

Rancher's Report

By BILL DECKER

Only one agricultural college graduate out of six (17 per cent) goes back to the farm upon completion of his schooling or military service, reports the family economics bureau of Northwestern National Life Insurance Company.

Partly responsible is the large investment now required to set up a modern farm—some grads get back into farming later on. But the bureau's survey, covering 50 agricultural colleges from Maine to California, finds that the biggest factor is the wealth of well-paying opportunities for aggie graduates in agriculturally-related industries and professions.

Nearly 30 per cent, over half again as many as take up farming, are snapped up by industrial and commercial firms at good salaries. Most of the jobs are in lines closely associated with farming, such as: Farm feed and supply co-ops, agricultural chemical and farm machinery companies, food processing and commodity brokerage firms; as cattle buyers for packing houses; as appraisers and consultants for banks and rural lending institutions; as herd managers, and as buyers for retail food chains. Many also enter regular sales training courses with major corporations.

The remainder of the approximately 7,300 who graduate annually with bachelor degrees in some branch of agricultural science are accounted for as follows: Into government agricultural services, 17-18 per cent; into teaching, 12-13 per cent; into graduate study for advanced or professional degrees, 18-19 per cent; miscellaneous, 3 to 6 per cent.

Most of the teacher candidates, the survey shows, become vocational agriculture instructors in high schools. The government jobs are as county and 4-H Club agents, conservation aids, agricultural experiment station work, etc.

Each year from 1,400 to 1,500 graduate students are given masters' degrees in some branch of agricultural science, and around 400 earn doctors' degrees. The advanced degree grads go mainly into college teaching or research work in industry and government, into industrial management, veterinary medicine, etc.

Thus it is estimated that between 80 and 90 per cent of all agricultural college graduates enter the service of agriculture. But most of this service is rendered in other ways than by tilling the soil directly, the survey shows.

Joining the ranks of the 17 per cent who entered farming immediately, however, are some five per cent or so who shift into farming after they have accumulated the necessary capital through a term of years in a salaried job. This fact is indicated in alumni surveys conducted by a number of the schools. The exact percentage is a bit vague because farmers are notably more allergic to answering questionnaires, even from their alma maters, than are alumni in business or professional jobs.

The insurance company's survey finds a wide variation among the different agricultural colleges in the proportions of their graduates who enter farming, industry, education, etc., depending largely on the location of the different schools.

The survey shows also that at the 50 schools covered, approximately 20 per cent of the B.S. graduates of 1957 would serve a hitch in the armed forces before embarking on their chosen careers.

Far more than the present annual net output of approximately 7,300 graduates in agriculture are needed, college heads say, to keep pace with demand. Yet in recent years the agricultural colleges have not shared appreciably in the general expansion in college student registrations. Three main factors are blamed: The less favorable farm cost-price relationship, severe droughts, and the well publicized salaries received by college graduates in other fields.

Not generally realized is the fact that four-year agricultural college grads of 1957 entered business and

professional positions at salaries close to or equal to the averages enjoyed by graduates of other four-year colleges, while advanced degree agricultural science graduates are getting choice berths at salaries which compare favorably with those of the vaunted engineers.

Among typical quotations from schools cooperating in the survey was this from the University of Illinois' College of Agriculture:

"Much publicity is given to the shortages in engineering, math, physics and other technical fields. But the shortages are just as great in dairy technology, food technology, plant pathology, agronomy, animal nutrition, animal genetics, forestry, and many other agriculturally related fields. The long run opportunities are better and incomes higher in these fields than in many of the technical fields. Many more jobs are available than men available to fill them."

From Agricultural and Technical Institute (N.Y.): "We have many more requests for our graduates than we can fill."

