

JOIN  
THE  
FARM COMMANDO BRIGADE  
OF THE  
ONTARIO FARM SERVICE FORCE

AND

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**ARVEST**

FOR

**VICTORY**



Issued by Ontario Department of Agriculture for the Ontario Inter-Departmental Committee on Farm Labour (Agriculture, Labour and Education) and Department of Labour, Ottawa.



## Why the Farm Commando?

The Farm Commando Brigade of the Ontario Farm Service Force is composed of all those men and women who offer their services to those engaged in producing and processing food (farmers and canners). These Commandos are people who are regularly engaged in other work and can only offer their services for evening hours, one half day each week, one day a week, or for a period of several weeks in local canning plants.

The work they offer to do starts from early spring seeding (tractor, horse drawn, or hand sown) through hoeing, haying, harvesting, canning, threshing, silo filling, etc.

## Food Production — Your Responsibility!

War conditions calling for increased production, heavy enlistment, munitions and supplies requirements, have brought about an acute manpower shortage situation throughout Canada. Agriculture has been amongst the heaviest sufferers in this regard. Ontario farmers find themselves facing a situation with regard to planting, seeding, hoeing, haying and harvesting that alone they cannot solve. In 1942 they had to call in to their assistance at least 12,000 urban men and women. They responded readily and by their work proved to themselves and to farmers that they were capable of helping farmers to meet and take care of their haying and harvesting.

### 1943 FARM HELP SITUATION SERIOUS

**YOU STORE KEEPERS, PROFESSIONAL MEN, RETIRED FOLK, INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, HOUSEWIVES AND YOUNG MEN AT HOME.**

**Can you and will you set aside your evening hours, half a day a week, a whole day a week, or more to help bring in and conserve the food we need for victory?**

**If you are interested — read this pamphlet through carefully and then go and register at your local headquarters as listed on the back of this pamphlet.**

## Medical Examination

It might be well to have your doctor give you an examination to make sure you have no condition which would prevent your doing farm work.

## How to Get Work

The best results in work of this kind are secured where the volunteer goes to work with some relative or friend and you should find your own place to work if at all possible. If you do this you should register your name with your local Farm Commando Headquarters so that they have a record of the number of volunteers who are out working on the farm.

If you cannot find a place for yourself, then register with your local Commando Brigade or with Ontario Farm Service Force, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

## What Work Will Be Required of Me?

The work will vary according to districts, but the three main tasks will be **hoeing, haying and harvesting**. In some districts there will be opportunities to **harvest fruit, vegetables, tomatoes** on this part-time basis. In other districts where there are canning factories there will be a call for 4 to 10 weeks **steady work in canning** which many housewives may find within their scope without interfering too much in their housework.

## Wages

Last year communities organized to do this work on a voluntary basis. Experience has shown that it is a mistake to do the work for nothing. Wages should be paid for this work with a minimum of .25c an hour — the more skill, experience, and strength the more it should be worth — but the minimum should be .25c an hour. If the Farm Commando is so situated that he does not need the money, it is suggested that he donate it to some War Charity after taking care of any out of pocket expenses.

## How Much Time is Required for the Task?

It would be best — particularly in the larger communities and cities to give a whole day a week to the work and definitely let it be known to your local headquarters office, that you will be on call for the work a certain day in each week throughout the season. In smaller places where it is possible to get quickly to the work — half days or even the evening hours, from 5 o'clock on, can be profitably utilized. In any case your headquarters office should have on record and readily accessible the information as to your availability, and the time you can give. Register at once.

In order to provide steady daily help throughout the week it will be necessary to arrange to distribute the help throughout the week and not all be available on the weekly holiday only.

## How Many Hours Will I Have to Work?

It is urged that whenever possible the time given should be a whole day, but if that is not possible half days are worth while. When you go out in the afternoon you should plan to stay on for one or two hours after supper as working conditions are best in the cool of the evening. Due to heavy dew farmers often find it impossible to do much field work in early morning and so run on Standard Time during haying and harvest.

## How Will I Get Out to the Job?

This is a task that the local committee will have to work out and you will have to ask your local headquarters about arrangements.

## Sunday Work

It is difficult to arrange Sunday work so no local committee will attempt to organize it. Where an individual has only Sunday to give he will have to arrange it personally with some friend. Most farmers work hard six days a week and twelve hours or more each day and are loath to work on Sunday and should not be asked to do so.

