

FACTORS DETERMINING ROTATIONS

GUY A. CARDWELL

In seasonal farming, factors like soil type, kind of crop, lay of the land and economic conditions complicate variations in the use of soil-improvement materials and in rotations. Because of the lack of uniformity in conditions on individual farms, taking into consideration all farms, there are only a comparatively few farms having conditions favorable to permit of each being divided into a certain number of fields to accommodate a single, fixed rotation. Uniformity of soil, as regards kind or position, is the unusual rather than the average condition that prevails. A rotation best suited to a field of low-producing sandy soil is hardly suited to a highly productive silt loam. A hillside field subject to soil washing calls for a different management as regards rotation than a field on a flat area, and so on. It is often easier to vary a rotation to suit the fields than to alter the fields to suit a rotation.

The primary question that confronts a farmer who farms more or less with livestock does not concern rotation so much as it does the acreage of crops necessary to meet his feeding requirements. On the other hand, the truck grower is concerned primarily with the question of crops in relation to market conditions. In either case rotation is a means to an end, and the cropping problem resolves itself into two parts: (1) The growing of the desired crops in a manner, or in different rotations, best suited to the soil and crop conditions, and (2) the dovetailing, as it were, of the different rotations so as to enable the farmer to realize annually the required acreage of each crop he desires.

Local conditions may arise which will make flexibility of rotations highly desirable, such as insect pests, crop diseases, or weeds. In Tennessee, for example, a simple means recommended for reducing army-worm injury was to change a common fixed rotation of corn, wheat, and meadow to corn, and cowpeas for the first year, wheat for the second, and meadow for the third year. In order to combat some obnoxious weed a farmer may introduce into the rotation on a certain field an additional inter-cropped crop.

Changes in economic or market conditions may compel rotation changes. England affords a good example of the effect of changed economic conditions on a cropping system. For more than a century the celebrated Norfolk four-course rotation of roots (turnips or rutabagas), barley, clover, and wheat was regarded as the standard rotation in British agriculture, but now it is being found (by the Northumbrian farmer in particular) that better results can be obtained when, in the Norfolk plan, the hay crop is left two years instead of one, thus making it a five-course rotation.

In planning rotations the farmer should be mindful of the possibility that changes in rotation may become desirable or necessary. Confronted with such possibilities he may come to realize, under like conditions, a cropping system which will permit of easy alteration is preferable to one that does not possess this quality of elasticity. Flexibility in Cropping A Principle in Farming Economy

The idea of elasticity in the cropping system is not new. In fact, it long ago passed beyond the experimental stage; nor does it require any demonstration for proof. For so long has it been recognized as a factor in successful farming that it may be stated as a fundamental principle in farming economy. In all probability the farmers of Flanders applied this principle

Farmers Now Growing More Certified Seed

The production of certified seed, an indicator of good farming methods, has more than doubled in North Carolina during the past three years.

In 1935, growers of the State certified 61,000 bushels of seed; this year the amount had increased to 139,000 bushels, said Dr. G. K. Middleton, of State College, seed specialist of the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association.

Next spring, he said, there will be more certified cotton, tobacco, and corn seed available in the State than ever before; enough to plant 80,000 acres of cotton, 100,000 acres of tobacco, and 64,000 acres of corn.

Changing from "farm run" to certified seed often increases the yield and quality of a crop by 20 to 30 per cent, according to a survey conducted recently by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This leads to a corresponding decrease in production costs, Dr. Middleton pointed out, as the larger and better crop can be raised with approximately the same amount of work and expense required for a scrubby crop.

The crop improvement association

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tion was organized to work in co-operation with State College and the State Department of Agriculture in promoting the production of certified seed.

The association supervises the production of seed for certification purposes, and places its stamp of approval on all seed that passes the rigid tests required.

Farmers who buy this seed, Dr. Middleton stated, have assurance that they are getting the best available.

Farm Radio Program Brings Inquiring Letters

"We listen to your programs regularly and we derive a great deal of benefit from them," wrote a Duplin woman last week in a letter to State College in reference to the Carolina Farm Features broadcasts. Another listener from Arkansas wrote that he had been listening to the programs and that he appreciated their educational value.