From Iowa State College of Agriculture: "The old agricultural ladder, by which a young man could rise from farm hand to tenant to owner-operator, has almost broken down, due to the increased capital needed for establishment in farming. . . . There is a new ladder: Many young men are graduating from an agricultural college, working for a time in a non-farming phase of agriculture, then shifting into farming. Monthly beginning salaries for our B.S. graduates in 1957 ranged from \$300 to \$500 per month, with the average estimated at \$365 per month."

And from University of Nebraska College of Agriculture: "From 80 to 90 per cent of our students go into jobs closely related to agriculture. The advanced technology in agriculture has created the need for many well-trained persons to go into jobs closely supporting it."

University of Wyoming Agricultural College: "We have an average of five to seven job openings per graduate."

University of Missouri College of Agriculture: "We had more than 750 individual job opportunities come to our attention for our 300 graduates in 1957."

University of Minnesota College of Agriculture: "Our alumni survey found our past graduates in 112 different occupational categories."

Cornell University College of Agriculture: "Most active business fields of employment for our graduates included farm feed and supply cooperatives, retail food chains, food processors, milk companies, commodity brokerage, electric power companies."

Davis (Agricultural) Campus, University of California: "An alumni survey finds 80 per cent of our past B.S. graduates engaged in agriculturally associated occupations. Of our B.S. and advanced degree alumni, 37 per cent reported annual incomes of \$5,000-\$7,500; 16 per cent were in the \$7,500-\$10,000 bracket, and 15 per cent had incomes of over \$10,000."

Ample-Sized Cabin ts Help Prevent Accidents From Wrong 'Medicines'

Every year more than 200,000 persons in the country, mostly children, are victims of accidental poisoning.

It kills more young children than polio, diphtheria and scarlet fever combined.

When selecting the medicine cabinet for the bathroom be sure that it is large enough to store all dangerous products such as aspirin, peroxides, iodines, etc., out of the reach of small children, yet permit storage of those medical preparations in daily use.

Canby Farmer Given Award

Oregon's outstanding young farmer for 1957 is Charles Dietz, 33, of Canby.

Announcement was made at the annual spring board meeting of the Oregon Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the annual OYF contest. Dietz will represent the state in the national finals, to be judged at Indianapolis in April.

Runnerup is Arlen L. Buroker, 25, who operates 280-acre diversified farm near Milton-Freewater. Third place went to Glenn A. Gulstrom, 33, Broadbent dairy farmer.

Dietz operates a 305-acre diversified farming operation, specializing in sheep, hay and grain. He was nominee of Canby Farm Bureau and Canby Jaycees.

From a partnership with his father, Dietz began in 1951 to farm on his own on rental basis. He has gradually increased his holding.

Legumes, because they build soil, have been emphasized in his crop rotation, among them subterranean clover raised for seed.

He has increased percentage of seed harvested by several unique innovations in mowing equipment, designed and built field sprayer for mounting in pickup truck, experimented with chemical control of grasses in clover and bought hay crimper, which he uses

and rents to neighbors.

Dietz has increased his net worth by over 4,000 per cent since he began farming.

He is member of Oregon wheat industry's production and land use committee and president of Canby Jaycees.

Buroker has reclaimed alkali land by clearing sagebrush and leveling 40 acres, drilling two deep irrigation wells, installing permanent sprinkler system, leaching alkali patches on 160 acres, using commercial fertilizer and barnyard manure and building farm pond to control and use runoff water.

His main interest is livestock, which he began as 4-H club member at the age of nine. He has 100 dairy females, 30 sheep, 12 sows, two boars and last year marketed 240 head of fat hogs.

Gulstrom has 43 head of producing Jersey cows and 17 head of yearlings and calves.

He has been active in many community projects, with special interest in youth activities.

He has led 4-H clubs for eight years, served for three years as Boy Scout troop committeeman, was first president of the community's Parent Teacher Association and is now in his second five-year term as school director.

Stephen Douglas, the opposition candidate for the U.S. presidency when Abraham Lincoln was elected, attended Lincoln's inauguration and held the president's hat.

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