NEW YORK FARM CADET VICTORY CORPS, 1944
(Victory Farm Volunteers)

To Students and their Parents:

FOOD IS NEEDED. Food is important for our armed forces, our allies, and all of us here at home. We must have food to win the war, and in the first period of the peace to follow a large share of the entire world will depend on us for food. Our farmers can provide this food, but they must have help. This help is needed especially during the harvest seasons, which in New York begin in June and extend through October.

YOUTH CAN HELP. Here is a chance for normal, reliable, and patriotic boys and girls to do their bit to help win the war. They can help without sacrificing their school work, and at the same time they can have a healthful summer, gain valuable experience, and receive pay for the work they do.

TYPES OF FARM SERVICE. Farm youth, of course, will serve on their home farms. Village youth located in agricultural areas can serve best near their homes. Youth from cities and large villages will be needed in the following types of farm work:

(1) Working by the month on a dairy or general farm and living with the farm family. Some boys will be needed as early as June 1 and others after school closes in June. Also, there may be call for a few girls to help in farm homes. Work will last at least until school starts in the fall and for some will extend into October.

(2) Working at harvesting of seasonal crops, living in a central camp, and being transported daily from the camp to the farm. There will be some need for groups of camp workers in June. More will be needed in July, with the largest number needed during August and September. Generally, girls are better suited for work in camp groups for the lighter kinds of harvesting work. Older boys are better suited for heavier harvesting work, such as picking apples.

(3) Working by the day or hour at planting, weeding, and harvesting, being transported daily from homes to farms. This type of service is limited to areas near cities. Need will start in June and continue throughout October at intermittent periods as crops need attention.

(4) Working in greenhouses in the spring and in canning factories in the summer and fall.

WAGES AND HOURS. Wages for inexperienced boys working on individual farms will be a minimum of $30 per month plus board, room and laundry. Boys who have had successful experience in former years should start at higher wages. Wages will be specified in the work agreement which will be made between the boy and farmer-employer, and will be adjusted between them with the supervisor's approval as the boy improves in ability to do farm work. Hours of work will be limited to ten hours a day except in emergencies. Work agreements will be approved by the youth’s parents. Boys are expected to stay on farms for the period specified in the agreement. Parents should cooperate in seeing that agreements are fulfilled.

Workers for harvesting fruit and vegetables will be paid at hourly or piece-work rates. Youth living in camps will pay board out of their earnings. Each youth in a camp group will be asked to pay one week's board in advance. Farmers
will be required to furnish sufficient work to enable workers to earn at least weekly board costs. After a trial period, workers unable to meet expenses will be returned home.

**PLACEMENT ON FARMS.** Placement will be the function of the farm placement representative of the U. S. Employment Service. Youth will be placed on farms for live-in service only where approval of farm and home conditions has been made by a responsible person representing the sponsors of the Farm Cadet program. Youth will not be placed where, in the opinion of the supervisor, living conditions are unsanitary or otherwise unsatisfactory. There can be no guarantee, however, that a boy will be placed in a home where there is a bathroom or electric lights or that he will be able to get to see a movie regularly.

It is recommended that boys not try to locate farm jobs for themselves by answering advertisements for farm labor, except where parents know the farmers personally. Some boys who have taken such jobs have had some unsatisfactory experience.

Attendance at religious services will be encouraged. When parents wish their children to attend services of a particular faith, they should indicate their preference on the signed enrollment blank. Every effort will be made to locate such youth in areas where such services are available.

Camp groups will be arranged upon request of the County Extension Services. All housing arrangements will be approved by the State Health Department.

In country high schools the local school farm advisor in cooperation with the farm placement representative may take charge of placement of youth workers from his school with farmers needing help in his community. Local advisors should consult with the county farm placement representative concerning youth placements on farms and additional needs of the area.

In cities where groups for day-haul service are arranged, the local farm placement representative will have charge of placement of such groups.

**SUPERVISION.** Supervisors will be appointed for all areas where youth are placed on individual farms. These supervisors may be city teachers, local teachers or other appropriate persons. Supervisors may be reached by telephone at any time. Any difficulty should be reported immediately by the boy to the supervisor. In no case should a boy leave the farm job without first consulting the supervisor. The supervision of the actual work on the farm will be done by the farmer-employer. He has the right to discharge the boy for unsatisfactory work or conduct, but is asked to first consult the supervisor in case of any difficulty. Schools and the cooperating agencies will endeavor to safeguard the interests of young people working on farms. However, a youth on a farm is largely on his own. He must make decisions for himself, and must adjust himself to strangers and new ways of living. Parents should not approve applications for farm work unless they believe their sons or daughters are mature enough to take the responsibility and are willing to trust them to do so.

Supervisors will also be provided for all camp groups and will be available for groups serving on a day-haul basis.

