The Short Course in Agriculture

The Short Course in Agriculture was established in 1885 and since that time has been an important factor in the agricultural development of the state. Among its graduates are many of Wisconsin’s most successful farmers. These men recognize today the value of the course in giving technical knowledge, a broadened vision of agriculture, and an inspiration for the future. They are boosters for the course at all times.

Since it was established 6,500 students have attended the Short Course in Agriculture. Every county in the state has been represented in the course at some time. Not only has Wisconsin profited by the course, but in many parts of the United States and in several foreign countries are found successful farmers who attended the Short Course.

Equipment. The equipment of the College of Agriculture is thoroughly modern and practical. The buildings stand for the best types of farm architecture and the ideas represented in their construction can be adapted readily to the average farm. For years attention has been given to obtaining breeds of livestock that will be representative and true to type. The instruction in the short course is given by the regular members of the staff of the university, and the students have every advantage offered to the students in the other courses.

Purpose of the Short Course

The primary purpose of the Short Course is to train young men for the business of farming. That it has and is accom-
Short Course Men Come From Every County in the State

plicishing this purpose is definitely proven in the fact that probably 95 per cent of its graduates return to the farm. This alone would justify the high esteem in which the course is held throughout the state but there are many more valuable and far reaching results to be obtained by taking a course of this kind than one might realize at first thought.

Other purposes are:

(1) To secure a wider vision of the importance of agriculture as a life's vocation and to show the opportunity for the trained man in making it a success.
(2) To learn the fundamental scientific facts necessary to understand the reasons for the common farm practices, and to secure a thorough training in practical agriculture.

(3) To study the problems involved in successful farm management, including the cooperative buying of supplies and marketing of farm crops, the employment of labor and the organization of the farm as a business enterprise.

(4) To find greater interests in rural life, to realize the possibilities and opportunities of the farm as a social factor and its relations to the community and society, and to give a chance to make an intelligent study of the problems affecting the agricultural interests of the state so one may become a better farmer and a more intelligent and useful citizen.

(5) To enable you to meet young men with agricultural interests from various sections of the state and to form acquaintances which will last through life, and to meet and listen to lectures by men prominent in the agricultural world.

(6) To secure training in special agricultural fields such as tractor operation, herdsman training, cow testing, poultry raising, etc. Agriculture is becoming more specialized and the elective system of the second year and extended schedules allows qualified men to specialize.

(7) To obtain this information at the season of the year when the work on the farm is the least pressing and to offer the advantages of the College of Agriculture to you who are unable to complete a longer course.

(8) To help you secure desirable positions for which you
will be fitted by training and experience and where you may increase your store of practical farm knowledge.

Most of the young men who take the short course realize that it offers them the supreme opportunity of their lives and they are taking advantage of that opportunity, as have those who have graduated before them, to become the seedsmen, the breeders of better livestock, and above all, the home-builders of the state.

Opportunities for Graduates

During the past year the employment bureau of the College of Agriculture has been unable to meet the rapidly increasing demand for students to work on farms in this and other states. Many of the students have returned to the home farms.

The nature of the positions which are open to Short Course students is shown by the following:

General farm laborer. The opportunity for farm positions on general farms other than the home farm, is exceptionally good. These positions pay experienced men from $50 to $100 a month with board.

Herdsman, Foreman. Many enterprising and successful farmers need trained men to assume the responsibility of the management of the herds. This is a responsible position that pays from $70 to $85 and sometimes $100 or more a month with board. This type of position serves as a stepping stone for something better; it frequently leads to a managerial job.

Some farmers with a large amount of business require the services of a foreman who looks after certain parts of the work of the farm under the direction of a manager.