Farming Project at City Colleges

New York’s four municipal colleges are recruiting students and faculty members to help solve the farm labor shortage. It was announced today by the Board of Higher Education. The board, at its recent meeting, adopted a resolution endorsing efforts of the colleges to cooperate with Gov. Dewey and the Federal Department of Agriculture in securing additional farm workers.

At Brooklyn College a plan has already been proposed where-by 17-year-old boys in the freshman social science course to accelerate their college programs at the same time that they are serving in farm labor camps this summer.

According to Prof. Ralph C. Benedict, chairman of the Brooklyn College committee on student employment, who spent last summer at farm camps where a hundred college students were employed, many college professors and instructors have volunteered to supervise labor camps this year. These volunteers will keep students and faculty members informed of developments in the farm program, and will serve as liaison officers with individual farmers, Federal agencies and the New York State Agricultural Defense Council.

Prof. Benedict said that both boys and girls working on the farms during the summer months would be interested in taking courses on rainy days and evenings, provided faculty members would offer to conduct the courses.

Among the courses now under consideration for the student-farmers are military mapping, physiology, mathematics, English, modern languages and subjects specially related to farming, such as farm biology and rural sociology.

"By April 1," said Prof. Benedict, "we expect to have student groups organized under faculty leaders. The only remaining factor then will be negotiation for farm camp sites."

At Queens College, the war committee of the Student Council has urged that a plan for summer farm work be worked out. At Farmingdale there is a plan with the Newtown High School agricultural annex, which has a farm adjoining the college. Summer camp programs are also being worked out at Hunter and City College.