UNIVERSITY OF CEARÁ
EXPERIMENTAL FARM

By Barton C. Reynolds

Providing completely new physical facilities for total agricultural research investigations is a terrific task, but the University of Ceará has undertaken the job.

Not only are instructional and research laboratories being built on campus, but a start is being made to provide field facilities as well. It is to this latter effort that this discussion is directed.

Some time prior to the arrival of the Arizona team, the university administration decided that the main research field facility of the Escola de Agronomia should be developed at some distance from the campus. The campus is located near the western limits of the city of Fortaleza.

Three tracts of land were acquired and put together to form the unit for the Agricultural Experimental Fazenda (farm). This land is located some 65 miles from the campus and borders on the Curu River. There are about 888 hectares (2200 acres) in the tract with some 120 hectares (300 acres) being along the river and available to irrigation from the main canal from the General Sampaio reservoir constructed upstream on the Curu.

Some Land is Marginal

Much of the remaining land area is rolling, rocky and brush-covered. There are many small valleys that may lend themselves to dry land research. However, their drainageways become water-logged during the six-month (more or less) rainy season, and thus pose challenges for profitable research study sites.

Presently, concentration on development of suitable land areas for research is confined largely to that portion which lies along the river. Some exploratory work is to be initiated during the coming year on a few of the upland sites to determine their possible potentials.

A topographical survey of the river land has just been completed and plans are in process for land forming operations, for renovation of the badly silted drainage system, for construction of service roads, and for repair of the water distribution canals.

Three sides of the Fazenda have been enclosed with a cattle, sheep and goat tight fence. The river side has yet to be closed but present thinking leans toward the planting of closely spaced bamboo intermixed with thorny bush.

Roadways Are Opened

Many of the old trails through the hills have been bulldozed out so that jeeps, trucks and farm tools can negotiate those areas which may be potentially usable for dryland crops. Main service roadways have also received needed attention.

A meteorological station has been built and instrumented. Valuable climatic data for the area are being collected and recorded for the first time.

The university administration early appreciated that, since the new experimental station was to be located some distance from the campus and from the city of Fortaleza, and reached only by truck or jeep after travel over a not too good public road system, accommodations for sleeping and feeding must be provided for use of personnel engaged in research or otherwise using the fazenda for university work.

Consequently, one of the old original fazenda headquarters buildings has been completely renovated and remodeled into a most adequate structure. This building (a hotel) will take care of at least 10 to 12 people for whatever period of time required. Involved also in this development was the drilling of a new well and installation of a sewage disposal system.

New Buildings Started

In process of erection is a new complex of buildings to be used for administration and operation of the experimental fazenda. There is to be a structure for an office and general classroom auditorium, a repair garage and service building, a warehouse and two other buildings for storage of research field equipment and farm machinery. Also included in plans for the immediate future is purchase and erection of a dormitory facility for use by approximately 20 students while they are engaged in special problems or studies at the fazenda.

While the fazenda eventually will be serviced by high line electric power, a 220 volt, 15 KVA diesel-electric generator and distribution system has been installed for power for present operations. This unit will be retained for standby use in case of power outage.

Will Have Many Uses

Long-range plans for the experimental fazenda are continually developing. Eventually it is expected that the facility will provide adequately for research; for college and graduate course presentations; for community activities; for short courses; for demonstrations for extension work; and for such other uses of benefit to agricultural development in this Northeastern area.

Already many basic things are taking...

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We don’t know much about this picture — excepting that we snapped it between Casa Grande and Yuma.

It is one of a series of signs for one of those highway establishments which sell regional materials to the passing tourist — moccasins, beaded bags, cactus plants, baskets, belts, squaw dresses, cowboy boots and colored postal cards with their inevitable cattle, horses or burros.

Some day we’ll stop by and find out what “Indian War Surplus” really means. Or perhaps it is better to conjure mental pictures of obsolete tomahawks and spears, rusty arrows, slack-strung bows, and K-ration cans of pemmican.

**Mystery Picture Has Aboriginal Tone**

Ronald Rayner, farmer at Goodyear, was named to receive the 8th Annual FFA Alumni Award from the Arizona Association, Future Farmers of America. Purpose of the award is to pay tribute to former FFA members for outstanding accomplishments and leadership activities in their communities and state. A large engraved plaque was presented to Mr. Rayner, on behalf of the state FFA, by past state FFA President Richard Morrison. Over 500 FFA award winners, honorary state farmers, legislators and other friends of FFA witnessed the presentation during the 11th annual FFA Recognition Day luncheon at Phoenix.

**FFA Alumni Award Won By Ron Rayner, Goodyear**

**AND NO THUMBS, EITHER!**

How accurate can a weighing device be? The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture’s weights and measures division found recently that a 175-ton railroad scale checked out 99.96 percent accurate. Readings were taken from 2,000 to 40,000 pounds and tickets printed with the results at 3,000 pound intervals. Zero errors were found at all readings excepting at the 20,000 and 40,000 pound weights, extreme end of the scale dial. There a graduation error of 20 pounds was found.

**Bulletin and Circulars**

**New Bulletins**

**Bulletins**

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A-47 Safflower Production in Arizona
A-26 revised Protect the Cotton Plant from Insect Injury
A-1 revised Chemical Weed Control Recommendations

**Circulars**

290 A Cook’s Almanac for Altitude Problems
148 revised Fruit Insect Control Hints

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**Folders**

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