

Deepening the Farm For Bigger Crops

The Third Dimension of the Farm an Important Factor to Greater Crops and Bigger Dividends.

WISE farmers are beginning to realize that a farm goes farther than length and breadth. Depth is a vital factor, and incidentally this third dimension has a clearly identified influence upon the producing value of the earth's surface.

Thus "vertical farming," a newer method of agriculture, is rapidly developing. Merely to scrape the bristles from a hog's hide is not enough. Deeper cutting is essential in order to reach the bacon. And experience has shown that to simply plow or turn the top soil is very often only the scratching of the surface when it comes to bumper crops.

Often the productivity of a farm is limited by the tight clay or hard pan underlying the top soil. Costly implements for tilling this upper soil and

taking care of increased horizontal or surface acreage are all right in their way, but to go deeper into the farm, to increase its fertility and productivity by increasing its depth, is a matter that the practice of vertical farming accomplishes quickly and economically, and very often a single cartridge of explosive will convert several yards of otherwise useless subsoil into half an acre of new root feeding surface. Thus, instead of spreading out and embracing more territory, vertical farming enables the farmer to really concentrate and by intensive methods conserve in both labor and expense. At the same time the resulting increase in crops emphasizes the profitable features of the process.

And there is a practical reason for this. By breaking up the subsoil oxygen is admitted into the ground, and the pent up natural fertilizing elements

of the lower soils are released and utilized. A reservoir for the storage of water is created, and a good home for the roots is produced. Good roots are essential to good plants. Men who look below the surface realize these facts. They know also that a plant grows only in proportion to the extent of air, water and nourishment given its roots. Thus is the newer method of vertical farming both logical and profitable.

This method of farming vertically is in itself easy, simple and labor saving. A half cartridge charge of farm powder placed well down into the tight subsoil at intervals of about a rod, tamped properly and fired carefully will do the work quickly and economically. Subsoil blasting, however, can be done successfully only when the subsoil is dry.

Few tools are required for the work.

Getting the Dollar From Under the Stump

How Up to Date Farmers Are Easily and Economically Realizing on Land Hitherto Impossible of Cultivation.

ABOUT 400,000,000 acres of land included in farms throughout the United States are unimproved. Figuring that each acre could be made to produce at least \$25 worth of produce per year, there is approximately \$10,000,000,000 production being lost annually. Quite a tidy figure. And when we take into consideration that in many cases it requires only the removal of sundry stumps and boulders to make this land profitable, it certainly looks as though something might be done to save the waste. "Stumping with dynamite" is both an economical, quick and labor saving method as well as one that is growing in popularity daily.

The method involved in the blasting of a stump is to confine a quantity of explosive in such a manner that when exploded the expanding gases will lift

the stump out of the ground. To secure best results the charge should be placed in the soil well under the base of the stump at the point where the resistance offered to the force of the explosion will be equal on all sides.

Where the soil is of a heavy clay or plastic nature a slow acting powder is preferable, such as farm powder or stumping powder. Where the earth is sandy or loose and is apt to permit the easy escape of gases a fast explosive, such as 40 to 60 per cent dynamite should be used. The condition of the soil with respect to moisture also has a great influence upon the amount of work that a certain quantity of powder will do. After heavy rains when the soil is saturated to the base of the stump and the subsoil is just damp is a most favorable condition.

No set rules as to the amount of powder necessary to blast a certain

kind or size of stump can be given, since different conditions govern all cases. Two stumps of the same size, kind and age of cut, when one is grown on well drained soil where the roots must penetrate a great depth for water and the other is grown on soil where there is always water near the surface, will demand different treatment for extraction. The older stumps, especially if from timber free from resin, require less powder. The exact amount necessary for set conditions can, however, be readily determined with a little experimenting.

Few tools and supplies are required. A one and one-half inch wood auger with a shank about four and one-half feet long, a medium sized crowbar, a round pointed shovel and a wooden tamping stick, together with the powder, fuse and caps, will serve to fill the bill.

SILVER FOX FARMING NOT A SURE WINNER, SAYS GOVT. EXPERTS

Washington, Nov. 3.—Silver fox farming, the possibilities of which have attracted considerable attention in recent years because of the money milady spends for silver fox furs in under present conditions a highly speculative and uncertain business, according to specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Since 1910 the profits in the business have been derived chiefly from the sale of live foxes for breeding. Recently the demand for these foxes has fallen off because milady's fancy changed and in consequence there has been a sharp decline in prices.

As long as high prices for the pelts are maintained, black and silver fox farming offers good opportunities for reasonable returns providing that the location of the farm and other conditions are favorable.

The silver fox can be raised wherever foxes live in a wild state, but the fur will be of a superior quality in the eastern and northern states. A pair of good breeding foxes have been known to bring several thousand dollars each on the market, but common silvers can be purchased for breeding purposes for from \$150 to \$200 each. The silver fox is very nervous. The female is so nervous she will often kill her young to protect them from imaginary dangers.

Foxes require great care in feeding, and a varied diet; which includes meat, fish, mush, milk, break and table scraps. From \$5 to \$15 a year for each animal must be allowed for feeding. Only about half of the female foxes produce young in any given year, and as the average litter is four cubs, the annual increase on fox farms does not average above 100 per cent.

SPECIAL RATES FOR THE FARMERS' UNION, DURHAM

Raleigh, Nov. 11.—To encourage the farmers of North Carolina to attend the annual convention of the State Farmers' Union in Durham, November 16, 17, and 18, all the railroads have announced special rates, which will enable the delegates and other visitors to take that trip at a trifle more than the single fare. Those who live 100, 200 and 300 miles from Durham will be able to visit that city at a mileage rate of less than one cent and a half.

This year every union is expected to send at least one delegate and the 40,000 members will be better represented than ever before.

The Durham people will solve the transportation problem in their city. Individuals have tendered their automobiles to be used in visits to the State University at Chapel Hill and

Trinity College at West Durham, and every visitor will be allowed to take these trips without expense. Arrangements have been made for trips through the greatest tobacco factories in the country, and as the Union puts education foremost in its good works, the schools of the State and the leaders among the denomination-

alists will be two of the most important incidentals to the convention. The Durham city school system is by many declared to be the richest and best in North Carolina and a visit will be made over it.

The imported speakers, Congressman A. F. Lever and Ex-U. S. Senator John L. McLaurin, who are to

speaking especially upon the subjects of the warehouse, bring a message that finds now its greatest need. This is perhaps the one great national issue. Co-operative marketing will be the theme of Charles J. Brand, head of the bureau at Washington, and land segregation and rural credits, town-

ship organization and a juster system of taxation will be discussed by North Carolinians just as able as the distinguished visitors outside the State. Nearly all of these issues will be vitally important in the next State and national campaign without respect to party.

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