



To the Class of 1925, Northwest School:

A story was told me recently of a city man who bought a farm and had to make a living on it. He knew very little about the details of operating a farm but fortunately he knew that he did not know. He went to reliable sources of information; he read books and bulletins, he held long interviews with specialists in soils, crops, livestock and horticulture at his state college. He studied his land with a view to determining the kind of production for which it was best adapted; he studied his location in order that he might know which of the products he could grow on his land could be disposed of to best advantage. He kept informed on all the latest improvements in agricultural methods and he followed market trends very closely. He worked and developed the skill necessary for efficient farming and I am told that he is succeeding better than his neighbors who have always been on the land. Doubtless many would drop this man's case out of consideration by saying, "A rare exception." He is a rare exception but only because he embraces available opportunities.

You have finished a practical training in agriculture. Through this training you have gained advantages. You, too, have learned of sources of reliable information. Will you use them wisely? If so, you, like the man in the story, will succeed in larger degree than the majority about you whether you be engaged in farming or in home-making, and thus you will become a credit to the state and to the institution in which you have been trained and which you have come to love.

Most sincerely yours,

*W. C. Coffey*

Dean and Director,  
Department of Agriculture,  
University of Minnesota.