

# New York State Food Commission

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## NEW YORK STATE BOYS' WORKING RESERVE

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HENRY D. SAYER, Director

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PUBLISHED BY THE  
NEW YORK STATE FOOD COMMISSION

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## STATE FOOD COMMISSION

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### New York State Boys' Working Reserve

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Realizing the serious effect that a shortage of farm labor may have on the production of food, and the importance of drawing upon every available source of supply for the next season, the New York State Food Commission created early in 1918 the New York State Boys' Working Reserve, to mobilize, select, furnish to farmers and supervise boys between the ages of 16 and 21, from city schools and otherwise, to work on farms. The plan for this State Boys' Working Reserve resulted from conferences between the State Food Commission and representatives of the State Department of Education, the school authorities of New York City, the U. S. Boys' Working Reserve, under the U. S. Department of Labor, the State Industrial Commission, the county farm bureaus, the Extension Service of the New York State College of Agriculture, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This plan provides for the complete cooperation of all these agencies under the one organization within New York State. The Food Commission has set aside a portion of its funds to cover such administrative expenses as cannot be borne by the farmers or by the local communities.

Commissioner Henry D. Sayer of the State Industrial Commission was appointed by the New York State Food Commission as Director of the New York State Boys' Working Reserve, and the main office of the Reserve will be in the offices of the State Industrial Commission, 230 Fifth avenue, New York City. Branch offices will be established in conjunction with county farm bureau offices and public employment bureaus or public school offices throughout the State. In order to make clear the functions of the three principal public agencies included in the organization of the Boys' Working Reserve, they are briefly described as follows:

#### County Farm Bureaus

A county farm bureau is a partnership organization between the farmers of the county organized into a farm bureau association and the public agricultural institutions, including the State College of Agriculture and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture. County agricultural agents and assistants are employed by these farm bureaus, which have offices in practically every county in the State, at the county seat or principal city. The primary function of the county farm bureau is to organize farmers for the purpose of increasing production and facilitating the distribution of farm products.

### **State Department of Education and the Public School System**

The State Department of Education, which is the University of the State of New York, has general supervision of the school system of the State. Boys will be released for farm service through the school principals and superintendents of schools in the various towns and cities of the State, under rules prescribed by the Department of Education issued in a separate circular. No boys will be released from school for work on farms until provision for supervision has been made that meets the approval of the State Department of Education.

### **State Public Employment Bureau**

The State Public Employment Bureau is a system of public employment offices maintained in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Auburn, Oswego, Albany and Greater New York. These offices receive orders for all sorts of workers, and place men and women in every trade and occupation. During the growing crop season a special department is conducted for the handling of farm labor, where orders are received from farmers and farm hands directly supplied to the farmer. The Bureau is a State institution and no fee is charged to either employer or employee.

## **CLASSES OF BOYS AVAILABLE**

Three classes of boys are available through the New York State Boys' Working Reserve:

1. Boys in school to be released from the school any time after April first under the rules of the Department of Education.
2. Boys in school who will not be available for service on farms until after close of school in June; and
3. Boys not now attending school.

## **PROCEDURE IN USING NEW YORK STATE BOYS' WORKING RESERVE**

The procedure in using this organization is as follows:

### **Boys Wanting to Work**

All boys who leave school to work on farms, and who expect to get credit in school work, should fill out the enlistment blank of the New York State Boys' Working Reserve, which may be obtained from the school principals or superintendents. Boys not in school should apply to school principals, school superintendents, or special representatives appointed by City Boards of Education. Enlistment blanks will also be available through the public libraries and young men's associations, and when filled out should be sent to the principal of the school in the district in which the applicant lives.

### **Farmers Wanting Help**

Farmers desiring to secure the services of boys in the New York State Boys' Working Reserve should apply directly to their county farm agents, a list of whose names and addresses by counties will be found on the last page of this folder. Farmers may also apply to any one of the offices of the State Bureau of Employment. Farmers may also apply to the superintendents or principals of schools in the district in which they live.

### **School Principals and Superintendents**

All enlistment blanks of boys shall be kept on file by the school principals. In case the boy leaves school to work on his father's or neighbor's farm, the principal of the school will simply report to the county farm bureau agent the name and address of the boy and of the farmer by whom he is employed. In case boys are not placed, but are available for placement, duplicate of the enlistment blanks should be forwarded by the principal of the school to the county farm bureau agent for his information. Thereafter, placements of such boys, as soon as they are made by the school principals or superintendents, shall be reported to the county farm bureau agent for record. The actual placement of the boy in school, is to be made under the approval of the school authorities. After the close of school, in those districts where principals are not available for placing boys, placements will be made by superintendents of schools. Enlistment of boys not in school will be conducted through the same channels as enlistment of boys in school.

### **County Farm Bureau Agents**

The county farm bureau agent, when he receives the duplicate enlistment blanks of the boys who are available for placement on farms in his county, will use the information on such blanks for the purpose of referring the boys to farmers who desire to employ them. The county farm bureau agents will also notify farmers who desire to employ labor of the availability of the boys from the Boys' Working Reserve and the conditions under which they may be employed.

## **COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

The Director of the New York State Boys' Working Reserve requests the hearty cooperation and assistance of public school authorities in the work of enlisting and placing boys between the ages of 16 and 21 on farms during the coming season as a patriotic war service. Their assistance in the proper supervision of such boys is also earnestly solicited. The Boys' Reserve is operating in close cooperation with the State Department of Education, and this Department will communicate with the school authorities relative to the release of boys.

