

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS

IN

MAINE

1945

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College of Agriculture
of the
University of Maine
and the
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Cooperating

INTRODUCTION

From a national point of view, VFV includes all youth farm labor. For the purpose of this report, youth may be defined as boys and girls under eighteen years of age.

In Maine, girls less than eighteen and working from organized work camps or as live-ins are considered as Junior WEFS and will not be included in this report. All other youth farm workers will be classed as VFV under one of the two following groups; Day-haul and Live-ins.

Summary for War Period

LIVE-IN - 1943

State Supervisor, VFV - Theodore S. Curtis
Assistant - Gustavis McLaughlin

Recruiting

A general call to all schools through the State Department of Education for volunteers produced poor results. Five thousand application cards were distributed; 265 were returned completed from which only 12 boys were finally recruited and placed. General recruitment continued by the State Supervisor in Penobscot County and by Asst. County Farm Labor Supervisors in their respective counties together with applications received from out-of-State boys resulted in a final total of 355 boys placed.

Recruitment and placement were hurried and there was little opportunity for selection of either boy or farmer. The average work period for all boys was small; about four weeks. There was no organized plan of supervision as the entire program was new and there was no experienced personnel in the counties to assist.

Employment opportunities were numerous for older and larger boys, so the VFVs recruited were generally small and 47 were less than 14 years of age.

The experience gained in the counties by the operation of this first year's program was an important factor in the successful operation of the 1944 program.

Day-haul and Camps - 1943

Day-haul programs were developed during this period and the successful Cumberland County organization operated for the first time.

Six hundred and fifty Boy Scouts throughout New England were moved into Aroostook County for the potato harvest. They did average work and were valuable in harvesting the largest potato crop in history under very unfavorable conditions. This was a camp project.

In general, a youth farm labor program was established, valuable experience obtained, and material assistance provided for the production of the food necessary in a warring world.

LIVE-INS - 1944

At the beginning of the 1944 season, the demand for farm labor was at its peak. Full employment at good wages in the cities had brought the supply of farm labor to a new low. In spite of this, there seemed to be a reluctance on the part of farmers to employ untrained city youth.

The first problem was to sell this youth labor to the farmer. As much as he needed help, he was too often skeptical of the ability of city youth to meet the need. Recruitment depended on farmer demand, so a publicity campaign to convince the farmer of the value of non-farm youth was of necessity the first step.

Recruitment was gauged to an estimated demand for five hundred boys. It was a business of stimulating orders for a product which did not exist and for which there could be no guarantee of production.

As the 1943 plan of recruitment through the schools by school authorities produced such poor results, a new plan was needed if 500 boys were to be enrolled.

The appointment of two school men to the farm labor staff for recruiting purposes was completed. Huse Tibbetts of Deering High School became the recruiting representative for the state's largest population area - Cumberland County and the southern part of the state.

George Buckman, Principal of Waterville Junior High School, was charged with the task in Central Maine.

The State Supervisor covered all large schools in the remaining area. A plan for recruiting assemblies in schools was prepared for the use of all recruiting officials. These were distributed to schools and county farm labor personnel. A direct mail contact to all school superintendents and principals enlisted their cooperation. By personal contact and frequent mail follow-up, recruitment soon equalled and finally passed the demand. Six hundred and seventy one boys and girls (about 12 girls) were enrolled. Of this number, 450 accepted farm placement.

An attempt to select enrollees on the basis of information in the application form, physical examination, and school advisors' recommendations was partially successful. Industrial demands and general city employment took most boys over sixteen and many young boys of large size with the result that 63% of all VFV were fourteen or under and only 38% were over 130 pounds. 17% weighed less than 100 pounds. The value of some of the smaller boys as farm help was problematical. No doubt some of the farmer's resistance to VFVs was the result of an experience with a small boy the previous year.

The first training course was developed this year. Training course may be an inaccurate designation as it should more properly be called an orientation period. This course served as an induction center at which boys could be observed at work, physical or mental deficiencies noted, and from which orderly placement could proceed. Each boy was introduced to the care of farm animals and animal products, basic methods of crop production, care of farm machinery, and briefly to farm home living through talks by farmers and home makers. The value of this could not be readily appreciated by the farmer because few farmers can understand how little a city boy may know about the farm and home. All that the volunteer learned at the University Training Course would have required at least the same amount of time on the farm. If the farmer's patience was tried by the inexperience of the boy, then we may reflect that it might have been worse.

Four district supervisors, all school men, were employed during the summer. They were Horace Croxford, Dana Simmons, Clair Wood, and Huse Tibbetts. The supervisors, charged specifically with the supervision of the VFVs, contributed much to the success of the volunteers. By maintaining a close contact with each boy during the first week on the farm, they helped many boys to bridge the great change between city and farm at the time when the first inclination was to quit. Farmers were led to a more sympathetic understanding of the boy's problem and by the prompt transfer of a boy in an undesirable placement, another farm more suitable received the boy's help and a worker was not lost to the cause of food production. Less careful supervision would have allowed the boy to return to the city to spend the summer mowing lawns.

In 1944, the number of boys was 25% greater but they spent 80% more days on the farms. It is difficult to place the cause of the better experience in 1944. Size and weight were slightly higher, better selection at time of recruiting, the training program, better supervision all contributed.

The 1944 volunteer averaged six and one half weeks on the farm compared with four weeks in 1943 or nearly 9000 more days total which is one measure of value to the production of food.

Insurance - 1944

Insurance records for 1943 suggested that some other method of payment must be devised. On the 1943 plan each boy was insured when placed. He was supposed to pay the premium from his first weeks pay. The amount was \$4.00 for three months protection.

Many boys did not remain on the farm one week and the state office did not receive this information within the period during which the policy could be cancelled. The farm labor program paid for those policies. The cost was over fifty dollars.

Early in 1944, arrangements were made with the insurance company to insure all VFVs on a blanket policy. Farm labor paid for this on the basis of the greatest day's enrollment. A charge of \$3.25 was made to the farmer and this sum was collected when the boy was placed. The farmer received a rebate if the volunteer worked less than two weeks. As placement built up during the first month and during that period boys were leaving the farms, the peak day's enrollment did not equal the total number of placements. The over-run due to this fact erased the loss inherited from 1943.

DAY-HAUL - 1944

The success of the day-haul organization in Cumberland County was so outstanding that an enlargement of its activities was indicated and an attempt made to transplant some of its best features to other counties.

A competent staff of field supervisors was recognized as the basis of an efficient day-haul organization. In Cumberland County, in order to enlarge the program, two training courses for supervisors under the supervision of O.S.Y.A. were organized.

As supervisors were responsible for recruitment, an increase in the number of supervisors meant more work teams and more workers.

A similar course was organized in York County and Twin counties. In these counties the bulk of day-haul work is bean picking. The season is short, not over four weeks, and as industrial employment was at its peak in these counties also, the school teachers, who are generally the only people available for such work, could not forego the opportunity of a full summer's job at good wages in industry for four weeks work on farm labor. A few did prefer the more healthful out-of-door work and accepted day-haul employment with the Farm Labor Program.

