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Abstract: Designed to acquaint young men and women with the agricultural education programs currently available in Ireland's institutions of vocational and higher education, this prospectus describes the educational requirements, facilities, and programs under the auspices of Ireland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Specifically, this document provides information relative to: (1) general agriculture (winter agricultural classes; winter farm schools; scholarships at State and private agricultural colleges; the farm apprenticeship scheme); (2) poultry-keeping, dairying, and domestic economy (day classes; scholarships at private schools of rural domestic economy; private State-aided schools for young women; Munster Institute at Cork); (3) horticulture and bee-keeping (day classes and courses of training); (4) creamery management, butter-making, cheese-making, and poultry (course for diploma in dairy science; training of creamery butter-makers and cheese-makers; and commercial handling of eggs and dead poultry); (5) university degrees in dairy science, veterinary medicine and surgery, agriculture, horticulture (scholarship availability at Cork and Dublin); (6) advisory services (services provided by the Committees of Agriculture re: advice; special instruction in congested districts; soils; veterinary research; special subjects and publications); (7) agricultural employment opportunities. 

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General Prospectus of Agricultural Education for young men and women
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

General Outline

Farming to-day calls for business and technical ability of a high order. Future farmers must understand the application of science to husbandry and the importance of keeping records and accounts. There is much to be learned also about the management of the farm home. All who enter farming should, therefore, avail of the vocational training required.

Agricultural education for which the Department is responsible is intended for training young men to be intelligent and efficient farmers, and training young women in branches of farm life such as rural domestic economy, poultry-keeping and dairying.

Standard syllabuses for one-year courses are followed

(a) in agriculture, at residential State Agricultural Colleges and private State-aided Agricultural Colleges;
(b) in poultry-keeping, dairying and rural domestic economy, at private residential schools of rural domestic economy.

Some more specialised second-year courses are also available (page 4).

At the end of these courses the Department conducts uniform examinations of the students and awards certificates to those who pass.

Those who are unable to attend residential schools or colleges are provided for by classes organised at rural centres by the Committees of Agriculture and by Winter Farm Schools organised by Committees of Agriculture usually in association with Vocational Education Committees.

The Department also affords facilities for specialised training in various branches of agriculture, horticulture and dairy science (including creamery practice).

The educational facilities available are more fully described in the following pages.
GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Winter Agricultural Classes

Winter Agricultural Classes, organised by the Co. Committees of Agriculture, are intended to give a man engaged in farm work a sound knowledge of the principles of agriculture and how to apply them. They are free of charge and do not seriously interrupt his ordinary work. Young men intending to enter an Agricultural College can get a good preparatory training at these classes.

Winter Farm Schools

A wider course of instruction is provided by means of Winter Farm Schools. Committees of Agriculture and Vocational Education Committees co-operate in conducting these schools. They are intended in general, for those between 17 and 30 years of age who are engaged in farming. The course consists of about 200 hours of instruction normally spread over two successive winter sessions, (November-February). The syllabus comprises the following main groups of subjects:—Crop Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Farm Buildings, Farm Machinery and Equipment, Horticulture, Forestry, Farm Management and Farm Records, Marketing and Agricultural Co-operation. Certificates are awarded to persons who successfully complete the course. Particulars of these courses in any county can be obtained on application to the Secretary or Chief Agricultural Officer of the Committee of Agriculture concerned. A list of the addresses of these Committees will be found in the Appendix.
Scholarships at State and Private Agricultural Colleges

The Committees of Agriculture award scholarships in agriculture and horticulture tenable at State and private agricultural colleges. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary or Chief Agricultural Officer of the Committee concerned.

State Agricultural Colleges

The standard syllabus for a one-year course in agriculture (see page 1) is followed at the following residential agricultural colleges administered directly by the Department:—

Mellows Agricultural College, Athenry, Co. Galway;
The Agricultural College, Ballinale, Co. Cavan;
The Agricultural College, Clonakilly, Co. Cork, and;
Kildalton Agricultural and Horticultural College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny.