Supervision of local youth serving in the community of local school will be a direct responsibility of each local school. Schools are urged to appoint competent persons to handle this supervision. Teachers of agriculture, when available, will discharge such supervisory duties as a part of their services to the school community.
INSURANCE. In farm work, machinery and tools new to city youth will be used, with resulting chances for injury. Farmers are not required to carry compensation insurance and most of them cannot afford to do so. Also, youth may become injured when not at work but during recreation periods. It is important, therefore, that each boy or girl, whether living on a farm, living in a camp group, or working on a day-service basis, be covered by accident insurance. It is the parents' responsibility to see that this coverage is provided. Parents are asked to state on the youth's enrollment card their desires concerning accident insurance arrangements. Advice concerning accident insurance may be secured from any standard insurance company. As an aid to parents, arrangements have been made for insurance at a low rate through special Farm Cadet Victory Corps and Victory Farm Volunteers policies. These are explained in folders accompanying this circular. Application for insurance should be made prior to the time of entering upon farm work.

ENROLLMENT. Youth attending public or private schools or colleges or affiliated with youth organizations are eligible to enroll. The minimum age for enrollment is 14 years. For youth from cities who may work and live away from home, it is suggested that boys enrolling be 15 years of age by July 1, 1944, and that girls be 16 years by that date. Boys and girls below these ages but over 14 years may be recommended if they are well-developed physically and socially. For work in greenhouses or canning plants youth must be 16 years or older. Boys and girls should apply for enrollment with the farm advisor in their home schools. They must have the signed consent of their parents to enroll. Schools will recommend only youth whom they consider to be reliable, interested and physically able to do farm work. No one should apply who has any physical defect that makes it impossible or inadvisable to do hard work for long periods, or who is subject to hay fever, asthma, or other respiratory trouble.

WORK PERMITS. Youth under 16 years of age who serve on farms other than those of their parents must secure farm work permits. These may be obtained through the home schools. It is required that the farm work permit be in possession of the youth and that it be signed by each farmer-employer for whom work is done. For work in canning plants youth must obtain standard work permits.

RELEASES FROM SCHOOL. Under certain conditions youth may be excused from school for farm work a total of 30 school days during the school year, but with not more than 20 days in any one semester. Youth whose school record warrants it, and who were not excused for farm work for more than 10 days during the fall months of 1943, may be excused from school for farm service for a total of 20 days during the spring term of 1944. They may also be excused a maximum of 20 school days in the fall term of 1944. The school record of pupils so excused need not suffer materially by such absence. Schools are asked to provide special class help for those who desire it.

Youth being graduated from high school in June, 1944, may leave school for farm service as much as two months before the end of the term and be granted a War Service Regents' Diploma, which colleges are authorized to accept. Pupils, other than seniors with Regents' examinations scheduled in June, 1944, may, with the approval of the home school, upon completion of local examinations, be given War Service Credit in these subjects toward a War Service Regents' Diploma.

PREPARATION COURSES. Experience of the past two years has shown that inexperienced youth who have had some preliminary training and orientation for farm work have a much greater chance of success. Opportunities for orientation and training will be provided through farm clubs in the home schools, through special
courses given at nearby available farms, and at other centers. There will be, also, opportunities for some to take a short period of training at the State Institutes of Agriculture located at Morrisville, Farmingdale, Delhi, Cobleskill, Canton and Alfred, and on farms in connection with rural agricultural high schools. Groups of students will be sent to these centers starting the last week in May, and continuing through June. Boys taking this training at a distance from their home cities will be placed on farms in the neighborhood of the training center and will not return home until fall. All expenses for board and transportation during training period will be paid by the State War Council, but boys will not receive compensation for the period of training.

Youth who are interested in these training courses should apply through the principal or advisor who will forward the requests to the Agricultural Education Bureau of the State Education Department.

TRANSPORTATION. When youth from cities serve on individual farms or in camp groups at distances greater than 50 miles from their homes and when arrangements are made in advance and approval secured, transportation to the station near the farm will be provided on common carriers through the use of State War Council travel requests. Return transportation will be provided for workers who remain through the season on individual farms and complete their working agreements, or who serve one month or more in a camp group. Return transportation will also be provided for those who may be unable to complete the agreements through just cause approved by the supervisor, the county agricultural agent or the U. S. Employment Service farm placement representative.

WHAT IS NEEDED BY FARM WORKERS. Young people going to farms for work should wear usual school clothes and take work clothes with them. It is inadvisable to spend a large sum for a work outfit. Old clothes on hand may do. A warm sweater or lumber jacket, underwear, rubbers, and raincoat, and an old hat should be taken; also, necessary toilet articles, writing paper, stamps and ration books. For those articles that need to be purchased, it may be better to wait and buy them after the farmer can advise concerning what may be needed. A pair of sturdy work shoes that are ankle height—about six inches high—will be needed. Low shoes fill up with dirt and high top boots are hot in summer.

INSIGNIA. An insignia to be sewn on the sleeve will be furnished to youth upon application after completion of one month of farm service. Certificates will be provided for youth serving at least two weeks.

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The New York Farm Cadet Victory Corps is sponsored by the State War Council and administered by the Farm Manpower Service through the State Education Department and the schools in cooperation with the Extension Service of the State College of Agriculture and the U. S. Employment Service of the War Manpower Commission. W. J. Weaver of the Agricultural Education Bureau, State Education Department, Albany, represents the state and federal agencies sponsoring the program.