In other sections of the state where large numbers of day-haul youth were employed, it was impossible to obtain the cooperation of farmers, canners, and other interested groups in a centralized day-haul organization administered by the farm labor office. Wherever the Farm Labor Program has accepted the responsibility of day-haul organization, it has insisted on competent supervision, transportation standards, certain working conditions for the welfare of youth and a fair straight-forward system of wage payments.

It has also insisted that wherever an organization was established, it would be free from the recruiting activities of competing agencies and would administer the entire day-haul program.

A sufficient number of growers, canners, or bus operators were unwilling to relinquish their freedom to pirate workers at the period of peak demand. Neither were they willing to determine and agree on a definite wage standard which could be used as a basis of recruiting. Without the demand from the interested groups for an organization under the Farm Labor office, it was impossible to establish an effective organization.

The farm labor offices did try to recruit youth to meet emergency demands from farmers, but such recruitment was difficult; work teams were inefficient and unsupervised. Although no beans were lost because of this failure to organize, many farmers failed to get beans picked at the right time and so received payment on a lower grade of beans. Picking costs were unreasonably high because of the use of unsupervised careless workers and unnecessarily high charges for transportation on unproductive workers. In a few cases, all profit to the farmer from snap beans was consumed by the picking charges.

The Cumberland County farmer knew at all times that he could depend on the farm labor office for prompt service to his request for workers and that each worker supplied would be a good producer. He knew that his time would not be necessary for supervision but that a trained supervisor would accompany each work team. Also that he would be transporting only real workers and not boys and girls interested in a picnic in the country.

It must always be the Extension Farm Labor policy when dealing with youth that the health and welfare of the youth have first consideration. Real day-haul organization accomplishes this and at the same time provides the farmer with desirable help which allows him to make a profit.

REPORT OF VFV PROGRAM FOR 1945

Organization and Personnel

February 17, 1945, a conference of VFV supervisors and two Asst. County Farm Labor Supervisors, who were outstanding in their work with VFV in 1944, discussed plans for 1945. (See appendix for conference outline)

Many sound suggestions for improvement came from this meeting. All recommendations were incorporated in this year's program.

1945 Personnel

State Supervisor, VFV	-----	John P. Downing
District Supervisor	-----	Horace Croxford
"	"	"
"	"	Dana Simmons
"	"	Clair Wood
"	"	Huse Tibbetts
"	"	Raymond Story

County farm labor personnel supervised as time permitted in the counties and were responsible for placement. Through the cooperation of the State Department of Education, 155 school advisors were appointed by the principals of 155 High Schools or Jr. High Schools throughout the State. Their help was valuable in maintaining contact with individual schools.

The poor results experienced in 1944 from groups which offered to cooperate in various phases of the VFV program suggested that little could be expected from sources not directly connected with youth or Extension, and the only appreciable cooperation from any group outside of the farm labor staff came from the schools.

All VFV personnel and County Farm Labor Supervisors were supplied with a copy of the VFV workbook. This contained all forms and directions for placement, recruitment, and supervision. (See appendix)

DAY-HAUL

It is customary in Maine to employ youth in the harvesting of snap beans. Various other crops employ youth labor to advantage for planting, cultivating or harvesting. These include potatoes, sweet corn, apples, shell beans, peas, berries, and general garden crops.

The farm labor office in each county was prepared to assist farmers by organizing day-haul groups. Cannery and growers also recruited day-haul crews, so the total day-haul placements reported by farm labor offices account for only one third to one half of the total day-haul placements in the county.

Cumberland County continued its very efficient day-haul program under Benjamin Graves. Their first group worked on May 1st. planting apple root stock for the nursery of the Maine Apple Growers Association.

This Cumberland County organization operated throughout the summer on various market garden crops and factory snap beans. The service rendered market gardeners in the Portland area was of great value to the farmers in that area. The high efficiency of the Cumberland County crews was undoubtedly due to the smooth organization established by Mr. Graves and his corps of qualified field supervisors.

Other counties aimed at this type of organization, but as the use of day-haul groups was generally restricted to picking beans and other types of crop work were only incidental, a stable summer long day-haul organization which could attract and retain a group of competent supervisors was impossible. The failure of farmers and canners as a group to cooperate in the formation of a central uniform day-haul organization was a real block to an efficient day-haul service by county farm labor offices; except in Cumberland County.

LIVE-INS

Determination of Need

The first step in the VFV 1945 program involved the determination of demand. This work began in February. The success of the 1944 program had convinced the County Agents of the value of these **youth** to the farmer.

Many counties included in the Farm Bureau News an interesting item on VFV. During the Spring, several of the largest newspapers carried VFV articles which were of interest both to farmers and to boys. This publicity, together with direct mail announcements to farmers, resulted in a much heavier demand than was experienced in 1944 during the spring months.

As the full demand for VFV was not anticipated before mid-June, the forecast for VFV was higher than in the previous year.

During May, a spring which had promised to be early and unusually clement, changed to a rather cooler and wetter season than usual. The rain continued through May and well into June. Farmers were having great difficulty in preparing land for planting and the general farm outlook was rather discouraging. Planting schedules were delayed and in some cases curtailed.

Orders for VFVs which were expected to increase in number during June decreased instead. More cancellations than new orders were received each day until on June 27 during the final week of the U. of M. training, orders to fill were considerably below the number of boys available.

One hundred boys at the University had to be placed on farms or sent home by Friday, June 29. On Wednesday of that week, there were farm orders for only half that number.

By statements on the radio and in newspapers that these boys were available, a flood of orders was stimulated. On July 1, all available boys were placed and fifty unfilled orders remained. About thirty of these orders were filled during the first two weeks of July.

New orders continued to come in as haying began. Some of these were filled by local boys, some were cancelled as the farmer passed the point of critical need, but an average of twenty unfilled orders continued through July. These orders were never filled. At no time prior to June 28 did total orders justify greater recruitment.

RECRUITMENT

Standards

The large number of boys enrolled in 1944 who were under 100 pounds in weight and the resistance of farmers to accepting small boys, indicated the

need for a higher weight standard. A minimum weight requirement of 115 pounds, which was the average of all VFVs in 1944, was determined as the lowest figure which would insure boys of sufficient size to do a good farm job. It was fully realized that this would increase the difficulty of recruiting and would decrease the number recruited within the State of Maine.

In order to overcome the effect of this on final numbers recruited, a more complete coverage of schools was necessary. An appeal to Commissioner Gilson of the State Department of Education for assistance in the recruiting program resulted in his appointment of Mr. Harlan Ladd, Deputy Commissioner of Education as an advisor to the Victory Farm Volunteer Program on recruiting procedures in the schools of the State.

Each high school principal was asked by Mr. Ladd to appoint from the faculty of his school an Agricultural Advisor who would be the recruiting agent for his school. One hundred and fifty-five advisors were appointed under this plan.