The course at these Colleges combines practical farm work with technical instruction in the classroom and laboratories; Students take part in all operations of farm and garden. The fee payable by a student varies according to the rateable valuation of the holding of his parents or guardians.

A limited number of places at these Colleges are reserved for holders of scholarships awarded by Committees of Agriculture (see above). Those wishing to enter as fee-paying students should apply to the Department (Section 24) for application forms. All candidates for admission to these Colleges must be at least 17 years of age and be under 30 years of age on the 1st October of the year of admission.

Private State-aided Agricultural Colleges

The standard syllabus is also followed at private residential colleges which have adopted the Department's programme of agricultural education. There are at present seven such Colleges:—
The Agricultural College, Mount Bellew, Co. Galway, conducted by the Franciscan Brothers; The Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, conducted by the Salesian Fathers; The Agricultural College, Warrenstown, Drumree, County Meath, conducted by the Salesian Fathers; St. Patrick's Agricultural College, Monaghan, conducted by the authorities of the Diocese of Clogher; The Franciscan College of Agriculture, Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath, conducted by the Franciscan Fathers; Gurteen Agricultural College, Ballingarry; Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, conducted by the authorities of the Methodist Church in Ireland; and Rockwell Agricultural College, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, conducted by the Holy Ghost Fathers.

Entrants to these Colleges must be at least 15 years of age on the 1st October of the year of admission. Information regarding admission, fees payable and outfits required may be obtained from the above addresses. The Department pays certain capitation grants to these Colleges and the fees paid by capitation students are correspondingly reduced.

Second-year courses in general agriculture are provided at some of the Colleges mentioned above. Particulars may be obtained from the College authorities. More specialised second-year courses are provided in certain colleges as follows, farm machinery in Pallaskenry; pig husbandry at Athenry; beef cattle and sheep at Warrenstown and Ballyhaire; poultry husbandry at the Munster Institute (page 7). Diplomas are awarded on satisfactory completion of these courses.

Farm Apprenticeship Scheme

A Farm Apprenticeship Scheme is carried out by the Farm Apprenticeship Board (representative of certain agricultural and rural organisations). The scheme provides practical and theoretical training for young men, with the aim of enabling them to put this training into practice by either farming in their own right or in allied agricultural pursuits.
Apprentices must be under 21 years of age, have spent a year at a recognised Agricultural College and be of a satisfactory educational standard. Young men who meet these requirements are eligible for registration by the Board. They can enter into apprenticeship agreements with farmers on the Board’s panel willing to receive apprentices under the scheme.

The apprenticeship lasts for a working period of up to four years. Each year apprentices attend a short refresher course in farm management at an Agricultural College. The Department contributes towards the cost of fees and travelling expenses in attending the courses. At the end of the apprenticeship period apprentices may sit for the Farm Apprenticeship Certificate final examination. The Department provides a limited number of cash awards of £500 each for those who complete their apprenticeship and pass the prescribed tests with special merit.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary of the Board, Irish Farm Centre, John F. Kennedy Estate, Dublin, 12.

Information regarding higher education in agriculture will be found on Pages 10 and 11.

POULTRY-KEEPING, DAIRYING AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY

Day Classes

Classes for the instruction of young women in poultry-keeping and farm home management are organised at rural centres each year by Committees of Agriculture. There are no admission fees.

Scholarships at Private Schools of Rural Domestic Economy

The Committees of Agriculture award scholarships tenable at the private schools of rural domestic economy or of domestic training. Inquiries about these scholarships should be addressed to the Secretary or Chief Agricultural Officer of the Committee concerned.
Private State-aided Schools for Young Women

The standard syllabus for a one-year course in poultry-keeping, dairying and rural domestic economy (see page 1) is followed at the following private residential schools of rural domestic economy:

