

# University Farm, Davis

BY LEROY ANDERSON



ONE of the largest and best farms possessed by any College of Agriculture in the world is located at Davis, in Yolo county. The entire area of 780 acres is of Putah creek soil

known throughout California for its depth and richness. It is an alluvial formation having been deposited for centuries from the overflowing of the creek, bringing with it continual supplies of fertility from the mountains to the west. Investigations during the past two years have shown the soil to be of similar character to a depth of fourteen to twenty feet, at which points water is found. Roots of barley, and other small grains, and of plants like the California poppy, penetrate to the same distances, to assure themselves of sufficient moisture.

The Farm is owned by the College of Agriculture of the University of California, the central seat of which institution is at Berkeley. An act of the legislature of 1905 provided \$150,000 to purchase and begin the equipment and created a commission to select



DORMITORY, STATE FARM, DAVIS

the site. Well toward one hundred locations in various parts of the state were proposed and after careful investigations and surveys the site at Davis was chosen as best adapted for the various purposes for which such a farm must be used. Of the original appropriation something over \$103,000 were paid for the land and the remainder put into buildings and other improvements. The legislature of 1907 followed with an appropriation of \$132,000, the major portion of which was expended for buildings, including a complete and sanitary sewer system, while the remaining

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portion was found sufficient to hold a series of short courses for farmers in the Fall of 1908 and open the Farm School for boys in January, 1909. The legislature of 1909 divided its appropriation into several items somewhat as follows: \$90,000 for buildings and permanent improvements, \$30,000 for equipment of buildings, barns and laboratories, \$12,000 for purchase of livestock, and \$95,500 for salaries and maintenance down to June 30, 1911, or a total of \$227,500. The entire amount appropriated to purchase the farm, provide buildings and equipment, pay salaries and operating expenses is \$509,500.

The type of construction followed in building is of frame covered with shingles—an economical form which makes it possible to provide a maximum amount of floor space with a minimum of expenditure when compared with stone or concrete. The total number, large and small, is about fifteen and include dormitory, dining hall, creamery, pavilion, horticultural hall, wood and blacksmith shop, veterinary clinic, livestock building, dairy, horse and sheep barns, cereal laboratory, grafting house, water tower and pump house and poultry houses.

The chief business of such an institution is instruction and experimentation. Of the former, provision is made for three lines, viz: College students who come up from Berkeley for one term out of their four year course, students in the Farm School which is regularly a three year course, and Short Course

students, who are provided with exceptional facilities for brief periods during October and November of each year. Any person over seventeen years of age is admitted to the Short Courses without examination. The fees are nominal, being on the basis of about one dollar per week. The third annual series of Short Courses in Agriculture at the University Farm closed on November 23, 1910, with an attendance representative of all sections of the State. In age, the students ranged from nineteen to seventy years and the large majority were between twenty-five and forty. This maturity of years indicates that the courses offered deal with the practical as well as scientific phases of agriculture in such a manner as to appeal to those who are either engaged in, or about to enter upon agricultural pursuits. Of the total registration, nine were women, the majority of whom pursued the course in poultry husbandry. The registrations in the several courses are as follows:

General Agriculture, two weeks.....	21
Poultry Husbandry, two and seven weeks.....	31
Animal Industry and Veterinary Science, three weeks.....	28
Dairy Manufacture, seven weeks.....	29
Market Milk and Cream Supply, two weeks.....	7
Horticulture and Viticulture, two weeks.....	36
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Total.....	152
Deduct for registrations in more than one course.....	33
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Total individuals in attendance.....	119



A YOLO COUNTY TYPICAL OAK



A TYPICAL FARM TEAM

## RESOURCES OF YOLO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

In addition to the above regular Short Courses a special series of demonstrations and lectures known as "Farmers' Week" was held for six days beginning October 10th. The registration outside of residents of Davis was 100. An important feature of the week was the work in Household Economics with a registration of 63. Thus, all told, the number of persons receiving instruction and inspiration at the University Farm during the period just closed is 282.

The University Farm School will complete its second year in January, 1911. The enrollment during the Fall of 1910 has been 77. The Farm School has a regular course of three years to which boys are admitted who are at least fifteen years of age and have completed the eighth grade of the grammar schools. In addition, young men who possess similar educational qualifications and are eighteen years or more of age are admitted for one term or longer to pursue any studies in the curriculum for which they are prepared. The present school year extends from September 12, 1910, to May 10, 1911. The annual cost to the student for board, room, fees, and books amounts to about \$230. The subjects of the course are as follows:

**FIRST YEAR**—Farm Crops, Stock Judging, Botany, Physiology and Hygiene, English, Mathematics, Shop Work.

**SECOND YEAR**—Horticulture, Entomology, Poultry, Animal Industry, Dairy Industry, Chemistry, English and History,

Algebra, Farm Accounts.

**THIRD YEAR**—Soil and Soil Fertility, Irrigation and Surveying, Physics, English and History, Farm Mechanics; Elective Subjects—Animal Industry, Dairy Industry, Horticulture, Viticulture, Poultry Husbandry.

A most pleasant student life is attained by the dormitory and adjoining dining hall. The dormitory holds about sixty boys for the most part in single rooms. A matron is in charge to look after their physical welfare and advise them in entertainments and make the life as enjoyable and homelike as possible.

Experimentation looking to the improvement of California agriculture occupies a large place and is being conducted in irrigation to determine the duty of water for alfalfa and other crops; in grain growing to increase the yield and quality of wheat, barley and oats, and to determine practicable methods of improving and conserving soil fertility; in fruit growing to study varieties and methods of culture and control of various diseases; in forage crops to study new and promising varieties of alfalfa, corn, sorghum and legumes for green manuring; in livestock to gain further knowledge of how to combat tuberculosis and other diseases; in poultry to determine the best types of houses for California and study methods of feeding and breeding for best laying strains; in dairying to improve quality of butter and secure larger returns to the dairyman.