

## A) The Farm Emergency

Babylon Leader, January 29, 1942

# Farmerettes Will Stage Comeback in Suffolk County

Farmerettes will stage a comeback in Suffolk County next summer.

They'll stage a comeback because farmerettes are going to be the only solution to what farm prognosticators say will be by midsummer a "semi-acute" shortage of farm labor.

With increased crop goals, more acreage in production, and more livestock and poultry being raised, the demand for farm labor will be greater this year than for many years past. At the same time, the supply will be greatly reduced, largely because of two factors: (1) the draft, and (2) movement of farm workers, particularly itinerants, to employment in defense industries.

Deferment of farm workers from the draft will help the situation but will fall far short of solving the problem; nor will recruitment of farm workers from draft rejects, boys under draft age, and men over draft age provide a solution. For one reason, there won't be enough of them; for another, most workers in these groups who would be capable of farm labor, will prefer to take the higher wages which defense industry will offer.

Even counting draft deferments, and the men and boys not now working on farms who can be induced to go "back to the land", Suffolk County still will need a minimum of 3,000 additional farm workers during the summer of 1942, conservative estimates indicate.

That means at least 3,000 farmerettes.

It means convincing at least 3,000 Suffolk County women preferably young, strong, unmarried women - that the best way to serve their country is to don overalls and go "down to the farm".

Patriotism . . . will be the only motive which can persuade potential farmerettes to put up with callouses on their hands, dirt under their fingernails, sunburn on their noses, and aches in their backs. . . . Volunteer farmerettes must be ready to do men's work to the best of their abilities; diletante debutantes definitely not wanted!

### Questions:

- 1- What is a "farmerette"?
- 2- Why do "prognosticators" think "farmerettes" will be needed in Suffolk County during the summer of 1942?
- 3- Why was farm work considered less attractive than defense work?
- 4- What stereotypes about women are expressed in this article?