- The School of Rural Domestic Economy, Convent of Mercy, Ardagh, Co. Longford.
- The School of Rural Domestic Economy, Convent of Mercy, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.
- The School of Rural Domestic Economy, Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, Navan, Co. Meath.
- The School of Rural Domestic Economy, Convent of Mercy, Portumna, Co. Galway.
- The School of Rural Domestic Economy, Convent of St. Louis, Ramsgrange, Co. Wexford.
- The School of Rural Domestic Economy, Convent of Mercy, Swinford, Co. Mayo.
- The standard syllabus is also followed at Gurteen Agricultural College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Information regarding admission, fees payable and outfits required may be obtained from the School concerned. The course of instruction is designed to prepare young women for the work of rural life. It includes dairying, poultry-keeping, gardening, household management, cookery, laundry work and needlework. The full course lasts about nine months commencing in September and ending in June, with intervals at Christmas and Easter. Applicants for admission must be at least 15 years of age and under 30 years of age on the 1st September of the year of admission. The Department pays certain capitation grants to these Schools and the fees payable by capitation students are correspondingly reduced.

One residential school of domestic training gives instruction in poultry-keeping and dairying, viz:

- The Residential School of Domestic Science, Convent of Sisters of Charity, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

Information may be obtained from the Manager of the School.

Munster Institute

The Munster Institute, Cork, is administered directly by the Department. This institution provides residential three-year courses for
young women from 18 to 30 years who wish to qualify for teaching and advisory posts in poultry keeping and dairying and farm home management. The farm home management course includes instruction in poultry-keeping, butter and cheese-making, general farming and home management.

A one-year non-residential course of instruction is also provided at the Institute for the training of young men and women (between the ages of 17 and 25 years) as technicians in poultry husbandry. Students attending the one-year course are provided with an allowance towards the cost of their board and lodging.

Entrance to the courses at the Munster Institute is by means of competitive examinations. Inquiries should be addressed to the Department (Section 24).

**HORTICULTURE AND BEE-KEEPING**

**Day Classes**

Lectures and demonstrations in horticulture and bee-keeping are arranged in connection with the winter agricultural classes and Winter Farm Schools organised by the Committees of Agriculture (page 2). Some Committees of Agriculture arrange for classes in horticulture and bee-keeping.

**Courses of Training in Horticulture**

A course of training in amenity horticulture lasting approximately two years is provided at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin. The course is suitable for those who intend to seek employment at horticultural work or who wish to engage in horticulture on their own account. It also provides suitable preliminary training.
for those intending to proceed to a University course for a degree in horticulture. Applicants for admission to the course must be at least 17 years of age and be under 25 years of age on the 1st October of the year of admission. Admission to the course is granted to those placed highest in the order of merit on the results of an interview.

During training students must find their own board and lodging but they are provided with a weekly allowance.

A two-year residential course of training in commercial horticulture for young men is provided at the Agricultural College, Warrenstown, Drumree, Co. Meath, (full particulars may be obtained from the Rector of the College) and at Kiladalton Agricultural and Horticultural, College, Plétown/Co. Kilkenny.

A similar course for girls is provided by the Irish Countrywomen's Association at An Grianan, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth, from whom further information may be obtained. The Department and Co. Committees of Agriculture offer a limited number of scholarships to each of these institutions on the result of an oral test held each year at selected centres. Fee-paying students are also admitted to these colleges. Further information may be obtained from the Department (Section 24).

Information regarding higher education in horticulture will be found on pages 10 and 11.

CREAMERY MANAGEMENT, BUTTER-MAKING, CHEESE-MAKING AND POULTRY

Course for Diploma in Dairy Science

A course of study and training, leading to the Diploma in Dairy Science, is conducted by Univer-
city College, Cork. The course includes a period of practical work in the college experimental creamery and in another selected creamery. The Diploma in Dairy Science is awarded on the results of an examination held at the conclusion of the course. Holders of this Diploma are qualified for the position of Manager or Assistant Manager at a registered creamery or of Manager at a registered cream-separating station (page 14).