A personal contact with each advisor was necessary in order to impart first hand the aims of VFV recruiting methods; and other details of the program. In the more thickly populated portions of the state where a number of advisors could meet readily for a course of instruction, dates were set for a meeting at a central point.

For this purpose, the meetings were scheduled at Augusta, April 16; Dover, April 25; Bangor, April 28; Portland, May 2; Lewiston, May 8; Kennebunk, May 15. Each advisor was told that a representative of the local farm labor office or farm bureau would be available for school assemblies. Each received an outline of procedures, suggestions for assembly programs, and all necessary forms.

These advisors served as a valuable contact in each school. They had a supply of recruiting material and a complete understanding of the program. They arranged assemblies, advised interested boys, collected and checked applications, approved applications, and forwarded completed forms to the State Farm Labor Office.

Many schools were not near enough to the central meeting points to justify a trip to the meeting. The furthest school attending any meeting was twenty-five miles distant. School advisors in schools of sufficient size, but too far from a central meeting point were visited in the course of a regular recruiting trip.

The State Supervisor, besides conducting the meetings of advisors, visited the following schools and addressed an assembly of pupils or instructed advisors: Farmington, Jay, Wilton, Strong, Phillips, Lincoln, Mattawamkeag, E. Millinocket, Millinocket, Ellsworth, Stonington, Dexter, Garland St. Jr. High, Fifth St. Jr. High, Bangor High, Old Town High, Old Town Jr. High, Machias, Woodland, Eastport, Howland, Orono, Belfast, Camden, Rockland, Thomaston, Bar Harbor, Bucksport, Augusta, Waterville, Newport, and Corinna High Schools.

The expected difficulty in recruiting larger boys was showing up. Too many local openings offered higher pay combined with the advantages of remaining at home with friends. Large numbers of small boys signed up, but had to be refused on the basis of weight.

By the middle of May, farm orders so exceeded the number received at that time in 1944 that a final demand greatly in excess of our 1944 placements was anticipated. Recruitment within Maine was falling below this expected need. This indicated the necessity of finding another source of recruits. At this time, certification was made to Massachusetts for fifty boys. Greater Boston

was the logical city from which this number could be obtained. Mr. John Casey, Principal of Jamaica Plain High School and Massachusetts Emergency Farm Labor Supervisor, was the recruiting agent for the greater Boston area and he advised that the number of boys wanted in Maine could be recruited. This number was recruited. Thirty-one from Boston attended the training course at the University and the rest were placed directly during early July to meet the influx of late orders.

A total of 485 applications were received. Some of these were from boys who did not meet the weight standard. During June, when the farm orders were being cancelled, many applications were refused or acceptance postponed. When new orders started coming late in June and early July, all of those boys were called but few were available at the later dates. They had other employment.

In summary, recruiting was gauged throughout the recruiting period to the number of orders expected. During June, orders dropped below the number of boys recruited. The increase of orders came so long after the recruiting and period of training that volunteers were no longer available to fill all orders. Volunteers could be held only one week after close of schools by enrollment in the training course. At no time prior to June 28 did farm orders justify a larger number of volunteers than were enrolled to that date. Recruitment except in Boston was impossible as schools were closed in Maine and all boys desiring work had jobs.

TRAINING

All new VFV live-ins enrolled prior to June 18 were assigned to the training course. Veterans were placed directly. The training period was limited to one week. Volunteers arrived at the University of Maine on Monday and were placed on the farm Friday.

Only four days of actual work was possible. It should not be assumed that much training in farm skills could be acquired during this time. The intent of the course was to introduce unexperienced boys to as many farm situations as possible.

The benefits of this training period were numerous. Selected nearby farms were used extensively to provide actual farm experience. Half of each day a volunteer attended organized classes at the University for instruction in crops, dairy, farm animals, poultry, and machinery. Half a day he worked on a farm doing whatever work was in progress at the time. A great variety of work was done under actual farm conditions.

By observing the boys under farm work conditions, it was possible to eliminate a few undesirable farm helpers. Physical handicaps were noted and general attitudes toward farm work were observed. This was helpful in the placement of a boy.

By bringing all boys to a central point orderly placement was possible. Transportation was arranged and on Friday of the training weekend all boys were moved out to the counties. The county farm labor personnel understood this arrangement and could set aside this day for farm placement of VFVs.

Training Schedule

The 1945 VFV Training Program opened at the University of Maine, College of Agriculture, on Monday, June 11, and closed Saturday, June 30. The objectives of the program were^{as} for the 1944 program namely:

1. To orient trainees in the importance of food production in the war effort, the patriotic services to be rendered by the VFV, and proper relations between the VFV and his farmer-employer.
2. To provide instruction and practice in important farm jobs.
3. To develop a high morale among the trainees with which to start their summer's work.

Registration

Week of June 11-	57
June 18-	53
June 25-	<u>107</u>
Total	217

Tuition

Three dollars per student trainee week.

Housing

First and second weeks, Phi Kappa Sigma House; third week, Phi Kappa Sigma and Sigma Nu Houses.

Meals

Provided by the University at the Commons from Monday supper to Friday dinner. Meals required before and after this period were obtained at Spruce's Log Lodge and Maine Bear. The excellence of the meals served by the University was a subject of frequent comment by the trainees.

Rate for Board and Room

Seven dollars and seventy-five cents per student for each full four-day week and two dollars per day for four days or less during each week.

Program of Training

1. Assemblies--

Assemblies were held from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M., Monday evenings, and from 8:00 to 9:00 P.M. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings of each week. The assembly programs were as follows:

Monday "Food Production and the War", Professor M. D. Jones

Films "Democracy in Action" and "Youth Farm Volunteers."

Tuesday "Working with the Farmer", Mr. W. T. Vickery, Belfast

Films "Anchors Aweigh" and "Spirit of '43".

Wednesday "University of Maine Athletics" illustrated by films, Mr. T. S. Curtis

Thursday "Safety on the Farm and in the Home", Mr. Albert Hodson, Safety Engineer, Employee's Liability Corporation. Lecture illustrated.

2. Work Program

8:00 A.M. to 12:00 A.M. and 1:30 to 5:00 P.M. each day was devoted half time each to instruction on the campus and to supervised work on local commercial farms.

