

... FLOCK HOUSE FARM OF INSTRUCTION

The maxim "Learn by Doing" is a sound one provided the trainee fully understands and appreciates what he is doing.

Field days and demonstrations will be arranged to cover such places of interest as fertiliser works, woollen mills, freezing works, dairy factories, and stud farms. Full use will be made of educational sound films and lantern slides to make every angle of tuition clear. Lectures, however, will entail only a few hours each week. The greater part of the training is to be done in conjunction with the usual farm activities. Under the system of a weekly roster the trainee will learn all farming operations by actually doing them and working with the Foremen Instructors responsible for the sections.

The major sections under the control of a Foreman Instructor are at present as follows:—Dairying, shepherding, cultivation work, fencing, farm carpentering, and horticulture.

It has been arranged that all trainees shall join the local Young Farmers' Club at Bulls. They will be able to take part in the club activities and will be in the position when going to another district of really knowing something about the Y.F.C. movement and will be able to take part in the activities of clubs.

Progress Reports

A system of marking designed to give a true assessment of a trainee's progress over the 12 months has been initiated. Each week Foremen Instructors will award marks to trainees under their instruction during the week.

Short written revisionary tests will be held quarterly and will give a fair indication of the knowledge absorbed and also an incentive to consistent study of the lecture papers and a full application of the teachings of the Foreman Instructor.

Quarterly reports which will embrace not only the progress made, but also physical development and general behaviour, will be forwarded to trainees' parents.

Trophies are to be awarded to trainees who have endeavoured to obtain the maximum from the training offered. Competition, provided it is not overdone, has a considerable value in any training scheme. Sports trophies will also be competed for.

Remuneration

Remuneration paid the boys during the 12 months they are at Flock House is as follows:—

Period	Total Remuneration per week.	Amount to be held in savings account per week.	
		s. d.	s. d.
1st 3 months ..	2 6	1	6
2nd 3 months ..	5 0	3	6
3rd 3 months ..	10 0	8	0
4th 3 months ..	17 6	14	6

The three-monthly increase may be postponed or totally declined at the discretion of the Supervising Instructor if the conduct and progress of a trainee are inconsistent with his ability.

The compulsory savings account into which the bulk of a boy's remuneration is paid is opened on the boy's behalf when he is admitted, and only small amounts are paid to him directly as pocket money. At the end of a boy's training he may, with the consent of his parents, withdraw his accumulated savings and interest, or undertake to continue to make further regular deposits, or he may leave the money to the credit of his account, which bears interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

Any New Zealand youth between 15 and 18 years old who is keen on agriculture and has the necessary medical and character qualifications may become a trainee at Flock House Farm of Instruction. Applications for entry may be made now to

The Director,
Fields Division,
Department of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 3004,
Wellington C1.

Recreational

Sport and recreational activities are part of the new curriculum. Football, golf, tennis, cricket, swimming, and baseball are under the direction of housemasters. During the winter boxing, table tennis, hockey, handball, and other forms of recreation are arranged, including dancing practices, debates, and physical culture in the fine recreational hall near the hostel. Dances and social functions are held periodically.

Athletic and swimming sports are held each year and every trainee is expected to compete. Horse events are included in the athletics day programme.

The Country Library Service supplies books to the station and there is a canteen for the boys.

Non-denominational church services are held every Sunday by ministers of the various Churches in rotation.

Accommodation

Trainees are accommodated in the hostel, a two-storeyed concrete building in ideal surroundings, and dining-rooms, etc., are in an up-to-date annex. The buildings are lit with electricity.

When off duty the boys are under the supervision of a Housemaster, the domestic arrangements being in charge of the Matron, who is a fully-qualified nursing sister. The food is good and ample.

Rules and Regulations

Trainees must at all times conform to the rules, which will be strictly enforced. Any wilful damage will be charged against the boy concerned.

Everything possible is done to ensure that the trainees enjoy an instructive, interesting, and happy life during their period of training at Flock House, but it must also be emphasised that an ordinary standard of conduct and diligence is expected of them, and any boy who after due warning does not measure up to the required standard and will not play the game will be discharged.

List of Clothing

The following is a list of clothing, etc., required by every trainee on entering Flock House:—1 overcoat, 1 best suit, 2 sports coats, 2 pairs of grey trousers, 3 khaki or dark grey shirts (suitable for working), 3 grey shirts (school type), 2 best shirts, 3 denim or similar working trousers, 1 working coat, 3 singlets, 3 pairs of underpants, 3 pairs of best sox, 6 pairs of working sox, 6 handkerchiefs, 3 pairs of pyjamas, 3 towels, pullover, 6 pairs of leather laces, 3 pairs of cotton laces, hat or cap, clothes hangers, hussif, bathers, belts, braces, boot-cleaning outfit, hair, clothes, and tooth-brushes, oilskin, sou'-wester, gumboots, working boots (military type, not too heavily nailed), sandshoes, slippers or sandals, football boots, football jersey and pants (if footballer), tennis racket (optional), 2 blankets and a rug. Extra garments would be an advantage during training, as many in the foregoing list would require renewal at the end of six months. **All clothing should be clearly marked with the trainee's name.**

Application and Entry

New trainees will be admitted in the middle of January, at the end of May, and at the end of August. Applications for the end of August are now being received.

As accommodation is limited, early application is essential; if the number of candidates exceeds the vacancies, early applicants will receive priority.

The Department of Agriculture will undertake, if desired, to find suitable employment for each boy at the completion of his training, provided his work and conduct have been satisfactory.