International Farm Youth Exchange in Nebraska

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INTERNATIONAL FARM YOUTH EXCHANGE in Nebraska
In our world there are no foreigners

International Farm Youth Exchange—an opportunity for young farm people in the United States to go abroad from four to six months and live with farm families, and for young men and women from other countries to come here. This project helps rural youth to understand and appreciate the problems of similar people in other countries of the world as they learn of their culture, customs, and way of life.

Who Can Be An IFYE?

Any unmarried, high school graduate—20 to 30 years of age, with a farm background, is eligible to apply. Applicants must have a philosophy of life which would enable them to live and work with farm families of other countries. Applications are available through County Extension Offices.

The History of IFYE

Toward the close of World War II, 4-H Clubs and other rural youth organizations felt that something could be done to promote international understanding. Various methods were discussed and food and clothing parcels were sent abroad, but young men and women of America felt something more was needed. In late 1947 the first actual exchange of farm youth took place when six young British farmers spent about three months in this country living on farms of 4-H Club and FFA members. Since 1947, Nebraska has been active in promoting the International Farm Youth Exchange.

Host Families

Farm families are hosts to delegates from other countries. These delegates live and work with the family approximately 17 to 20 days, and then move to another farm. Nebraska farm families interested in having an IFYE in their home should contact their County Extension Office.

The Cost of the Nebraska IFYE Delegate

The International Farm Youth Exchange program is administered by the National 4-H Club Foundation, using funds contributed by voluntary sources. No government money is used.

It costs $1,000 to send a Nebraska IFYE delegate to another country. The IFYE delegate provides $250 and the sponsor provides $750. Each year since 1947, Mr. Nathan Gold, a Lincoln businessman, has sponsored a Nebraska IFYE delegate. Since 1954, the Nebraska Rural Youth, an Extension Organization for single Young Adults 17-30 years of age, has sponsored an IFYE. Since 1960, the University 4-H Club has sponsored an IFYE.

The Cost of an IFYE Exchangee to Nebraska

Counties pay two dollars per day for each day the IFYE exchange is in the county.

The IFYE program is sponsored nationally by the National 4-H Foundation and coordinated by the Agricultural Extension Service. Keshab Prasad Sharma from Nepal shows John D. Orr, IFYE Project Leader, Wes Antes, State Leader, 4-H and YMW and Glen Krohn, host County Extension Agent in Sarpy County, where he lives in relation to the State of Nebraska.

Mr. Nathan Gold, Lincoln businessman was honored by the Nebraska IFYE Alumni group at their 15th anniversary program, for his long standing sponsorship of the program. Mrs. Beverly Shepardson Clymer is shown presenting Mr. Gold with a plaque. Also looking on are Charles Carlson, 1962 President of the Nebraska IFYE Alumni Association and Miss Eldora Keske, Associate Program Leader, IFYE, National 4-H Foundation, Washington, D. C.
One dollar per day goes directly to the IFYE and the balance is used to help cover the costs involved in the administration of the exchangee program.

Counties usually ask service clubs or businesses in the community to help sponsor the IFYE when they are in the county.

Upon Their Return

Returning delegates provide programs throughout the state, as they tell and share their experiences of being an International Farm Youth Exchangee. They are given help in preparing their presentation by the National 4-H Foundation Staff.

What They Say About IFYE

Experiences

Maria Klaver, from Holland, 1963
"I had really luck with my farms. There were four different kinds, so I could learn on all places something new. I learned much about Rural Area Development and Soil and Water Conservation programs in Nebraska. I enjoyed my stay very much."

Sharon Reinmiller, 1963 IFYE, to Finland
"In my family were my parents and 2 brothers (31 and 21 years old). Winter had just left so we were busy getting the yard, garden, potatoes planted. I attended two 4-H meetings, one where we baked pulla and cakes for a Mother’s Day Tea and the other where we set out spruce seedlings for a farmer.

I also attended my first Finnish dance. The boys stand in the middle of the dance floor and the girls stand around the sides. The boys then walk around and bow their head to the girl they would like to dance with. Music consists of waltzes, polka, jenka, and tango."