



12 LABOR SHORT CUTS FOR WARTIME FARMING

- Plan jobs for greatest efficiency.
- Let each member of the family do the job he or she can handle best.
- Let women volunteers do housework while farm womenfolk help to operate the farm.
- Use all the labor-saving devices you can.
- Keep implements and machinery in tip-top condition.
- Shift feed bins to central locations.
- Cut out unnecessary gates, fix sagging gates, arrange portable fencing so it can be moved quickly.
- Eliminate unnecessary motions and steps in every chore.
- If you can't get skilled help, don't give up. Much work can be done by unskilled help if properly directed.
- Take time and patience to train inexperienced helpers. Start them with simple tasks first.
- Cooperate with neighbors. Join neighborhood machinery pools. Plan seasonal operations for the neighborhood. Stick with the plan and with your neighbors through the season.
- If you're up against a crop or harvesting problem, consult your county agricultural agent.

Do you need additional farm help?



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
United States Department of Agriculture

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Let's be practical about it

The Government has a major program to help you get the farm labor you need. Full-time help, seasonal help, harvest hands, emergency labor, canning-plant help—what do you need? Report your needs for farm labor to the county agricultural agent, and your needs for canning labor to the United States Employment Service.

Hundreds of thousands of nonfarm people are enrolling in the U. S. Crop Corps. They know that farmers are doing their part by aiming at record crop goals. They know that many farmers can't harvest all their crops without additional help. So they've volunteered in the Crop Corps to work on farms.

The War Food Administration estimates that in most farming counties 90 percent or more of the additional farm help needed this summer can be found locally. If not, the Government will help you to locate and bring in farm help from surplus farm labor areas.

Even if you think now that you won't need additional help, you may want it badly before summer is over. You should know how and where to get it quickly. Look inside for further details.

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LOCAL EMERGENCY HELP

Through a Nation-wide campaign addressed to nonfarm people, the Government and civic-minded groups in thousands of cities, towns, and villages have organized a U. S. Crop Corps mobilization system. The local groups endeavor to enroll as many able-bodied volunteers as possible to provide farmers in the county with the additional help needed to grow and harvest this year's crops, and to get help to can the crops. The U. S. Crop Corps mobilization thus is a cooperative enterprise between farmers and patriotic nonfarm people.

Cooperation means working together. In many areas crops threatened by shortages of harvest labor last year were saved in just this way. Machinists from railroad shops worked their shifts in the factory and then went out to wheat farms till sundown. The State or local Defense Councils declared a war emergency, and whole towns closed businesses in the daytime to let merchants, grain-elevator and gasoline-station attendants, bankers, men, women, and youths, ordinarily engaged in other work, go to the fields to save crops. In other instances the block plan of the Defense Councils was used in a house-to-house canvass to enlist volunteers.

Wholehearted cooperation of this sort is the general idea behind this year's more extensive, Nation-wide U. S. Crop Corps mobilization. Those who volunteer to work do so primarily for patriotic reasons. They want to help stave off any unnecessary food shortage which might prolong the war. So they're signing up and pledging their help. Many of those who do are former farmers or were raised on a farm. Others, especially among the women and high school youths, are inexperienced—but they are patriotic and determined to learn and work faithfully.

Where mobilization of local labor is needed for both farm work and canning-plant work, the county agricultural agent and the United States Employment Service will work together with the community in one local mobilization drive.

The local mobilization committees are finding out the names of volunteers, their experience, what they can do, and on what days of the week or in what weeks of the season they can work on farms in the counties. The names are filed, cross-indexed, and made available to the county extension agent. These committees caution volunteers not to sign up unless they are able and willing to work at the kind of tasks reasonable farmers would expect of persons not hardened physically to the demands of the heaviest kinds of farm jobs. The local mobilization committees will also work with farm labor advisory committees, now being organized in all rural counties, in arranging for such matters as rates and methods of pay, transportation, lodging, and feeding of workers.

Since it is necessary for the county agricultural agent to know whether the help listed on the county Crop Corps roster will fill the needs of farmers in the county, be sure that he knows whether you need additional help.

