangements have been made for hospitalization in case of sickness for young farm workers. Both hospitalization and accident insurance will be required for all youth who accept transportation or service from public funds. He says, "As a condition to obtaining transportation these youth are required to purchase a hospitalization policy -- \$100 limit -- after which the accident insurance protection will be issued without additional cost to the youth." The insurance will be financed from State funds. The total cost of this coverage will be \$6 for 4 months.

MATERIALS

M. C. Wilson's letter of March 27 gives the publication date of each item of VFV material prepared here. Shipments of State orders will be made immediately from Washington with the exception of the recruitment poster, "Going Our Way?" which will be shipped from Chicago. You are also reminded that in the case of this poster one copy will be sent direct to each private and public high school and to colleges and universities throughout the United States. In estimating their needs, which will be supplied through the State farm labor office, county agents

should take this distribution to schools into account. However, one copy of the poster will probably not be sufficient for the larger high schools. Also this plan of distribution will not take care of junior high schools housed in separate buildings. Therefore, the county agent in making up his order should include the number needed by the schools in addition to those supplied direct, besides whatever quantity he will need to display in other public places throughout the county.

We believe this poster will be unusually attractive and predict that it will be quite effective. May we suggest that you use your influence in seeing that the best use is made of this poster in your State.

WELCOME TO NEW STATE  
VFV SUPERVISORS

We extend greetings and a cordial welcome to the following State VFV supervisors who are taking over the work this year: Kansas, W.O. Stark;

Michigan, Doris Gillespie; Missouri, Don O. Nelson; Pennsylvania, D. W. Atkinson; Virginia, Lucy Garnett Gwathmey; and Washington, James Jensen.

MASSACHUSETTS DAIRY TRAINING  
PROGRAM REPEATS

A dairy training program for VFV's at the Massachusetts State College will be conducted for the second year for a period of 10 weeks beginning

April 2 according to Lawrence Loy. The purpose is to "relieve the shortage of dairy workers in the State." The course will be open only to nonfarm youth, 14 years of age or older, who have had no previous farm experience. A maximum of 18 boys will be enrolled each for a 5-day course. All expenses including physical (medical) examination, transportation, board, and room will be paid from farm labor funds.

The boys will receive instruction in the various essential skills under actual working conditions. They will learn something about the several jobs to be done about the dairy barns, run tractors, feed cows, harness and drive horses, and bottle milk.

Mr. Loy points out, "It should be recognized that these boys, after only 5 days of experience, cannot be considered thoroughly trained in the sense of taking over duties on the farm. However, they will at least have a knowledge of what is expected of them." And it might be added that bringing the boys up to this point will make training on the job afterward very much easier and faster.

We feel that the materials consisting of instructions to applicants and prospective trainees, a description of the course, instructions to county agents and others for recruiting trainees, and blank forms have been very well done.

NEW HAMPSHIRE TO PLACE  
200 LIVE-INS

Farmers in New Hampshire will need 200 boys and girls this year to help out in the labor shortage. But they don't want a youngster who stays a

few weeks and then decides he doesn't like the work. So a get-acquainted plan has been worked out. According to Norman Whippen, farm labor assistant at the University of New Hampshire, boys and girls will spend a week on a farm during the spring school vacation. That is, boys and girls who think

they would like to tackle farm work. They can see how it's run, learn something of the routine, and get acquainted with the farmer and his wife. If the youngsters like the farmer and he likes them, arrangements can be made for the boys and girls to return for the summer after school is out. Those who sign up will be given an orientation course at school before they return to the farm.

MICHIGAN WILL EMPHASIZE  
LIVE-IN PROGRAM

Doris Gillespie, WFFV supervisor in Michigan, has prepared detailed suggestions to county agents for conducting a live-in program. By way of

summarizing the situation, Miss Gillespie lists as the most serious problem facing the emergency farm labor program that of meeting the needs of the general farmer, the grain and bean farmer, and the livestock and dairy farmer. (We recall that Michigan's plan of work for 1945 tells us that these are 80 percent of all the farmers of the State.) She concludes that "The best chance of assisting these farmers is through a vigorous, well-planned campaign to place on as many farms as possible a strong, intelligent, willing youth throughout the summer months."

Many practical suggestions on all phases of conducting the program are offered for the guidance of county farm labor personnel.

MORE ON THE IOWA RADIO  
FARM LABOR CONTEST

In a previous news letter we told you about how radio station WHO in Iowa cooperated with the Extension Service in the farm labor program in sponsoring a State-wide contest. Now we have the final statistical summary from Mr. Fitzsimmons, as follows:

ing a State-wide contest. Now we have the final statistical summary from Mr. Fitzsimmons, as follows:

Number of participants in competition . . . . .	3,921
Number of individual hours worked . . . . .	49,855
Number of group hours worked . . . . .	<u>115,907</u>
Total number of hours worked . . . . .	165,763
Prizes in cash and bonds . . . . .	.\$ 1,625

What a lot of food these thousands of hours of work by emergency farm workers must have produced!

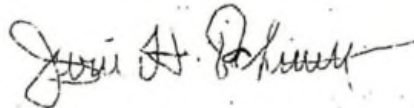
THE FARM LABOR GAP IN 1945:  
HOW MANY VFV'S WILL BE NEEDED?  
CAN THEY BE FOUND AND PLACED?

It is estimated that for the nation as a whole there will be 300,000 fewer farm workers in 1945 than in 1944. Have you determined how this affects your State? Have you made

plans to meet the problem?

	<u>The Nation</u>	<u>Your State</u>
(a) Net loss during 1944	200,000	?
(b) Expected loss of 18 to 26-year-olds to armed services	100,000	?
The 1945 deficit	300,000	?
(c) Assume additional prisoners of war.	30,000	?
(d) Assume more foreign workers	10,000	?
(e) The gap to be filled	260,000	?
How many of these places can be filled by VFV's?		?

Sincerely yours,



Irvin H. Schmitt, Chief  
Victory Farm Volunteers Division  
Extension Farm Labor Program

(Copy to State supervisors,  
directors, editors)