



FERTILIZER FACTS No. 8

EDUCATION

This Committee is organizing an Educational Bureau, because it has faith in Education.

Bacon said: "Knowledge is Power."

To know is to have dominion over the kingdom of Nature, and to force Mother Earth to yield up her secrets and treasures. The following facts go to substantiate this:

Money valuation of farm products in U. S. in 1913	\$10,000,000,000.00
Exports of farm products in 1913	1,725,000,000.00
Net valuation of farm products left for home use	8,275,000,000.00
Total people to consume the above	100,000,000.
Average allowance of each per year	\$ 82.75
Average allowance of each person per month	\$ 7.00
Farms operated to produce the above	6,600,000.
Average production of each farm	\$ 1,500.00

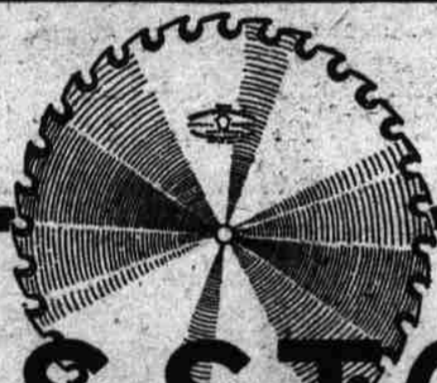
Sixty per cent of all labor investment is lost because of a lack of knowledge. It takes as much work to produce ten bushels of corn per acre as it does to produce forty bushels. In the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana there are planted annually in corn 22,661,000 acres

Which grow an average per acre of 19 bushels
 The Boys' Corn Clubs prove to the most skeptical that fifty bushels is a low average; this proves that three-fifths of all labor in the production of corn in the above mentioned nine Southeastern states is wasted. Not one of these states raises enough food products for its own use—Georgia alone purchases food products annually from other states amounting to \$ 120,000,000.00

This is almost the cash value of Georgia's Cotton Crop.
 The total cotton crop in 1912 was 14,104,000 bales
 The total acres planted were 34,766,000
 The average yield of lint cotton per acre was 216 lbs.
 Thousands of farmers have proved that a bale per acre is a low average when you know how. The above shows that sixty per cent of all labor invested is lost.

We propose, through the Educational Bureau, to render every assistance possible in bringing the efficiency of the farm to its highest standard. Write at once for special bulletins on cotton and corn. Sent free on request.

SOIL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
 Southern Fertilizer Association
 Atlanta, Ga., U. S. A.



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MACHINERY ON THE FARM

Factors to Be Considered in Its Purchase and Use

IT HAS been said that "this is the age of machinery on the farm." Speaking generally, this assertion is probably true. Admitting that it is, there are many large farms in the South that are badly out of adjustment with the present age as regards farm machinery.

This is also an age of high-priced farm labor. One of the important reasons for using machinery on the farm is to decrease the "labor cost" of production. Another is to increase the efficiency of farm operations. In other words, as the scarcity and price of farm labor increase, the laborer's time must be made more effective by managing the farm in such a way that a given amount of labor accomplishes more. The farmers of the Central West realized this fact several years ago. As a result, these farmers have greatly increased the efficiency of their farms, without increasing the number of farm laborers. In fact this increased efficiency (due to machinery and education) has, in many sections, resulted in a decreased number of farm laborers.

Many farmers have not as yet realized that one man with two good mules and improved implements can accomplish twice as much in a season as can the same man driving one mule to the small one-horse implements. In the former case the cost of a laborer has been saved, and the increased efficiency of the work done should pay the cost of owning the implements provided, of course, that the farm furnishes enough work to keep the implements reasonably busy in each case. If this is an age of machinery on the farm, the farmer who attempts to do his farm work with inadequate machinery must remember that he is competing with farmers who are reducing the cost of production by using good implements. If he continues to compete with a machine by his crude labor, he will soon be forced to reduce his standard of living.

The Acreage Cultivated Must Be Sufficient

BUT all farmers cannot avail themselves of the advantages that come from the use of improved machinery. Many farms are so small that the area of crops produced will not pay the cost of owning the implement. With many of the more complicated machines, the total annual cost of owning the machine amounts to 15 to 20 per cent of its value. This cost is made up largely of such items as depreciation, repairs, cost of housing, interest on the money invested, oil, etc. An implement that cannot be made to pay these costs should not be purchased. The most important factor in determining whether an implement should be purchased is the amount of work it will have to do. For example, the farmer who grows only 20 acres of oats per year would be unwise to buy an expensive grain drill, because he can hire the 20 acres seeded for less than the annual cost of owning the drill. Most forms of improved machinery find their most profitable use on the medium sized to large farms. On small farms the machinery costs, per acre, are so large as to seriously cut down profits.

In caring for machinery the questions of housing and oiling are the most important. It is claimed by persons who have given this subject considerable study that "for every machine that is ruined by exposure, two are probably spoiled by not being properly oiled, or not having the bolts kept tight."

Farmers should go cautiously in the matter of buying new inventions. An implement must be used under all kinds of conditions before the manufacturer determines what parts should be strengthened in order to make it last well. J. O. MORGAN, College Station, Texas

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