For this purpose, the group was organized into four divisions with each division having one day in each of four departments of instruction and with each day divided between campus instruction and farm practice. Following is the weekly work program:

V.F.V. Weekly Work Program--by Divisions
June 18-22, 1945

Division	Tues.		WED.		Thurs.		Fri.	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
I-A	Dh	F 1	F 4	Ph	Mch	F 3	F 2	Ht
B	F 1	Dh	Ph	F 4	F 3	Mch	Ht	F 2
II-A	Ht	F 2	F 1	Dh	Ph	F 4	F 3	Mch
B	F 2	Ht	Dh	F 1	F 4	Ph	Mch	F 3
III-A	F 3	Mch	Ht	F 2	F 1	Dh	Ph	F 4
B	Mch	F 3	F 2	Ht	Dh	F 1	F 4	Ph
Iv-A	F 4	Ph	Mch	F 3	F 2	Ht	Dh	F 1
B	Ph	F 4	F 3	Mch	Ht	F 2	F 1	Dh

F 1 Hillman & Downing Farms

F 2 Darling farm

F 3 Gaudet farm

F 4 Sutton, Chatto, Curtis farms

3. Recreation

Recreation was under the direction of T. S. Curtis and included organized sports from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. on Mondays and 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. on the other evenings of the program. Memorial Gymnasium's showers were available following the period of recreation.

4. Personnel

Fred P. Loring, Director

Animal and Dairying--

Professor L. M. Dorsey 3 weeks

Raymond Amsden 2 weeks*

Crops and Horticulture--

Professor J. H. Waring 3 weeks

Mr. D. M. Beale 3 Weeks

Mr. Robert Beedy 2 weeks *

Mildred Schrupf 1 week (part time)

Farm Machinery --

Professor Harold C. Swift 3 weeks*

Mr. Donald Piper 2 weeks*

Mr. John Snell 2 weeks*

Poultry--

Professor J. R. Smyth 2 weeks)part-time)

Mr. John Bragg 2 weeks* (part-time)

Mr. Paul Dowe 2 weeks* (part-time)

Mr. J. R. Smyth, Jr. 3 weeks*

Farm Work Supervisors--
 Mr. Bernard Deering 3 weeks*
 Mr. Carl Sawyer 3 weeks*
 Mr. John Snell 3 weeks*

Director of Recreation--
 T. S. Curtis 3 weeks*

Cost of Program

Tuition-	217 at \$3.00	651.00
Board and room-		
U. of M. dormitories		1641.10
Off campus meals- Spruce's Log Lodge		104.65
Maine Bear		27.50
Instruction (exclusive of College staff members)		941.55
Health Service		78.00
Certificates		3.00
	Total	\$3446.80
	Per capita	\$ 15.88

It is to be noted that the per capita cost of training was \$1.54 less than the cost of \$17.42 last year. This decreased cost is to be attributed to the greater amount of instruction provided by the college staff and the elimination of certain costs for entertainment incurred the year before.

The plan of supplementing campus instruction by an equal amount of time spent in practical work on commercial farms worked **very satisfactorily** under favorable weather conditions. However, frequent rains interfered with the normal functions of the program more than half the time. This caused some confusion and lessened to some degree the effectiveness of instruction.

Farmer's Opinion

This course had as its first object the conditioning of the boy to the farm situation and the importance of his job as a volunteer. The farmer cannot visualize how little a city boy knows about a farm. Things which he has known all his life and which he cannot remember having to learn are totally unknown to the city boy. Even a full year of farm experience could not compare with the lifetime experience of the farmer. The things taught by the training course could be expected to be only an introduction. Such points as milking, care and understanding of horses, care of dairy animals, use of machinery, easy use and skill with hand tools are all products of months of experience and even many farmers are not expert at all farming skills. As a result, the farmer was often disappointed with a boy who could not milk or mow with a hand scythe.

In my opinion, the training course filled an important need and the greater success of those boys from the course as compared with those without training substantiates this opinion.

PLACEMENT

All placement was the responsibility of the county. Placement standards were established by the state office and the County Agent and Asst. County Farm Labor Supervisor used these as a basis for selecting farms. The personal recommendation of the County Agent and/or his Labor Assistant was given first consideration as it was based on the placement standard in most cases.

A Farm Home Card served as the state office record of the farm. This card was completed by the county personnel, one copy retained in the county office and one sent to the state office.

VFVs were not placed on farms which were found undesirable through the 1944 experience.

Most county personnel had the advantage of one year of VFV placement. Some had two years. This was a great help as they could better evaluate the various factors which determine good youth placement.

VFV District Supervisors were not available during the period of checking farm requests. Their personal attention to each order would have eliminated most of those placements which later proved unsound.

Procedure

Each farmer on the county farm bureau list received a return card notice that youth were available and that his return of the card would bring him further information. (see appendix)

On receipt of the card at the county office, the County Agent or the Assistant Labor Supervisor called on the farmer, completed the Farm Home Card and if the farm seemed to meet the VFV standard, the farmer was asked to sign the VFV contract in duplicate. (see appendix)

A copy of this contract and of the farm home card were sent to the state office. These contracts and farm home cards served as the basis of determining VFV requirements for the county.

The volunteer was tentatively placed by the state office on the basis of information from this application card, from a personal interview with him, and from reports of instructors in the training program. For various reasons these assignments were sometimes ignored by the counties. Farmer's orders had been cancelled and the state office not notified or more urgent need existed on another farm. This occurred so often that finally this plan was abandoned and all placements were left to the counties.

The plan of state office placement was adopted this year because of the delay in reporting placements from the counties. Often during the placement period in 1944, a week or more would elapse before the state office would know the volunteer's new address. This was an embarrassing situation when parents

inquired for their son's location. Each volunteer signed an agreement accepting the terms of the farmer's contract. The completed contract signed by volunteer and farmer was forwarded to the parent for approval.

This plan is not to be recommended as the time involved in transportation, ^b probable transfers after the original placement, time lag in county reports, and failure of the county to always follow the placement suggestions of the state office result in much confusion. The plan sounds better than it operates.

TRANSPORTATION

All VFVs were supplied transportation to the University of Maine for the training course and at the end of the course, to the farm. The general aim was to place the volunteer in a county other than his own unless he specifically requested that he be placed near home. This minimized the number of calls at the farm by parents and the disrupting effect of weekends at home.

There seemed to be no relation between homesickness and distance from home. A boy could be just as homesick ten miles from home as one hundred miles away. Experience had shown that a weekend at home made the boy dissatisfied with the farm and few returned after the home visit, although they had promised the farmer they would.

Transportation was provided for all VFVs who completed the summer's work. Boys who were sick or injured and those who left early because of undesirable farm conditions and no other placement was available received transportation home. If the boy left early through no fault of his own, but would not accept a replacement, his transportation was not paid.

Boys who enlisted from other states, but were not recruited by a farm labor representative, received transportation only within the State of Maine.

SCHOOL ADJUSTMENTS & COOPERATION

No VFV was enlisted for work during school time. This made it unnecessary to make any school adjustments.

The VFV program received very fine cooperation from all school officials. The success of the recruiting campaign was due in no small degree to the valuable assistance of school advisors who were appointed by high school principals at the request of Harlan Ladd, Deputy Commissioner of Education.

SUPERVISION

Five staff district youth supervisors were employed during the summer months. All youth supervisors were school men experienced in the problems of dealing with youth and parents.

Horace Croxford, Principal of Bar Harbor High School, was located in the state office at Orono as an administrative assistant and to help in supervision in Penobscot and surrounding counties.