A competition for admission to this Course is held each year, usually in the month of March, under the direction of the Department. A limited number of Bursaries are awarded on the results of the competition. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and not over 30 years of age on the 1st January of the year following the competition. They must be registered or be eligible for registration as matriculated students of the National University of Ireland not later than the 1st October of the year of the competition in the group of subjects prescribed for matriculation in the Faculty of Dairy Science.

Further details may be obtained from the Department (Section 24).

Training of Creamery Butter-makers

Arrangements are made by the Department each year for a limited number of persons to be trained as creamery butter-makers at selected creameries. The training course is of 30 weeks duration comprised of 4 weeks' special course at U.C.C., followed by 26 weeks training at selected creameries. The training is free of charge, but trainees are responsible for their own expenses, e.g. cost of travelling, board and lodging. Trainees who complete the course satisfactorily and pass an examination are awarded a certificate. Only holders of this certificate may occupy the post of butter-maker at a creamery (page 14).

Trainees are selected on the results of a competitive examination held by the Department about November each year. Admission to the examination is confined to persons who have spent certain minimum periods at an approved agricultural education institution or who have one year's experience as assistant to a butter-maker at a creamery.

Full particulars may be obtained from the Department (Section 1).
Training of Cheese-makers

Arrangements are also made by the Department each year for the training of a limited number of persons as cheese-makers. The training commences with a special four-weeks' course of lectures and training in the making, testing and analysis of cheese at University College, Cork. Each trainee then spends 26 weeks at a selected creamery where the manufacture of cheese is carried on. No fee is charged for training, and an allowance towards the cost of board and lodging during the period of training is paid by the Department to trainees. On satisfactory completion of the course a trainee undergoes an examination by the Department to test his or her competence as a cheese-maker.

Trainees are selected on the results of a competitive examination held by the Department about November each year. Admission to the examination is confined to persons who have spent certain minimum periods at an approved agricultural educational institution or who have one year's experience as assistant to a cheese-maker at a creamery or cheese factory.

Full particulars may be obtained from the Department (Section 1).

Commercial Handling of Eggs and Dead Poultry

From time to time the Department conducts a course of instruction in the testing, grading and packing of eggs and the preparation and packing of dead poultry for export. The course is normally four weeks long and is usually held at a selected centre, which varies from course to course. The instruction deals mainly with the proper methods of handling eggs and dead poultry for the commercial trade.

In the selection of candidates for admission to the course, preference is given to persons who have attended an Agricultural College or a School of Rural Domestic Economy, or have had at least one year's experience in packing eggs at a registered wholesaler's premises. An examination is held at the end of the course and each successful candidate is awarded a certificate of qualification as a person skilled in the testing, grading and packing of eggs. The successful candidates are also awarded certificates in poultry packing.

No fee is charged, but persons attending the course must themselves bear any expenses which they may incur (e.g., cost of traveling, board and lodging).

Further information regarding the course may be obtained from the Department (Section 2).

5. HIGHER EDUCATION

Agriculture and Horticulture

Courses in agriculture and horticulture leading to University degrees are provided by University College, Dublin. Inquiries should be addressed to the Registrar, University College, Administration Building, Belfield, Dublin 4.

Dairy Science

Courses in dairy science leading to a University degree are provided by University College, Cork. Inquiries should be addressed to the Registrar, University College, Cork. Information regarding the course for the Diploma in Dairy Science will be found on pages 8 and 9.
Veterinary Medicine and Surgery

Courses in veterinary medicine and surgery leading to University degrees are provided by University College, Dublin and Dublin University (Trinity College, Dublin). Inquiries regarding admission to the courses should be addressed to the Registrar, University College, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, and to the Admissions Office, Trinity College, Dublin 2, respectively.

Scholarships in Agriculture, Horticulture and Dairy Science

The Department offers for competition, every year, scholarships in General Agriculture and Horticulture, tenable at University College, Dublin, and scholarships in Dairy Science tenable at University College Cork. These scholarships are renewable from year to year, subject to satisfactory progress by the holder, and cover the entire course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science or Bachelor of Dairy Science of the National University of Ireland—B.Agr.Sc., or B.Sc. (Dairying). Candidates for such scholarships must be at least 18 years of age and be under 24 years of age on the 1st January of the year following the competition. They must be registered or be eligible for registration as matriculated students of the National University of Ireland before the 1st October of the year of the competition in the group of subjects prescribed for matriculation in the Faculties of General Agriculture and Dairy Science. Particulars of the competition for these scholarships are announced in the Press at the appropriate time. Enquiries should be addressed to the Department (Section 24).

