



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 an account of their time spent as a Farm Cadet.

;This is a Farm Cadet essay written by Albert Wegnes of Rochester, NY that talks about how he initially thought that “any man with a little experience and who was not afraid of work” could run a farm until he began his four month long tenure as a cadet and realized how wrong he was.

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Geographic Locations

Rochester (is associated with)