Dana Simmons, Principal of Bucksport High School, worked in the same capacity.

Clair Wood, Principal of Waterville High School, served as youth supervisor in Kennebec and Somerset counties which had the greatest VFV placements.

Huse Tibbetts, teacher at Deering High School, worked in Cumberland County.

Raymond Story, teacher at Walton Jr. High School in Auburn, was the youth supervisor for Twin counties.

Supervisory Reports

A new system of weekly reports was used this year. Each week a list of volunteers was sent to each county. This report was completed during the week to show dates of termination of work, transfers, insurance data, wage

agreements and date of last field check. By this means, a constant check on boys was maintained in addition to the regular field check report.

For each boy who left, a report was sent to the state office showing boy's reason for leaving, farmer's statement, supervisor's statement, means of transportation home and date of notification to parents. This provided the state office with complete information on each boy leaving the farm in case parents or recruiting officials required more information than the boy would give. (see appendix for forms)

Field Checks

A total of 856 field checks were made by supervisors during the summer. There was no standard plan or number of checks required. If the placement was satisfactory in every way; the boy happy and the farmer understanding of the boy's abilities, too frequent calls could be disturbing to both. More calls were necessary in the unsatisfactory cases.

Parents had at all times an immediate source of information concerning their son's welfare. Cases of illness or accident received prompt attention as a result of the youth supervisor's activity.

Careful supervision of VFV by special VFV supervisors and Asst. County Farm Labor Supervisors was an important factor in the adjustment of inexperienced boys to the farm. Total field checks increased greatly over 1944. Many volunteers who were unable to succeed in their first placement made good records on a new farm.

The number of supervisory calls for each boy varied greatly. The poorer placements received the most attention. Twelve calls were made in the case of one boy who was doing poorly. He was placed on three different farms in the space of three weeks. The farms were not at fault and the boy finally returned home. He could not adjust himself to the farm situation.

Other volunteers who were transferred because of their failure to succeed in the first placement became good workers in the new position. In this way, a good worker was saved for the primary purpose of this program; food production. The benefit of a successful summer was of more importance to the boy than to the farmer. The farmer could be supplied other help or do the work himself, but it is impossible to estimate the effect of failure on the boy himself.

For this reason, the supervisor spared no effort in helping the boy to find himself on the farm. Most farmers seem to recognize the importance of helping the volunteer and gave whole-hearted cooperation to the supervisor. Seldom did the boy fail if he made a real try.

SAFETY AND INSURANCE

Mr. Albert Hodson, Safety Engineer-Employee's Liability Corporator, gave an illustrated lecture to each training group on the subject, "Safety on the Farm and in the Home."

During the training program, safety in the performance of farm operations, use of machinery, and handling farm animals were stressed. The success of this program is attested by the small number of accidents. Minor cuts, bruises and sprains account for all injuries except one.

Richard Hodgkins, VFV, slipped when climbing out of a farm wagon. He fell only about two feet, but sustained a broken arm. He thought at first it was only a sprain. The farmer, sensing that the injury was more serious, took the boy to the doctor. An x-ray picture showed the fracture and it was promptly treated. The farm labor office was notified and the boy was transferred home. The insurance company provided the best medical attention available until the arm was fully recovered.

All cases of sickness or accident received prompt medical attention and hospitalization. One boy was ill and the doctor called. The doctor's verdict was pneumonia. The boy was immediately hospitalized. He was transported home as soon as he was able to travel.

Each farmer in the VFV contract agreed to pay the accident insurance premium of \$3.50. This premium was payable when the volunteer was placed and the supervisor collected. The farmer was cautioned to seek medical advice in case of any accident or sickness and notify the farm labor office immediately.

All costs resulting from accidents were paid by the insurance company. Extension Farm Labor paid for all medical care in case of sickness. By assuring the farmer that he would not be personally responsible for these costs, we guaranteed the boy the best of attention at all times.

RECOGNITION

During the training program, each VFV was provided with the VFV pin for identification. At the final assembly, a certificate was issued to each volunteer completing the course.

The regular VFV arm insignia was awarded to successful volunteers on the farm and at the completion of the summer's work, the Certificate of Service was mailed to each boy.

RECREATION

Continued war restrictions on travel and food curtailed plans for picnics or other sectional gatherings. There were no small areas of VFV concentration. This eliminated the possibility of bringing together groups throughout the state for the purpose of recreation.

All volunteers in Somerset County, which had the largest VFV placement, were invited to the Skowhegan Fair. This invitation was expanded to include those in Franklin and Kennebec counties.

Over fifty VFV attended the fair and enjoyed, some for the first time, a real county fair. Sports planned for the morning were abandoned due to the excessive heat and the fact that many boys did not arrive until noon.

The Bangor State Fair management extended an invitation to all VFV in the area served by that fair. Fifty passes were distributed to volunteers in Penobscot and Hancock counties. As the boy's attendance was determined by the day on which his employer intended to go, no attempt was made to select a definite day. The passes were good for any day. Here again volunteers had the opportunity of seeing many fine agricultural exhibits, horse racing, vaudeville and fire works as well as the various side shows and rides.

EVALUATION

The marked difference in the type of agriculture for Aroostook County, where the main crop is potatoes, and the remainder of the State where general farming predominates suggests that separate consideration be given VFV live-ins for the two sections. Aroostook live-ins, with few exceptions, were placed for the potato harvest alone during the fall. VFVs on general farms were placed during the summer largely for dairy work.

The size of the potato operation in Aroostook County, its concentration in a relatively small area, and the large importation of farm labor during harvest seems to over-shadow the general farm operations in the rest of the State. The 1000 VFV live-ins placed for the potato harvest season exceeds in number all the other VFV live-ins in the State. The work, which is picking potatoes, pays the individual a greater return and requires less training and the acquisition of fewer skills.

The 443 VFV live-ins on general farms represent the main effort in recruitment and supervision. The work is not as spectacular and the wages are less. They were responsible in many cases for keeping these general farms in full production. Throughout this report reference to live-ins means this group.

EVALUATION, SUCCESS STORIES

Six VFV are now located on farms as year-round workers. They attend the local schools and are permanently established in a new home.

These boys are all orphans or come from broken homes in the city. In each case, the farmer has acquired a year-round worker and the boy has found a pleasant home with the opportunity to continue his education under favorable conditions. Without question, the boy's gain is the greater but the farmer also has gained by stabilizing his labor supply.

FARMER'S STATEMENTS

Farmer's opinions of VFV Live-in

Clarence Day

Kennebunk, Maine

Value- very high. We got the work done and on time and I know that by having them they saved my life and made conditions so that I was able to carry on.

Archie Adams

Solon, Maine

Harold was a very agreeable boy and always ready and willing to do any kind of work. Very capable and dependable.

Alton M. Ranks

Canton, Maine

Yes, a very dependable boy.

Albert Carter

Princeton, Maine

As there was no help available here it would have been impossible for me to have got the work done without this help.

