

FARM DEMONSTRATION WORK.

Mr. C. R. Hudson Tells Of Results In North Carolina.

Mr. C. R. Hudson, head of the farm demonstration work for North Carolina, was here yesterday looking after the appointment of a county demonstrator. To a representative of the Dispatch, he explained the work he is trying to do for North Carolina as follows:

"The farmers' co-operative work is being done under the auspices of the United States department of agriculture and the work for the nation is in charge of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp. The object of the movement is to disseminate the best known agricultural practice throughout the country. The information thus given out is composed of what the United States department of agriculture has been able to get together, the information obtained from various state departments and their experiment stations and what the best farmers of the country have learned by independent experiments and long experience. All this is boiled down to certain general principles, easily understood and easily applied.

"This is indeed the most practical way ever devised of reaching the people and teaching the correct principles of farming. There is nothing else like it in the world—no other country has adopted a similar method. This is how we go about it: We secure the best farmer in the county—if it is possible to get him—and in addition to his own knowledge and experience we give him a short course in the principles of agriculture. Then, when he has full instructions and is familiar with his duties, we put him to work traveling over his county. He covers the county thoroughly and establishes 50 to 100 demonstration farms. The farmer, when the advantages are shown him, readily agrees to devote a few acres to the work under the direction of the department. He agrees to farm those acres according to instructions and keep an exact record as to work, fertilizer, etc., for it is the desire of the department not only to raise big crops but to raise crops cheaply and it is necessary to know the cost. The man who is fortunate enough to secure one of the demonstration farms is

enabled to get the very best methods as gleaned from the whole country, and he puts them in practice finding from results that it pays to use modern methods. The much-talked-of methods of agriculture which no one has had the industry to put into practice are found to be practical and the man's neighbors become interested, reasoning correctly that if it will pay one man to use improved methods it will pay all, and thus the work spreads. With as many as 50 demonstration farms in the county practically every section will be reached and the whole country influenced.

"We have, so far, covered 35 counties. Next year we will cover perhaps 20 more. The average yield of corn on the 3,000 demonstration farms in the state last year was 40.8 bushels per acre while the average yield for the state was 16.8 bushels. The average yield of seed cotton to the acre for the demonstration farms was 1,230 pounds. The average for the state was 570 pounds to the acre. This corn cost the farmer using improved methods 30 cents per bushel while the average cost of production per acre for the state was close to 40 cents. There was a like saving on the cotton. We had ten men in the state who averaged 102 bushels of corn per acre. We had 51 men who averaged 71 bushels per acre and the men in the demonstration work are all pleased with it and are going to stay in it."

In answer to questions, Mr. Hudson explained the difference between the work he is doing and the work that is being done under State Agronomist Burgess, saying that the work of the North Carolina department was experimental, while the work under the United States department of agriculture was demonstrative—putting before the people that which had already been proven good.

Mr. Hudson said that on September 20 the department is planning to get all of the demonstrators ("County agents," they are called) together at Pinehurst for a few days for instruction as to their work.—Lexington Dispatch.

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