County farm bureau agents will be notified by the county agent leader of the names and addresses of those persons having supervision of the placing of boys in particular districts of the State.

## TESTIMONIALS ON THE VALUE OF THE BOYS' WORKING RESERVE

The following letters or extracts from letters from farmers, parents and boys are appended with the idea of giving the farmers of New York State a concrete picture of how the matter of employing boy labor worked out during the summer of 1917, in counties where boys were supervised during the entire time they were on farm service.

" MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU,

" CAZENOVIA, N. Y., August 14, 1917.

" PROFESSOR F. REXFORD, *Earlville, N. Y.*:

" Dear Mr. Rexford:

" In accordance with the instructions of our Executive Committee assembled at their last meeting, I am writing you to the effect that the Executive Committee is very much in sympathy with the good work that you have done in this county in the way of supplying farm help. As a result of the varied experiences which we have had with labor, our records and reports indicate that your plan is the only one that has given universal satisfaction.

" It is in view of these facts that this Committee hopes that we may have a continuance of your cooperation and services and that some way may be devised for enlarging your channels for supplying labor next year.

" Thanking you for your cooperation and hoping for a continuance of same, I am

" Yours very truly,

" (Signed) D. F. PUTNAM, Manager."

What one of the farmers writes about the boy he had:

" Perhaps I was fortunate in getting so good a boy as Tom. He has done his work faithfully and industriously and we hope he has enjoyed being here. When I say that I should like to have him under a similar arrangement next summer, I think that will speak for itself as far as satisfaction is concerned. You won't have to wait until February to book him for Erie-ville." (F. A. Wagner, Erieville, Pa.)

What one boy's mother writes about his farm experience:

" I have received a great many letters from him since he left for the country. He always writes that he is having 'a peach of a time'—the work seems like play. I am more grateful than I can say in words."

This expresses what the boy gets out of his summer on the farm:

" I have been delighted with my summer's work, as I have been strengthened physically, gotten a better view of life, and I am gratified to know that my work was a help to others. I would be very glad, if circumstances would permit, to enlist next year in this, the most important of all gainful occupations."

## COUNTY FARM BUREAUS

County	Farm Bureau Manager	Address
Albany	H. E. Crouch	90 Court House, Albany.
Allegany	R. Q. Smith	Belmont.
Broome	J. F. Eastman	Chamber of Commerce, Binghamton.
Cattaraugus	H. K. Crofoot	Olean.
Cayuga	E. C. Weatherby	Auburn.
Chautauqua	H. B. Rogers	Jamestown.
Chemung	T. W. Vann	Chamber of Commerce, Elmira
Chenango	E. P. Smith	Norwich.
Clinton	C. B. Tillson	Plattsburgh.
Columbia	A. B. Buchholz	Hudson.
Cortland	A. S. Merchant	Cortland.
Delaware	E. G. Broughan	Walton.
Dutchess	F. H. Lacy	Poughkeepsie.
Erie	W. L. Markham	56-57 Iron and Coal Exchange Building, Buffalo.
Essex	Jay Gelder	Essex.
Franklin	C. M. Austin	Malone.
Fulton		
Genesee	E. L. Baker	Batavia.
Greene	C. W. Gilbert	Catskill.
Herkimer	C. A. Taylor	Herkimer.
Jefferson	W. I. Roe	Watertown.
Lewis		
Livingston	E. A. Flansburg	Mt. Morris.
Madison	D. W. Putnam	Cazenovia.
Monroe	D. C. Vann	44 Elm street, Rochester.
Montgomery	W. J. Hagar	Canajoharie.
Nassau	H. J. Evans	Mineola.
Niagara	N. R. Peet	Lockport.
Oneida	O. F. Ross	Chamber of Commerce, Utica.
Onondaga	J. R. Teall	112 Court House, Syracuse.
Ontario	G. W. Peck	Canandaigua.
Orange	T. E. Milliman	Middletown.
Orleans	L. J. Steele	Albion.
Oswego	E. V. Underwood	Oswego.
Otsego	F. S. Barlow	Cooperstown.
Rensselaer	N. G. Farber	Troy.
Rockland	L. A. Muckle	Spring Valley.
St. Lawrence	E. S. Bird	Canton.
Saratoga	C. S. Phelps	Saratoga Springs.
Schenectady	Theodore Clausen	Court House, Schenectady.
Schoharie	R. F. Pollard	Cobleskill.
Schuyler	H. G. Chapin	Watkins.
Seneca	W. D. Chase	Romulus.
Steuben	H. N. Humphrey	Corning.
Suffolk	R. C. Parker	Riverhead.
Sullivan	Charles Wille	Liberty.
Tioga	E. R. Zimmer	Owego.
Tompkins	V. B. Blatchley	Ithaca.
Ulster	C. F. Cochrane, acting agent	Kingston.
Warren	E. W. Cleaves	Warrensburg.
Washington	J. M. Hurley	Hudson Falls.
Wayne	F. E. Rogers	Sodus.
Westchester	J. G. Curtis	Chamber of Commerce, White Plains.
Wyoming	H. M. Bowen	Warsaw.
Yates	A. L. Hollingsworth	Penn Yan.

## STATE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS

## Greater New York:

Brooklyn.....	310 Jay street.
Long Island City.....	436 Jackson avenue.
New York City.....	44 East 23d street.
New York City.....	15 Pearl street.
Albany.....	44 Chapel street.
Syracuse.....	120 West Jefferson street.
Rochester.....	120 St. Paul street.
Buffalo.....	219 Franklin street.
Auburn.....	Masonic Building.
Oswego.....	Chamber of Commerce Building.