F. B. Reeves

Bradford, Maine

A good volunteer is and can be of great value.

W. J. Pelotte

Waterville, Maine

He was so efficient, willing and easy to learn that it leaves little room for me to offer any suggestions.

Robert A. Wagg

Lisbon, Maine

Very satisfactory in every way.

A. C. Eaton

Sabattus, Maine

This boy has shown interest in the work and has done better than we thought possible.

Samuel C. Cates

East Vassalboro, Me.

Took the place of a man on the farm.

November 19, 1945

Cumberland County Farm Labor Office
Chapman Bldg.
Portland, Maine

Gentlemen:

Due to the farm labor shortage in the past three years, the child farm labor program became necessary in harvesting, chiefly in the picking of beans.

If it had not been for these supervised groups the raising of beans for factory consumption might not have been accomplished.

The program has been beneficial to the children in the respect that most were in more healthful surroundings than they would have been otherwise. Also, these children were able to render financial assistance to their families which otherwise would have been impossible.

The cost of child labor in harvesting is high. This cost has been borne chiefly by the farmer. This made the return from his crop small.

We would suggest that the grower be in contact with the supervisor of the group that picks the beans. The supervisor is the means by which the factory is informed of the pickings. If the supervisor fails to send the factory copy; or if the factory is not given the correct weight, the grower does not receive the proper credit.

We believe the grower should receive the most from his efforts. And, if the program is to be continued, we sincerely hope it may be modified in a manner which will benefit the grower most.

Very truly yours,

H. L. FORHAN CO.
J. F. Harmon, President

C
O
P
Y

November 18, 1945
Gray, Maine

Farm Labor Office
Chapman Bldg.
477 Congress St.
Portland, Maine

Dear Sirs:

Regarding day-haul groups of weeders: It has been my experience that this type and source of farm help for weeding and thinning of vegetables is very satisfactory, and especially during the war did fill a very great need for help on my farm.

I am firmly convinced that this particular kind of organized cooperative effort should be continued and expanded, not only because it assures a source of help for the farmer, but because it presents an opportunity for well supervised training and guidance of adolescent energy into channels of usefulness, and aids greatly in the laying of foundations of character and useful citizenship. We should continue to interest these young boys and girls in this kind of activity as one of the best measures of insurance against child delinquency.

The supervisors in charge of these groups are to be commended for their services and efforts-- the results of which in their effect upon these young boys and girls must be evaluated in terms of benefits to organized society--as well as direct benefits to farmers by helping to solve their immediate labor problems.

Sincerely,

Hans M. Hansen, Jr.

C
O
P
Y

RFD #1, Box 180
South Portland, Me.

November 20, 1945

Farm Labor Office,
Room 23, Chapman Arcade
Portland, Maine

Gentlemen:

During the 1945 season, this farm employed an average of 10 crop corps members per day. Their work was invaluable in spacing lettuce, weeding carrots, parsnips, and beets, harvesting over 12,000 quarts of strawberries, and 8 tons of beans, and cutting, boxing and icing the crop of lettuce and spinach.

Without their aid, it is doubtful if this farm could have been operated at its full capacity this year.

Much credit is due to the able supervision of the crop corps members by the group supervisors.

Very truly yours,

Edward L. Dyer

C
O
P
Y

Scarboro, Maine

November 10, 1945

Mr. Benjamin R. Graves
Farm Labor Office
Chapman Arcade
Portland, Maine

Mr. Graves:

The help I received from your office this year in harvesting my crops was invaluable. I don't know what I would have done without it. I sincerely hope the children and overseers will be available next year.

Louis E. Larrabee

RESULTS OF FARMER'S REPORTS ON VFV FOR 1945

Thirty-one percent of farmers returned the questionnaire on their estimate of the volunteer employed during 1945. The results of this inquiry furnished the following information:

Question 1 - Were you satisfied with this volunteer as a person?

80.7% yes - 4.8% no - 14.5% no answer

Question 2 - Were you satisfied with this volunteer as a worker?

73% yes - 7.7% fair - 7.7% no - 10.8% no answer

Question 3 - Do you consider the volunteer who worked for you is worth the expense and trouble involved in taking him?

66% yes - 3% no - 2.9% qualified - 28% no answer

Question 4 - Would you recommend the VFV to your neighbor?

90% yes - 1% qualified - 6% no - 2% no answer

Question 5 - Would you take VFVs next year if you needed help?

87% yes - 5.4% no - 5% qualified - 2.6% no answer

Question 6 - Would you re-employ the same boy next year?

81% yes - 5.7% qualified - 9% no - 4.3% no answer

LOOKING AHEAD

Improvements in the Employment of Youth

Live-ins

By a more careful selection of both farmer and boy in the live-in program, a more favorable situation for both should be established. The farmer will receive better help and the boy by working for an understanding man will have more chance of success. Some relief from the high pressure for more food should relieve much of the tension in the employer-employee relationship and result in better working conditions.

There will be a decrease in the number of live-ins needed which together with fewer employment opportunities in the cities should allow for better selection of boys.

Day-haul

Greater attention will be given to the welfare of youth in the field. Length of day, rest periods, supervision, methods of payment and nutrition will all receive study in order to establish the best method of operating day-haul groups. Those factors which determine better production by the crew will be studied in order that definite recommendations may be made for the future operation of a day-haul program by the farmer.

VFV Modified Program for 1946

Live-in

A continued supply of youth live-in for those farmers, who from war experience, have found that city youth fit into their plans for farm operations during the summer months. Youth will be supplied only to those farmers who have demonstrated the ability to work with inexperienced youth and who wish to continue to do so.

A more careful selection of youth for farm employment based on physical standards and a real interest in farm work; an honest desire for farm work with an equally honest determination to complete a full season's employment will be basic requirements for enrollment.

The past three years have demonstrated to the farmer that city youth can be good farm help. As the pressure for food production becomes less insistent, more thought may be given to human values. To youth farm labor officials, the benefits of farm work, both physically and spiritually, to the city boy has been clearly apparent.

Cities will again be faced with the problem of large groups of boys unemployed during the summer school vacations. These boys will be exposed to all the undesirable influences of this situation. A great burden is placed on welfare agencies to provide healthful recreation for boys who should be having the benefit of a healthful work experience under good supervision. Juvenile delinquency is already on the up-swing in our large cities and although the farmer cannot be considered as a rehabilitating agent for misdirected youth, the healthful mental influences of farm living could be a valuable means of leading youth energies into more desirable channels.

At first thought, it may seem to be outside the scope of the Extension Service to be concerned with city youth. However, the city controls the farm to the extent that it is the market for farm products and as it represents the bulk of the population, the failure of city people to understand rural problems is a constant source of irritation between these two great sections of the nation. Distrust between two groups of people is the result of their failure to understand each other. The agricultural interests of the country could benefit greatly from a large section of city youth who have acquired a sympathetic understanding of farm problems.