6. ADVISORY SERVICES

Committees of Agriculture

Each Committee of Agriculture employs instructors in Agriculture, in Horticulture and Bee-keeping, in Poultry-keeping and Butter-making.
and in Farm Home Management.

On application to the Secretary or Chief Agricultural Officer of the Committee concerned, visits and advice may be obtained free of charge from these instructors by residents in the rural area of the County. These Committees also publish annual reports giving full particulars of the educational and experimental work conducted by their officers.

**Special Instruction in Congested Districts**

In addition to the advisory work carried out under the general Schemes of instruction of the Committees of Agriculture and of the Department, the particular needs of the Congested Districts are catered for by a special staff of officers employed directly by the Department. These officers reside in their respective districts each comprising a small number of parishes, and keep in constant touch with the local small-holders.

**Soils Advisory Service**

An Foras Talúntais operates a soil laboratory at Johnstown Castle to which, through the County Agricultural Advisory Officers, farmers may have samples of soil sent for analysis. Information and advice based on the reports of analysis are transmitted through these officers to the farmers concerned.

**Veterinary Research**

In addition to research on animal disease conditions in the country generally the Department’s Veterinary Research Laboratory at Abbottstown, Castleknock, Co. Dublin, provides a consultative service for stockowners through their veterinary practitioners. This service has been expanded through the establishment of Regional Veterinary Laboratories at Cork, Limerick, Sligo, Athlone and Kilkenny.
Other Special Services

The Department also employs directly a number of officers who give instruction to farmers on special subjects which require more attention than can be devoted to them by the general advisory officers. These subjects include milk recording, seed potato production and the production of potatoes for processing.

Special emphasis has been laid by the Department on technical advice to groups of young farmers who have formed themselves into Clubs. Up-to-date information is provided for these young farmers and, where practicable, for other members of the farming community, by Officers of Committees of Agriculture, through the medium of lectures, demonstrations, and seminars.

RTÉ provide educational programmes for farmers on radio and television.

Advisory Publications

The Department publishes numerous leaflets and brochures on agricultural matters which are obtainable free of charge from the Information Branch.
7. EMPLOYMENT

The Department does not undertake to find employment for those who complete any of the courses of training described in the foregoing paragraphs. Some of these courses, however, qualify those trained for certain appointments of a specialised nature relating mainly to educational work in agriculture and horticulture. Such appointments are filled in various ways according to whether they are in the service of private persons, of local public bodies, or of the State.

Private Employment

Teacher of General Agriculture in private Agricultural Schools and Colleges:

For this post University education or its equivalent is necessary, of the kind described in page 10,

Teacher of Horticulture in private Agricultural Schools and Colleges

For this post University education or its equivalent is necessary, of the kind described in page 10,

Teacher of Poultry-keeping and Butter-making in private Schools of Rural Domestic Economy:

A course of training designed to qualify young women for this post may be taken at the Munster Institute (pages 6 and 7).

Creamery Manager, Assistant Creamery Manager:

According to the Dairy Produce Acts, 1924 to 1947, every person employed as Manager or Assistant Manager at a registered creamery or as Manager at a registered cream separating station must be duly qualified. That is to say such person must possess a certificate issued by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of qualification for such position generally, or else must satisfy the Minister as to qualification for the particular position in question. Holders of the B.Sc. (Dairying) Degree or the Diploma in Dairy Science of the National University of Ireland are regarded by the Minister as qualified for these positions.

Similarly, the Acts require that those employed as a butter-maker at a creamery must be duly qualified. Holders of the "Certificate for Creamery Butter-making" issued by the Minister are regarded by him as qualified to occupy the post of butter-maker at a creamery (page 9).