Both correspondents wanted further information and bulletins.

Included on the program for the week of November 26-30 will be a talk on Monday by Prof. R. H. Ruffner, head of the animal husbandry department at State College, on "The Feeding of Horses."

On Tuesday A. G. Lang, of the botany department, will discuss "Improving Your Corn Crop."

The full schedule of the week includes: Monday, R. H. Ruffner, "The Feeding of Horses"; Tuesday, C. H. Lang, "Improving Your Corn Crop"; Wednesday, M. E. Gardner, "The Spray Residue Situation"; Thursday, Home Demon-

stration Department; Friday, C. F. Parrish, "Improving the Poultry Flock"; and Saturday, H. B. Mann, "Better Farm Lands."

Six radio stations are now using the Carolina Farm Features broadcasts. These are: WBT in Charlotte, WDNB in Durham, WBIG in Greensboro, WEED in Rocky Mt., WMTD in Wilmington and WPTF in Raleigh.

Farm Agent Started Lespedeza Movement

Tom Brown, 69-year old Union County farm agent, has changed the course of agriculture in North Carolina.

Back in 1915, when he discovered the soil-building value of lespedeza, he launched a movement that has spread into every county of the State, says F. H. Jeter, agricultural editor in a story entitled "Lespedeza Broom" appearing in the December issue of the "Farm Journal" of Philadelphia.

Mr. Brown was the first man in this part of the country to observe that a growth of lespedeza, plowed under, increases the yield of succeeding crops, the story says.

Obtaining a peek of seed from Louisiana, he tried it out on his own farm. From that day to this he has been a "lespedeza man."

In Union County, where the silty soil was not very productive, he urged farmers to grow lespedeza to improve the fertility of the soil.

As they saw what it would do for their land, their interest grew and they told their neighbors about the new legume. In 1922, farmers of the county ordered \$10,

000 worth of seed, paying \$5 a bushel.

Then they began to produce their own seed, with a surplus to sell. In peak years, they have sold 300,000 pounds of seed. They sell about 1,000 tons of hay annually.

Sixty per cent of the farmers in the county now plant lespedeza, and more would grow it, except for the tenant system, Brown said.

As a result, the silty soil of the county is gradually becoming fertile. Corn yields have been raised from 12 or 13 bushels to 20 or 24 bushels to the acre. Wheat yields rose from five to an average of 18 bushels per acre.

Over the State and Nation, the increasing use of lespedeza has been attributed more or less to the pioneer spirit of Tom "Lespedeza" Brown.

Timely Farm Ques. Ans. At State College

QUESTION: What causes the eyes of my poultry to swell and how can this be prevented?

ANSWER: On all probability the birds showing this trouble have roup which is very prevalent at this time of the year. Where only a few birds show signs of the disease, the best control is to dispose of the affected birds, clean up and disinfect the poultry house and give the entire flock one dose of Epsom salts at the rate of three-quarters of a pound of salts to each two and one-half gallons of water. Check the feeding schedule and see that the flock is getting a good ration. Do not overcrowd the birds and keep them free of external and internal parasites. With these precautions, the trouble will soon disappear.

QUESTION: Has tobacco prices this year equalled the established parity price?

ANSWER: Yes. The parity, or fair-exchange value of tobacco was established at 18.4 cents a pound for flue-cured tobacco this year. Figures recently released from Washington shows that farmers received an average price of 22.8 cents a pound for all tobacco of this type sold up to October 15.

As much of the better grades have been sold since that date it is probably that the difference between parity and the actual price received will be greater than the figures given.

QUESTION: What is the best location for a trench silo?

ANSWER: In locating a trench silo the three most important things to consider are: drainage, soil, and convenience. It is therefore best to dig the silo on a slope

Miller Club Report For November

Our Club met November 12th at the home of Mrs. J. H. Sanderson with our president, Mrs. Ash Miller presiding. We sang the "Harvest Song" and read the club collect, together, after which business matters were disposed of.

Miss Martin was unable to meet with us at this time so we missed her demonstration, but our House Furnishing leader, Mrs. C. H. Sanderson gave a very interesting demonstration on slip-covers. We also had reports from each of our other project leaders. Two Thanksgiving poems were read. We had an interesting talk by our Educational Leader on "What Armistice Day Means To Me." She also read the club score for the month which was 100 per cent.