As demobilization of the armed services continues, the supply of available labor is increasing rapidly. The return of war workers to their homes is also an important factor in the labor supply. These people, to the present time, have not generally added greatly to the farm labor supply, but by the summer of 1946 many of them should find their way to the farms. Industrial wages are not as far ahead of farm wages as during the war period.

A consideration of the work done by youth on farms indicates that there will be a continued demand for youth farm labor. The typical farm employing a VFW live-in cannot afford usually a full time experienced man. On the small dairy farm, the peak of labor demand comes during the summer months; particularly during haying. After the harvest of the summer crops, a sharp decrease in labor follows. This type of farm operation demands several extra hands during this crop period and this is the period during which the VFWs are available. It has always been customary for the local youth to supply this demand.

Youth will continue to meet this need, but more farmers will be able to find local youth without assistance from any agency. There still remains an opportunity for youth in farm work, but the emphasis changes to the service of youth rather than the farmer.

Orono, Maine

November 28, 1945

Attached is a report of the Day-haul Program for Cumberland County under the direction of Mr. Benjamin Graves. This is the third year that this program has been in operation and each year has seen it gain in effectiveness. Its value to the farmer this year is fully attested by the general demand that it should be continued in 1946.

The Cumberland plan is the direct result of a large vegetable growing industry concentrated around an industrial center which paid high wages to adult workers. The farmer realized that his crops could not afford to compete in the labor market for highly paid industrial workers. The only answer was youth labor. Again he realized that he was not prepared nor could he afford to devote his time to the training and control of large groups of youth nor did he have the time and contacts to recruit youth.

This indicated the need for the organization of youth groups under competent supervision, which would be available at short notice as the various crops demanded their work. From such a situation did the Cumberland Plan evolve.

As the work was to be done during the summer months when schools were not in session, school teachers were available as supervisors. Their experience in schools qualified them as expert instructors and they were also accustomed to working with youth. They also had the contacts within the schools which made it possible for them to recruit and select the work teams for the summer.

As indicated in the attached report, a great variety of crops came within the scope of operations of this plan. Their first job was the transplanting of apple tree root stocks for the Maine Apple Growers Cooperative Nursery May 1st. The team of Deering High School girls was the only available labor in the area at the time and without them, it would have been impossible to do the work.

The short apple crop decreased the fall work this year, but the final date that a team worked, October 15, indicates an unusually long day-haul season of five and one half months.

In operation, the farmer calls Mr. Graves at the Farm Labor Office stating the number of workers needed, work to be done, time required, and transportation provisions. This notification must reach the Farm Labor Office at least one day previous to the day of work. Mr. Graves then determines which team will be assigned and contacts the team supervisor giving her the time and point of departure. The farmer is advised to meet the team at the designated location and time.

The supervisor is responsible for the assembly of the team at the correct time and place. She is also responsible for the welfare of the workers, as well as, the efficiency of their work. She determines that each worker has provided himself with an adequate lunch and that the transportation provided by the farmer is safe. Large groups often travel in chartered buses.

In the field, the supervisor sees that a safe supply of water is provided in sufficient quantity, that each worker has proper protection from the weather, that the work is done correctly according to the directions of the farmer and that each worker understands the most efficient methods for accomplishing the highest production. She must also be satisfied that each team member is compensated according to the agreement between the farm and the labor office.

The normal work day is six hours. This is a short work day, but when travel time is considered and the age of the worker, this seems to be the most desirable length of day. Beyond six hours, the production falls and workers become tired and often less painstaking. Experience has demonstrated the merits of this work day.

Crop Corps Report for Cumberland County

April 1-November 17, 1945

Schools Participating in Program

School	Number Enrolled (Approximate)
Portland	
Deering High School	110
Portland High School	32
Jackson School	76
Lincoln Junior High	70
West School	91
Saint Patricks School	10
North School	<u>120</u>
Total	509
South Portland	
Frank I. Brown School	23
Henley School	42
Lincoln School	83
Reynolds School	25
Roosevelt School	12
Red Bank School	53
Thornton Heights School	70
Summer Street School	32
South Portland High School	10
Miscellaneous Schools	<u>26</u>
Total	358
Westbrook	
Forest Street School	72
Saint Hyacinth	8
Bridge Street School	<u>38</u>
Total	118
Camps	
Camp Oatka	110
Highland Lake Camp	<u>30</u>
Total	140
Grand Total	1125

Organized Groups

<u>School</u>	<u>Supervisors</u>
1. Deering	Ruth Cortshell-Shirley Bates
2. Woodfords	Anne Blanchard
3. Portland High School	Mrs. Ledger-Mrs. Hamilton
4. North School	Mary Siteman-Mrs. R. Harmon
5. West School	Helen Churchill-Mary Feeney
6. Lincoln School (A)	Georgia Smith-Margaret Prout
7. Lincoln School (B)	Mrs. Piston-Virginia Conley
8. Thornton Heights (A)	Amelia DeMauro-Ruth Burnham
9. " " (B)	Mrs. Cossar-Anna Lee
10. South Portland High School	Ruth Tuttle - Marjorie Johnson
11. Red Bank School	Alice Sawyer - Francis Steel
	Richard Prout-Lillian Brooks
12. Forest Street School	Marion McFarland-Elizabeth Furbish
13. Camp Oatka	Ray Thompson
14. Highland Camp	Camp Councilor

Total number of Day-Haul Calls	725
Total " of Placements	10845
Total " of Individuals.....	1123
Total " of Hours on farm	5615
Total " of Day-Haul Groups (bean picking)...	250
Total acres beans picked by groups.....	210
Price paid for picking beans.....	1 1/4 cents per lb.
Estimated earnings per day	75¢ to \$4.50 per day
Day-Haul Groups (other than bean picking).....	432
Pay per hour.....	50¢
Strawberries	5¢ per box
Corn.....	3¢ " bushel

Types of Work Performed by Day-Haul Groups

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Work Performed</u>
1. Lettuce	Weeding - spacing- cutting
2. Carrots	Weeding - harvesting - bunching
3. Beets	Weeding- harvesting - bunching
4. Beans	Weeding - picking
5. Strawberries	Weeding - picking
6. Turnip	Weeding
7. Peas	Picking
8. Tomatoes	Hoeing
9. Corn	Hoeing - picking
10. Potatoes	Weeding - harvesting
11. Cabbage	Weeding - cutting
12. Cauliflower	Weeding - cutting
13. Spinach	Weeding - cutting
14. Parsnips	Weeding
15. Apples	Picking
16. Apple seedlings	Transplanting - Fertilizing
	Budding - Hoeing
17. Onions	Weeding

Total number of farmers taking advantage of the
services of Crop Corps in Cumberland County..... 48

Approximate number of acres.....348

Our teams have been used much more this year than last. The teams
commenced working in May and continued until October 15. If there had
been more apples, we would have received more calls in October.

