

# Rotation And Use Of Fertilizers Companion Practices In Permanent Agriculture

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It is to be observed that cultivation of the soil in some manner is a necessary farm practice in all the stages of development in land utilization, and that as virgin and amble lands are kept longer and longer under cultivation, crop rotation and the use of fertilizers become companion practices to which a farmer must give more and more attention as he seeks to retain the fertility of his soil.

History shows that sooner or later crop farming or any form of continuous exhaustive cropping brings the best virgin soils to a point where the use of manure or some form of commercial fertilizer, or a combination of both, becomes necessary in order to make them produce profitable yields, and also to a point where the highest yields and permanent productivity can not be attained without conjuring relations of crops and the use of fertilizers with the oldest of farm practices, the cultivation of the soil. The results of the long-continued fertility tests obtained in

this country and in Europe prove this point experimentally.

**Rotation Not An Item of Expense In Cost Accounting**

In farm cost accounting, cultivation of the soil is represented in the cost columns by different expense items, such as plowing, harrowing, and cultivation; so that the tillage necessary in the preparation of the seed bed and any subsequent cultivation or intertillage are more or less expensive farm operations. Fertilizers also appear as an item of expense, including the cost of the material, and other costs such as interest charges and costs involved in getting the fertilizers applied. Many expenditures on one crop help to benefit succeeding crops. The cultivation of corn leaves the land weed free for the small-grain crop following, fertilizer applied to wheat helps the growth of the grass as well, while the roots and organic matter left by the grass crop, plus accumulated nitrogen if a legume is used, leave material for the corn to feed on.

To be entirely adequate, any system of cost accounts should

show credits to each crop for its contribution to the next crop. Unfortunately these contributions of one crop to another are of such a character that they can not be measured, hence can not be shown in cost accounts, but they are very real for all that.

Rotation of crops, on the other hand, does not appear as an item of expense in any farm cost-accounting system. This means that whatever time or energy a farmer expends in planning a rotation, that is, in determining a sequence of crops which will enable each crop to derive the maximum benefit to subsequent crops, and in getting the rotation established on his farm, is counted as an expression of his managerial income, if through management he succeeds in realizing net profits. Thus in rotation of crops a farmer has at his command, ordinarily without any monetary cost to him, a means whereby he can materially increase the output of his land and reduce acre costs; it is a farm practice which may prove equally as effective or even more so than the use of manure or commercial fertilizers in maintaining and increasing the productivity of his soils. This important fact regarding the value of rotation in relation to production costs is worthy of the serious consideration of every American farmer.

## New Cotton Program To Be More Flexible

The new 1935 cotton program is to be administered through cotton adjustment associations in each county which will be more flexible than the old program, according to Dean J. G. Schaub, of State College.

The associations, composed of growers, will be in a position to adapt the program to local conditions and the requirements of individual growers, he said.

The associations will be organized in the next few weeks. All contracting cotton growers will be eligible for membership.

Under the new contract, growers may adjust their 1935 crop by an amount equal to 30 to 45 per cent of their base acreage, and receive adjustment payments accordingly.

The rate of the payments will be five cents a pound on the average production of the land retired from cotton cultivation. The entire amount of the payment each year will be made at one time.

Payments to landlords and tenants will be divided thus: 37 1/2 per cent to the person furnishing the land, 12 1/2 per cent to the person furnishing workstock and equipment, and the remaining 50 per cent distributed in the same proportion that the cotton or its proceeds is divided.

A grower may terminate his contract at the end of any contract year during the 1935-36 period.

Landlords signing contracts will be required to keep on their farms the same number of tenants they had in 1935.

Acreage withdrawn from cotton cultivation may be used for soil-improvement or erosion-preventing crops, pasture, fallow, forest trees, food and feed crops for home consumption, or any other purpose the Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe.

The new four-year contracts will be offered the growers shortly, Dean Schaub said.

## Timely Farm Ques. Ans. At S. College

**QUESTION:** Can soybean oil meal be used in feeding poultry?

**ANSWER:** This meal is one of the most complete vegetable proteins, but is lacking in mineral content and should not be used to replace all of the animal proteins in poultry feeds. In view of the shortage and high price of animal protein supplements, it is probable that soybean oil meal can be used to replace a part of these supplements. However, where fish meal or meat scrap is cheap, only a small quantity of the oil meal should be substituted.

**QUESTION:** Is there any ingredient that I can put in pure beef tallow to bleach it and keep it from being rancid?

**ANSWER:** The addition of two tablespoons full of baking soda to each 100 pounds of tallow will bleach the mixture. This should be put in while cooking and after the tallow reaches the boiling point. This also removes some of the rancid odor, but the best way to keep the tallow from becoming rancid is to clean all cooking ves-

## College Radio Program Attracts New Listeners

A representative of the Extension Service, after returning from a recent visit in the southwestern part of North Carolina, reported that the Carolina Farm Features radio programs are being well-received throughout that area.

These farm programs have now been on the air for three months and indications are that the broadcasts are building up a large following of rural people. With rural electrification coming to the fore, an even larger number of rural listeners are expected to hear these daily broadcasts of farm and home topics.

One of the most popular programs each week is that one prepared by the Home Demonstration Department at State College. In one community the home demonstration club women listen to the broadcast each Thursday afternoon and then hold their weekly meeting to discuss the talk heard. In order to add a bit of variety to these programs for women, home being brought in to tell of the club achievements in their respective counties.

The schedule in full for the week of December 9-14 is as follows: Monday, Earl H. Hostetler, "Feeding Cottonseed Meal to Livestock"; Tuesday, J. G. Weaver, "Dormant Propagation of Shrubs"; Wednesday, Dr. M. F. Buell, "The Use of Peat in Agriculture"; Thursday, Home Demonstration

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## Brief News Items

Twelve North Carolina farmers meeting organized in order to study and act upon the proposed cotton contract.

One of the most beautiful fields in Bladen County is the one owned by J. H. Schaub, of the Schaub Farm in Deepwater, N. C. During the first year, an average of 75 bushels of cotton was produced per acre.

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