## Suggestions to Business and Industrial Firms and Other Organizations

Firms with a number of employees, Service Clubs, Business Men's Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Red Cross Societies, Women's Institutes, Church Women's Associations, Women's Missionary Societies, etc., may find a place in this programme. Here are a few suggestions:

1. One firm got a wall tent and six cots and with the co-operation of the County Department of Agriculture office found a place to pitch their tent in the centre of a district where they could keep six men busy for a few weeks. The first day they sent three employees out in one of their trucks and they set up the tent and cots. Next morning the truck took three more men out. The six



worked all that day and the first three returned to town with the truck that night to be replaced with three more, so one community was supplied with six men as long as needed. Meals were supplied by farmers who used the men.

2. One Service Club undertook to supply all the help required by an aged and crippled couple from haying through to harvest. The County Representative of the Department of Agriculture can often give you the name and address of such people.

3. A Women's Missionary Society undertook to harvest an apple orchard and used the money earned for Missions.

4. A Women's Bridge Club volunteered in a body to work in the local cannery till the season was successfully completed.

## **How Can I Best Use a Week's Holiday or More?**

Spend it working on the farm of a relative, friend or nearby farmer known to yourself, or, ask your local Farm Commando Brigade Committee for a placement.

If these two methods fail to secure a place to work, you should write the Director, Ontario Farm Service Force, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, for a placement.

## **Farmers Attention!**

Do you need day help for such work as Hoeing, Haying or Harvesting? If so, there is a source of help that proved reasonably satisfactory to the number of 12,750 in Ontario during 1942. Ring up your local headquarters, whose address and phone number you will find on the back of this pamphlet. Let them know what help you need two or three days before you need it. When phoning your requirements warn them that your request is always on the condition of "weather permitting." Arrange with them how this help is to get to and from your farm. If there is no local farm Commando organized in your community, please write: A. Maclaren, Director, Ontario Farm Service Force, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

## **How to Get the Best Use Out of This Type of Help**

1. Remember Farm Commandos are often green, soft and inexperienced. Start them in easily, don't work too long at a stretch, use lots of patience and time in instructing and showing how to do the particular task.

2. Find out whether they have had any experience in farming operations and use each one where they fit best.

3. Remember it is a good thing to call a halt in the middle of forenoon and afternoon for 15 minutes rest, and if at that time the men can be served a biscuit and a cup of tea or glass of milk they will be refreshed, strengthened and able to do twice as much as if they stayed steadily on the job.

4. A change of work so as to use another set of muscles is also good practice.

5. Pay wages at the close of each day, if possible. It is suggested that a minimum of .25c an hour be paid, and more if strength, skill and experience warrant the larger wages.

6. If these Commandos wish to work on until dark during the time you are at chores you should plan to put them at work which they can do without your supervision so that you will be free for chores.

## **Meals**

The men should be assured of one good meal at least, and more if the time spent on the farm warrants it. A cup of tea and a sandwich for an evening gang is appreciated.



To the Farm Commando Brigade,  
Ontario Farm Service Force:

I have read the attached pamphlet, "Join the Farm Commando Brigade,"  
and am ready and willing to do everything in my power to help with the  
Hoeing, Haying and Harvesting, or other farm work of which I am capable.

I hereby enrol in the Local Commando Brigade:

Name.....

Address.....

Home Phone No..... Business Phone No.....

Age..... Experience in farm work.....

I can give my evenings from..... o'clock on

or

I can give half a day a week.

or

I can give one day a week.

(Please cross out statements that do not apply.)

to help in  
this work.

The day or days of the week on which I am available are.....

To be filled out if you have continuous holidays you wish to give.

I have..... weeks holidays

from..... to.....  
(date) (date)

and will be glad to give that time for work on the farm.

If you have a farm to which you can go please give farmer's name and address

If not, do you want the local committee to place you?.....

Please hand in to your local Headquarters as given on the back of this  
Pamphlet. If you have no local headquarters mail to Director, Ontario Farm  
Service Force, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario.

## FARM COMMANDO SLOGAN

LET US **H**elp  
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arvest

for **V**ictory

An organization to carry out the suggestions in this pamphlet  
has been set up in.....

If you are interested and ready to help, you should fill in the  
Registration blank attached herewith, and call and leave it at  
the Farm Commando Brigade Headquarters located at:

Phone No.....

..... Farm Commando Brigade  
of the Ontario Farm Service Force

Local Committee in Charge.