After the penny parade, salted peanuts, candy and fruits were served by the hostess.

We adjourned, planning to meet with Mrs. Calboone Mercer in December at which time we will have our Christmas Tree.

F. W. Cannon of Banker Elk, Avery County, sold 53 head of two-year old steers, weighing 800 lbs. each for 7 3-4 cents a pound to Virginian buyers last week.

Kodak Films Developed, Eight Exposure Roll and Eight Prints 4c.

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There are No Safer Brakes Made

than the Super-Safety Brakes on the 1936 Ford V-8

No other car in America has the same basic design as the Ford V-8. And because of its unique design—the Ford car could use any type of braking system now in common use.

BUT, with the whole field to choose from, Ford stands by mechanically-operated, Super-Safety brakes as the safest, surest, most positive for the Ford V-8.

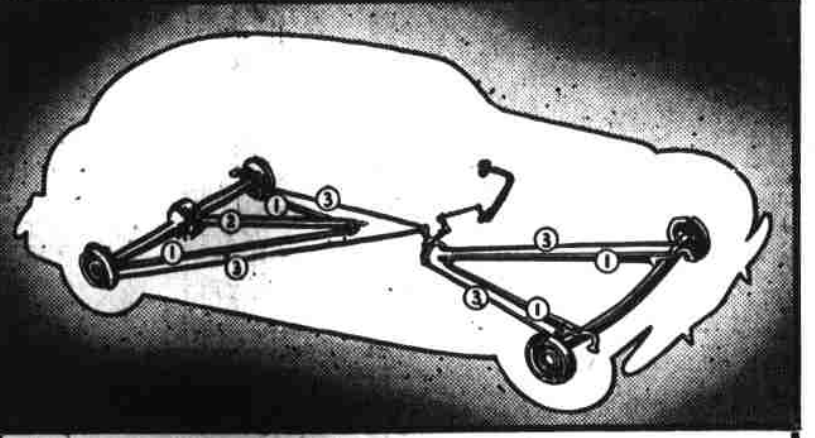
This is the type of braking system used on many of America's costliest cars and on most racing cars. And because of its unique chassis design, Ford can use it to better effect than any other automobile built today.

Then, for the brakes themselves, Ford has provided more effective square inches of braking surface (186) than is found in any other low-priced car. . . . And big, 12-inch alloy-iron drums with special cooling fins to give maximum braking power under all road conditions. . . . All in all, no safer brakes are made than you get with the 1936 Ford V-8.

And right through the Ford V-8 for 1936, from bumper to bumper, the same attention to your safety, comfort and peace-of-mind, characterizes the whole car. . . . Ford uses a one-piece, welded-steel body because it is safer and quieter. . . . Ford gives you Safety Glass in every window at no extra cost because Ford believes it is the manufacturer's duty to provide for maximum safety as part of the car's sales price.

Drive the Ford V-8. . . . Notice how it "holds the road" on curves —(you never have to "fight" a Ford around turns). . . . Notice how dependably the brakes work on rough roads—on steep hills—or anywhere else. You can arrange to do this easily by calling:

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\$510 AND UP, F. O. B. DETROIT—Standard accessory group including windshield wipers and spare tire extra. Easy terms through Universal Credit Company, the Authorized Ford Finance Plan.



FORD PERMANENT WHEELBASE
Radius rods [1] brace the front axle and Torque-tube [2] give triple bracing to the rear axle. This means that the front and rear axles of a Ford car are always held equi-distant—in perfect alignment. On this permanent wheelbase any braking system now in common use could be used. Only with this Ford-type wheelbase, can mechanical, Super-Safety brakes be used to the fullest advantage.

FORD USES 4 INDEPENDENT BRAKE RODS
Four brake rods [3] of strong, tempered steel link the pressure of your foot on the pedal with the four big brake-drums on the wheels. They do this positively, surely, under all road conditions. Note especially that no one Ford brake has to depend on the other three. Failure of one—practically impossible—would leave three perfectly-operating brakes. Tear out this chart and check it with the car you are driving now.

Ford V-8 for 1936

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