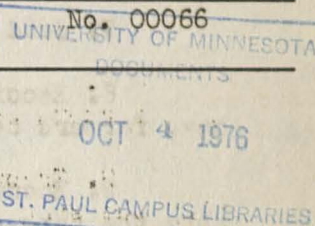


Current Information Letter

For the Information of County Extension Agents and Extension Workers Only
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION—PAUL E. MILLER, DIRECTOR
File for Future Reference—Complete Index Will Be Furnished Annually

October 29,
1943

UNIVERSITY FARM
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



FILE UNDER: FARM HELP - 1943 Experiences

SUGGESTIONS FOR RECRUITING AND PLACING NON-FARM YOUTH BASED ON 1943 EXPERIENCES

Note: The suggestions made herewith for the further development and improvement of the program for helping relieve the farm labor problem thru the recruitment and placement of non-farm youth are tentative and based on the limitations of a short-time study. While it is recognized that the training of the boys for farm work is not a direct responsibility of the Extension Service, such training is closely related to placement. The proper selection of boys in the beginning and their placement with the right kind of families are fundamental to the success of the program. The suggestions apply to boys to be placed on the monthly basis unless otherwise noted.

Selection

1. Select boys with proper attitude, based on their expressed interests and the opinions of their teachers and counsellors.
2. Provide parents of the potential employees with information about the program and obtain their approval for having their sons placed on farms for the season.
3. Eliminate those who are handicapped physically and/or mentally.
4. Eliminate boys with immoral tendencies.

Training (implications for schools)

1. Begin classes earlier and spread over longer period.
2. Provide for apprenticeships where possible over weekends and during the spring vacation.
3. More practical emphasis on horses, tractors, farm machines, and milking.
4. General material.
 - a. Advantages of working on a farm.
 - b. Types of jobs to be done, including menial tasks.
 - c. Information as to types of livestock, breeds, feeds, etc.
 - d. Farm terminology.
 - e. Safety.
 - f. Responsibility for sticking to job and extending best effort.

Placement

1. Secure information early in the year by counties as to the probable numbers of boys needed.
2. Provide data to counties as to the number and types of boys which will be available.
3. Prepare the prospective employers for the proper handling of boys, thru group discussions at meetings of different types (Note: Schools may conduct classes for farmers as well as boys).

4. Encourage minimum salary, but small enough to permit of advances after abilities are determined.
5. Match religious preferences where desired by the boy or the employer.
6. Make direct contacts with farmers in determining where boys are to be placed, making certain that the boys will be placed in good homes.
7. Send boys to counties in small groups, preferably escorted.
8. Escort boys from county offices directly to farms at time of placement or have farmers come after boys.
9. Encourage boys who have been on farms this year to work on farms, preferably the same ones, again next year.

Local supervision

1. Make contacts with farmers and boys within two weeks after placements are effected.
2. Make subsequent contacts at infrequent intervals.
3. Encourage the boys to keep in touch with the local supervisors and to report any problems encountered.
4. Provide boys with a directory of the county placements, thus enabling those located in the same community to share experiences.
5. Arrange for one or more group gatherings, where numbers and other conditions permit.

Casual Laborers

1. Make careful selection, especially in the case of boys who are to be assigned to farm homes.
2. Provide some pre-training before sending boys out insofar as this can be done.
3. Make immediate contacts with boys placed on farms and give some training on the job where necessary.

Miscellaneous

1. Provide county workers with complete information regarding program, including permissible expenditures.
2. Conduct conferences for local supervisors of the non-farm youth program.
3. Emphasize health protection.
 - a. Insurance.
 - b. Medical services where needed while boys are on the job.
4. Encourage the keeping of local records.
 - a. Date and location of placements.
 - b. Time and reasons for withdrawals.
5. Insist that boys notify county offices when terminating jobs.