international
Farm Youth Exchange

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EXTENSION SERVICE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY PULLMAN, WASHINGTON
INTERNATIONAL FARM YOUTH EXCHANGE -- to live and work with farm families in other lands

Each year several young people from Washington farms go abroad to live in the homes of foreign families and share in their work, recreation, and family activities. In return, exchangees from other countries come to Washington. Well over 250 Washington families in almost every county have been hosts to IFYE exchangees.

The IFYE program is aimed at promoting understanding among the peoples of the world.

Each IFYE learns about another way of life by actually living it instead of just observing it. When he returns home he shares his experiences by giving talks to groups throughout the state.

Nearly every state in the United States participates in the IFYE program which is conducted by the National 4-H Club Foundation. The Agricultural Extension Service coordinates the program in each state and a County Extension Agent and a County IFYE Committee take care of local arrangements in each county.

IFYE is a privately supported program. Money comes from two general sources. The home country of the delegate sponsors him and raises one-third of the cost of an exchange. Two-thirds of the necessary money is provided by the National 4-H Club Foundation from donations by organizations and industries.
IFYE Delegates to Other Lands

IFYE delegates usually spend from six to eight months abroad. They live with several different families in their country, taking part in work and family activities. In some countries they may go from village to village, staying with village improvement leaders.

After they return home, IFYE delegates spend another three months telling others about their experience and sharing the information and understanding they gained while abroad. They speak and show colored slides to groups in their home counties and to other groups throughout the state.

To be an IFYE delegate, a young man or woman must be an unmarried high school graduate between 20 and 30 and have a farm background and experience with rural youth organizations. An IFYE must be mature, stable, and willing to learn another language.

IFYE Exchangees from Abroad

IFYE exchangees spend about six months in the United States. During this time they go to two different states. Exchangees who come to Washington live with three or four different families while they are in the state. They spend about three weeks with each family.

Exchangees take part in family activities and share in work around the farm or home. The host family takes them to meetings of youth clubs and other organizations, too.

The qualifications for IFYE exchangees are similar to those for IFYE delegates from the United States. They are between 20 and 30, have lived on farms at least part of their lives, and are active in rural organizations. Some exchangees are young professionals in extension-type village improvement programs in their own countries. All speak English.