Students in Farm
at Boro College

BY GARET MARA

In the history of our borough schools we have witnessed the launching of a farm cadet program under gray clouds.

Back in 1918 when the first World War overshadowed our lives, Bushwick High School inaugurated what is believed to be the first farm project for students. Organized as the Boys Work Reserve under Federal and State sponsorship, the school located 150 boys in seven camps on Long Island for school vacation to help farm planting and harvesting of the ops.

Not until a year ago, while Americans were seeking over the trenches perpetrated at Pearl Harbor, did a farm project for youth again receive impetus.

Last year Brooklyn College founded its first farm group when 188 students were taken to Duchess County. House in three groups under supervision, the students established work agreements with farmers in the surrounding area.

Arthur Crossley was the faculty member of the Bushwick High School who started the farm student-labor group at the school, 25 years ago, and had as his assistant, Ralph C. Benedict, now a professor at Brooklyn College.

To Professor Benedict goes the credit for establishing the unit in Brooklyn College last year, which proved so satisfactory in its initial venture. It resulted in the signing up of 200 students this year for farm work in Morrisville, N.Y.

Start This Month

Delayed in setting forth this year due to lateness of Spring planting, the students expect to have it growing during the latter part of the month. In the meantime they are attending farm classes at Brooklyn College.

In Morrisville the students will be housed on the campus of the New York State Agricultural and Technical Institute.

Speaking of the progress made in this year's plans Professor Benedict said yesterday:

"Following my report to President Gideon in which I suggested that the college take the responsibility of organizing the farm project this year, upward of 50 of my colleagues came forward and helped voluntarily. Our aim is to make this a production unit, with educational aspects."

"I have told the students not to expect it to be a picnic or a lark. It will be hard work and at times monotonous," he declared.

Basically, the Brooklyn College project is one of the farm work units set up under the auspices of the New York Farm Cadet Victory.

From Beans to Books

The students at Morrisville will work full time at picking beans and peas on the farms and their college studies will be continued in evening sessions when they may take up three or approximately three subjects.

The curriculum is comprised of courses arranged under the following divisions:

1. Correlation; farm biology, geology and rural sociology.
2. War Service: military topography
3. Required: mathematics for freshmen and sophomores; English composition and literature; political science and sociology.

Students will live in the dormitories of the institute, have the use of the study halls. In addition, they can use all of the farm facilities of the institute for their related studies.

College Greenhouse

Throughout the year, students at Brooklyn College have experimented with planting in the college greenhouse. With the use of suitable soil, they have planted wheat and other products not common to this vicinity. For many, however, the farm project at Morrisville will be their initial experience in harvesting.

The students will be paid on a piece-work basis by the farmers, and they will be required to pay for their room at the institute at the rate of $2 per week. Food will be served at the institute's cafeteria. Students also will have the expense of library and other college fees, and the cost of textbooks.

Transportation from the city will be furnished free by the State.

Professor Benedict is director of the Brooklyn College farm project and he will be assisted at the institute by Dr. Malcolm Galbraith, institute head, and members of the faculty.