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

Part of the U. S. Crop Corps, but established as a separate unit, is the Women's Land Army. It is being organized by the Extension Service in cooperation with women's organizations, the United States Employment Service, and the Office of Civilian Defense. The Women's Land Army expects to make available 50,000 women pledged to work on farms at least 30 days this summer and 10,000 who agree to work on farms the year round. They wear a special Women's Land Army uniform. To become members, women must be at least 18 years old and must have a doctor's certificate to show that they are in good health and strong enough to do hard farm work. Many of them will have had special training. Members of the Women's Land Army who enroll for annual service will be trained and qualified for dairy work and other continuous farm activities.

Those who enroll for shorter periods will be available largely for seasonal work, such as picking fruit, harvesting vegetables, working in the farm kitchen while the womenfolk of the farm drive tractors and do other farm work requiring experience, helping in the home canning and processing of home-grown food on the farm.

Women enrolling in the Women's Land Army do so from a patriotic motive. In many farm families the kind of help available through the Women's Land Army, if given a fair trial, will help to solve this year's problem of additional farm help.

Farmers who have already employed volunteers from the Women's Land Army speak highly of their services. They have found many farm jobs for which women are especially well qualified. These volunteers have proved themselves willing to learn, quick, accurate, patient, and interested in doing a good job.

VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS

City boys were of considerable help to farmers in World War I. City high school boys—and some girls—will be of great help to farmers in the present war.

Half a million Victory Farm Volunteers are being made available through recruiting carried on this spring as a part of the High School Victory Corps by the United States Office of Education. These boys and girls have been given background instruction in their schools, particularly through the High School Victory Corps. They are a group of youngsters who are ready and willing to learn. The recruitment of the youths is aimed at discouraging those who would be unable to adapt themselves to farm life and surroundings.

In counties where Victory Farm Volunteers are available, county agricultural agents have a special assistant to arrange for the placement of the youths on farms. Many youths 16 or 17 years of age look forward to this year's work on a farm as a chance to help do a vital war job. Many of them want to get into the armed forces. Looking ahead to armed-service duty, they will realize how necessary farm work is to victory. You can expect them to do their share if given proper guidance.

Whether you employ a member of the Victory Farm Volunteers or a member of the Boy Scouts or other patriotic organization that is urging its young members to work on farms this year, keep the youth's age in mind. Show him how to do

things. Don't just tell him. He'll be anxious to do work that will harden his muscles. Don't let him do the heavy jobs all at once. A boy or girl of premilitary age is likely to want to overdo.

To make arrangements for employing Victory Farm Volunteers, write the county agent's office.

FARM WORK IS WAR WORK

Farmers, Crop Corps workers, State and county extension services, local mobilization committees, and the Government, are working together for one purpose—to produce the food that will help speed victory on the fighting fronts.

WORKERS FROM SURPLUS FARM LABOR AREAS

If the local U. S. Crop Corps mobilization, including the Women's Land Army and Victory Farm Volunteers, fails to supply the necessary farm labor requirements, the county agent so advises his State director of extension. Where State directors of extension are unable to find surplus farm labor in other counties within the State, the Office of Labor of the War Food Administration will bring skilled or semiskilled workers from surplus farm labor areas.

Many migrant farm laborers that farmers in special-crop areas depended on in past years have gone into war plants or into the service or have year-round farm occupations. Where labor of this type is essential, arrangements are made to bring in workers from Mexico, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. Laborers from these foreign countries will be treated in accordance with agreements reached between their governments and ours. They will be concentrated largely in the special-crop areas of the Southwest, Southeast, Great Lakes States, and eastern seaboard.

Government agencies, such as the War Food Administration, United States Employment Service, Office of Civilian Defense, and the State and Federal Extension Services, are making every effort to assist farmers and farming communities in organizing to obtain the necessary farm labor to harvest all this year's crop. The Government's appeal to you this year is not to let a pound of food go to waste for lack of help. It may be difficult to get all the skilled farm workers necessary to handle livestock, poultry, cattle, irrigation ditches, and specialized kinds of farming. But inexperienced help, properly directed, can be built into a mighty agricultural reserve army which will do much to save our harvests.

Call on your county agent. He will do everything in his power to help you meet your own and the community's farm labor situation.

GET BEHIND YOUR COUNTY CROP CORPS MOBILIZATION

Join with your neighbors in determining local farm labor needs. Send this information to your County Agricultural Extension Office.