Lay Inseminators in the Artificial Insemination Service

Lay Inseminators are trained and employed by the A.I. operating bodies. Candidates for such employment must undergo a course of training in the work conducted at one of the A.I. Stations and pass a qualifying examination at the end of the course. Those selected by the A.I. bodies for training are generally required to have a sound knowledge of livestock and a good general education.
Employment under Local Public Bodies

Permanent positions under local public bodies such as Committees of Agriculture are filled by reference to the Local Appointments Commission. Such positions are duly advertised in the Press. They include:

Veterinary Inspector (Whole-time and/or Part-time) under a Local Authority:

For this post a candidate must be registered, in or be eligible for registration in the Register of Veterinary Surgeons for Ireland and possess a satisfactory standard of professional knowledge.

Instructor in Agriculture:

For this post the essential qualifications include a recognised University degree in Agricultural Science (taken in General Agriculture) or an equivalent qualification, and a sound knowledge of agricultural practice and conditions in this country.

Instructor in Horticulture and Bee-keeping:

For this post a person must possess a recognised University degree in Agricultural Science (taken in Horticulture) or an equivalent qualification, or be recognised by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries as qualified for the post.

Instructor in Poultry-keeping and Butter-making and Instructor in Farm Home Management:

Advanced courses are conducted at the Munster Institute with a view to qualifying young women for these posts (pages 6 and 7).

Civil Service Posts

Positions in the service of the State are filled by means of Selection Board Competitions conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners, 45 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. When such competitions are necessary they are advertised in the Press and particulars are given of the age limits and qualifications, and of the salary scales of the positions requiring to be filled.

The higher technical positions on the Department's staff are generally confined to persons who have received University training (or its equivalent) in general agriculture, or some specialised branch of agriculture, and who have a thorough practical knowledge of their subject.

For other technical posts in the Department's service appropriate general or specialised training is usually necessary.
APPENDIX

List of Addresses of Committees of Agriculture

County Carlow Committee of Agriculture, County Offices, Tullow.
County Cavan Committee of Agriculture, Renvyle, Farnham Road, Cavan.
County Clare Committee of Agriculture, Courthouse, Ennis.
County Cork Committee of Agriculture, County Hall, Cork.
County Donegal Committee of Agriculture, Courthouse, Lifford.
County Dublin Committee of Agriculture, 3 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.
County Galway Committee of Agriculture, The Hynes Building, St. Augustine St., Galway.
County Kerry Committee of Agriculture, 18 Denny Street, Tralee.
County Kildare Committee of Agriculture, Friary Road, Naas.
County Kilkenny Committee of Agriculture, Kells Road, Kilkenny.
County Laois Committee of Agriculture, 1 Park Villas, Portlaoise.
County Leitrim Committee of Agriculture, County Buildings, Carrick-on-Shannon.
County Limerick Committee of Agriculture, 58. O'Connell Street, Limerick.
County Longford Committee of Agriculture, Courthouse, Longford.
County Louth Committee of Agriculture, Courthouse, Dundalk.
County Mayo Committee of Agriculture, Mafl House, Castlebar.
County Meath Committee of Agriculture, Kells Road, Navan.
County Monaghan Committee of Agriculture, Glaslough Street, Monaghan.
County Offaly Committee of Agriculture, County Buildings, Tullamore.
County Roscommon Committee of Agriculture, Abbey Street, Roscommon.
County Sligo Committee of Agriculture, Riverside, Sligo.
County Tipperary (N.R.) Committee of Agriculture, Courthouse, Nenagh.
County Tipperary (S.R.) Committee of Agriculture, River House, New Quay, Clonmel.
County Waterford Committee of Agriculture, Shandon, Dungarvan.
County Westmeath Committee of Agriculture, County Buildings, Mullingar.
County Wexford Committee of Agriculture, County Hall, Wexford.
County Wicklow Committee of Agriculture, Wentworth Place, Wicklow.

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