Many farmers have asked that the Crop Corps be continued under its
present set-up for at least another year.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ BENJAMIN R. GRAVES

Benjamin R. Graves
Ass't. Farm Labor Supervisor
Day-Haul Groups, Cumberland Co.

BRG:L

V.F.V. SUPERVISOR CONFERENCE
Feb. 17, 1945

Farmers

1. Are we making a close enough check on farms and attitudes of farm families?
2. Is it necessary to work more with farmers to encourage a more sympathetic attitude toward young people? If necessary, how should this be done?
 - a. Farmer's meeting
 - b. Emphasis on Job Instruction Training
 - c. Supervisor contact with farmer previous to placement.
3. Should there be a joint farmer-VFV- Parent agreement?
4. Were there any instances of unfair treatment of boy by farmer? Suggested treatment?
5. What should be the form of farmers contract if any?

Recruiting

Recruiting Procedure

1. How can all secondary schools in the state be reached?
2. What is the most effective method of recruiting in schools where it is not possible for an Extension representative to call?
3. What is the most effective method of presentation of the VFV Program in a school?
 - a. Small interested groups
 - b. General assemblies
 - c. Personal interview
4. Selection
 - a. What physical standards are desirable?
 - b. How can attitudes be determined?
 - c. What part in selection can the school principal play?
 - d. Is more careful selection during the training program possible or desirable?
 - e. Should pre-delinquent youth be recruited?
4. How can the loss by homesickness be decreased?

Parents

1. How can the right attitude toward the boy's work be encouraged?
 - a. Special leaflets to parents
 - b. Parents meetings
 - c. Newspaper stories

- d. Service clubs and parent's organizations
- e. Parent interviews

- 2. Should parent visits to the farm be discouraged?
- 3. Should there be periodic reports to parents?

Recreation

- 1. Is it possible to organize VFV recreation programs in the various communities?
- 2. What can be done to interest the isolated VFV?
- 3. How can farmers be influenced to give greater consideration to recreation?

Training Program

- 1. What should be included in the training program?
 - a. Less class room work
 - b. More physical work
 - c. More recreation
 - d. System of grades
- 2. Should boys be advised of placement?
 - a. When recruited
 - b. On entering training
 - c. Just previous to placement
- 3. Should training include some actual farm work on a farm?
- 4. What is the aim of the training program?
- 5. Did the 1944 training program accomplish this aim?
- 6. Could successful training be accomplished in small group meetings at the University during the spring vacation?
- 7. Should the training program be discarded?

Reports and Forms

- 1. What information should be included on the Farm Home Card?
 - a. Eliminate it?
- 2. Should the VFV Registration Blank be changed?
 - a. To include more information
 - b. Less information
 - c. O.k. as it is
- 3. Can the farmer's report form be completed during the supervisor's final call?
 - a. More information
 - b. Less information
 - c. Eliminate it

4. Should the supervisor collect the VFV report on summer's work?
 - a. Changes
5. Should there be a definite VFV agreement for which the boy agrees to a certain work period, wages, and other factors affecting his employment?
6. Is a field check form designed for VFVs necessary?

Awards

1. When, where, and how?
 - a. Identification cards
 - b. VFV insignia
 - c. Certificate
2. Recognition for successful completion.

C O U N T Y P L A C E M E N T S

V.F.V. Live-ins

Aroostook	4
Cumberland	28
Franklin	19
Hancock	16
Kennebec	51
Knox-Lincoln	3
Oxford	30
Penobscot	65
Piscataquis	34
Somerset	83
Twin	52
Waldo	21
Washington	1
York	36
	<hr/> 443

T O T A L R E C R U I T M E N T

From out of State	61	
From New York State		6
From Massachusetts		55
From State of Maine		382
		<hr/> 443

LIVE-IN - GENERAL FARMS

Recruited	485
Placed	443
Average Earnings	\$11 per week
Average Weeks	8
Average Season earnings	\$88
Maximum earnings	\$21 per week
Minimum earnings	\$6 " "
Total earnings	\$38,984.00

90% ON DAIRY FARMS

Young Stock	4973
Average number of cows-general & dairy farms	13
Total	5759
For farms having poultry	23,923 laying hens
Broilers	32,568
Average per boy reporting	1208
Baby chicks	19,565
Sheep	8860
Acres of grain	1772
Hayland acres	62 per boy
Total	27,466
Average acres of garden (per boy)	2
Dry beans " "	1
Potatoes (not Aroostook)	1572

VALUE OF PRODUCTS WHICH VFV LIVE-INS HELPED PRODUCE
ON GENERAL FARMS

Milk	\$201,565	
Hay	274,660	
Young Stock	146,190	
Sheep	8,860	
Eggs	177,000	
Dry Beans	8,860	
Grain	26,580	
Garden	44,000	
Sweet Corn	30,000	
Potatoes	170,000	
Pork	22,000	
Broilers	32,500	
	<u>\$1,142,215</u>	- Value of main crops on farms employing VFV live-ins

These figures cannot be considered as the total of all crops, but it represents estimated values based on the reports of farms submitted by the volunteers. VFV live-ins helped the farmers of Maine in the production of this amount of food at least, and if complete figures were available the total would be larger.

	<u>Day-haul ind.</u>	<u>Placements</u>
Aroostook	400	1200
Twin	1058	3000
Cumberland	1151	10,845
Franklin	300	889
Hancock	83	267
Kennebec	375	1200
Knox-Lincoln	22	71
Oxford	961	2500
Penobscot	520	2100
Piscataquis	710	1200
Somerset	363	1377
Waldo	165	250
Washington	150	220
York	<u>885</u>	<u>2000</u>
	7143	27119
Aroostook Potato Picking	<u>1000</u>	
	8143	

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE IN MAINE - 1945

Total extension day-haul placements	27,119
Total individuals	8,143
Acres of beans picked	1,700
Earned picking beans	\$149,600
Average earnings per individual	\$29
Variation on earnings	\$10 - \$60
Earnings per day	.75 - \$5.00

CROPS OTHER THAN BEANS

Blueberries	Carrots
Strawberries	Spinach
Peas	Beets
Cucumbers	Turnip
Sweet Corn	Tomatoes
Cauliflower	Cabbage
Potatoes	Parsnips
Apple seedlings-trans.	Onions
Apple picking	
Shellbeans	
Lettuce	

WAGE BASIS FOR CROPS ON WHICH YOUTH WORKEDPicking

Beans (snap)	\$.02 per pound
Strawberries	.05 per box
Corn	.03 per bushel
Shellbeans	.25 per bushel
Peas	.75 per bushel
Potatoes	.15 per barrel
Other farm work	.30 per hour

RECAPITULATION OF V.F.V. TOTALS

V.F.V. live-ins -general farm work	443
V.F.V. live-ins - potato harvest	1000
V.F.V. day-haul - principally bean picking	<u>7143</u>
Total VFV placed by Extension	8586
Day-haul placements	27119
Live-in placements	<u>1443</u>
Total V.F.V. placements	28162