

Melissa Crane's Essay

Aug. 25/1918.
Report of Farm Cadet Service.
I began work at home the twenty-second of April and finished the thirty-first of August.
Early in the spring I did housework and garden work. The first of May I planted two acres of field corn and dropped one acre of potatoes.
In haying time I drove the horse on the hay-fork and bunched hay. In the latter part of June I watched sheep three hours each day for three weeks. I worked from seven in the morning until seven or eight at night. From April twenty-second until June twenty-first I lost one day's work, the remainder of the summer I did not lose any days' work except the last week in August which I took for my vacation.
On the whole I think my time was well spent and my work was satisfactory. We raised more crops this year than we could have raised if I had not been released from school. I think it is a good plan for the department to excuse students from school in the spring to help on the farms while help is so scarce, and when the farmers are hoping to raise more crops than on before.
Melissa Crane.

In 1917, the New York State Education Department began a program that allowed students between the ages of 16 and 18 in good academic standing to sign up and become Farm Cadets. Many teens jumped at the chance to become a Farm Cadet, and to leave their homes in the cities and towns and to assist with the war effort by replacing the laborers who had enlisted in the military and gone to fight overseas. From April-September, students worked on farms throughout the state and, in order to receive academic credit for their contribution, wrote essays about their experience. In this essay, Melissa Crane writes about her experience and why she thinks it's a good idea that students are excused from school to work on farms.

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Geographic Locations

Livingston County (is associated with)