

NEW ACTIVITIES AT KANSAS STATE

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Future Agriculture Teachers in the Peace Corps?

What business does a department of Agricultural Education have with the Peace Corps? A good question!! And a good answer was provided by the Kansas State University Staff in Agricultural Education this summer.

Ninety volunteers reported at Kansas State for a training program in agriculture and community development under contract with the Peace Corps. They were prepared for service in the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Much of their work was directed toward preparing them to teach rural people in these countries. It seems natural that many will return to this country after their two years of service, desiring to continue as teachers of vocational agriculture.

A Day with Vocational Agriculture in Costa Rica

School begins at 7:30 a.m. The classes in vocational agriculture will last a half day. Part of the class time will be devoted to field work with hoes and machettes; one lucky boy will get to run the school tractor which has been provided through the courtesy of the program of Assistance to International Development. It may rain but the field work will continue. Classes recess at mid-day from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Other subjects are studied in the school for the remaining half day.

At times shop work is included. A shop building has been built, again through the courtesy of AID. However, parents and village people helped construct the shop building and nearly everyone contributed to the building fund. Some of the poorer people could purchase only one cement block but they did that willingly and contributed their time and labor to help construct the building.

The teachers of vocational agriculture have been trained in other countries, mostly the United States. Supervised farming activities are on the school farm and some farm animals are being raised cooperatively. The local bank has backed the informal cooperative group of students of vocational agriculture in the renting of some land for the purpose of raising a crop of sugar cane.

Future Farmers Chapters are a new part of the program. There is no national organization but local groups have been formed. There are no funds for national meetings or awards programs. The main objectives of the program are to learn to work efficiently with what is available.

The program of vocational agriculture grows rapidly in Costa Rica. It promises to contribute to the agricultural development in Costa Rica what it has to agriculture in the United States.

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Dr. Agan studied the vocational agriculture program in Costa Rica for 90 days during the past summer.

*Journal of the American Association of  
Teacher Educators in Agriculture  
Volume 4, Number 2, pp.20  
DOI: 10.5032/jaatea.1963.02020*