

HOW I MADE MY PRIZE CORN CROP LAST YEAR

PRIZE-WINNING LETTERS FROM OUR CORN CLUB BOYS

HERE'S A SCIENTIFIC YOUNG FARMER

(First Prize Letter)

IN THE fall of 1913 I selected my ground, a good piece of soil, pretty well drained. I turned and subsoiled this piece of ground in the fall. Then I sowed crimson clover as a cover crop, adding some manure, six loads, and 2,000 pounds of ground limestone, which I had ground myself. The clover grew and got a good start in the fall and winter.

In the spring the clover looked so good that I hated to turn it under, but nevertheless I did.

I prepared a good seed bed by cultivating until there was not a clod left as big as a bird's egg. Before time come to plant I kept the top of the soil stirred after every rain, or every week. This keeps the moisture from escaping, which is very important to the corn crop.

On the 15th of April I planted my corn. The soil was in fine shape. I laid my rows off three and one-half feet apart, and planted my corn thick enough so I could thin it and leave it about eight to ten inches apart in the row.

I harrowed it before it came up, following the row. After the corn had grown two leaves I harrowed it diagonally across the rows. In about three or four days I harrowed at right angles to the second harrowing, and by this time my rows were level. While harrowing, before I planted, I added 300 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of cottonseed meal. This was thoroughly cut in with a disk harrow. The fourth cultivation, I used small plows on a double-footed plow, but never used them any more.

The fifth cultivation I used the 14-tooth cultivator, and the spring-tooth cultivator. Both did good work. During this cultivation I added 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, broadcast.

I cultivated my crop seven times, and I never went down deep enough to tear the roots of the corn. I planted Batts' Prolific corn and made 87 bushels on my acre. I followed my corn with barley and red clover.

PARIS A. BRYANT,
Knoxville, Tenn.

\$83 NET PROFIT AND \$12 IN PRIZES

(Second Prize Letter)

I CHOSE a piece of land 20 yards wide and 242 yards long, along a creek that flows through our place. The soil is a clay loam. I plowed the land in the fall eight inches deep, and by spring it was well pulverized by freezing and thawing.

I spread eight loads of stable manure over the acre and also sowed broadcast 200 pounds each of acid phosphate and bone meal.

Soon after I had spread the manure I began harrowing and secured a most excellent seed bed.

I planted my corn May 10, using Boone County corn and drilling it with a double corn planter, making the rows three and a half feet apart. From this seeding I secured an ideal stand.

As soon as the corn was a couple of inches high I began cultivating, using a side sweep. I cultivated as soon after each rain as the land would do, making five cultivations in all. Some of the old folks told me I would kill my corn if I did not stop plowing it, but they did not have much effect on me, and they changed their minds when my corn had matured.

When the corn was about 18 inches high I thinned it, leaving the stalks 12 inches apart in the row, with one stalk in the hill.

After these cultivations the corn was not bothered until it was ready to be put in the shock. I hired four hands and with myself we soon had it cut and put up. I left it in the shock about two weeks and then shucked it and measured it in a tub. I found I had made 114 bushels and this, together with the stover, brought me \$120. My expenses were \$37, leaving me a profit of \$83.

When we had our county fair after the corn was judged and the reports made, I was informed I had won fourth prize in yield, first on the best 10 ears, and first on the best one ear. My prizes amounted to \$12.

In conclusion I wish to say to my boy friends if there is a corn club in your county do not hesitate to join it. Even if you do not win a prize you will be more than paid for your work and will learn many valuable lessons.

T. W. KIPPS,
Repton Mills, Va.

A Coming Farmer Tells How to Make Corn

ABOUT the middle of November, 1913, I broke my acre with a two-horse plow, followed with a subsoiler, going about 12 inches deep. Then I double disked it and sowed a little over a bushel of rye, and section harrowed the land three times, when it was in excellent condition.

The rye came up a good stand, and I disked it down April 15 and applied broadcast about 10 good loads of manure and 1,200 pounds of ground rock phosphate.

I double disked the land again and immediately broke it three inches deep with a two-horse plow. I then harrowed it twice and laid off my rows four feet apart with a 10-inch shovel and went twice to the row with a two-horse Hillman's cultivator.

I planted my corn on April 18, below level, using Jones' Prolific, a variety which I understand is bred up from Mosby's. It usually has two or more fairly good ears to the stalk.

I harrowed my land once before the corn was up and twice after. On May 20, I thinned the corn to one stalk to the hill, one foot apart.

When the corn was about eight inches high I applied 150 pounds of acid phosphate and cottonseed meal around the corn, equal parts of each.

I cultivated the corn eight times, usually every seven or ten days. At the last cultivation I sowed a bushel of peas broadcast in the corn. It was then beginning to tassel.

Owing to the long continued drouth I did not make as much corn as I expected. The yield was 65.78 bushels. I think if I had had a favorable year I should have made double this amount.

BIVER GRANT,
Pontotoc, Miss.

Should Neighborhood Meetings Be at Schoolhouse or Church?

IN NEARLY all cases the schoolhouse is suggested as a kind of meeting place for the community club. It has been my experience that the average schoolhouse is not suited for such a meeting. In the one room schoolhouse especially the seats are largely provided for small children and it is simply impossible for a grown person to make himself comfortable. Either we must provide an additional room to the school for social gatherings, or make use of some other building for such meetings. I sometimes think that the churches would be more suitable places, but in many communities a narrow prejudice of some of the members would have to be broken down before consent could be obtained for such meetings.

Springfield, O. I. O. SCHAUB,

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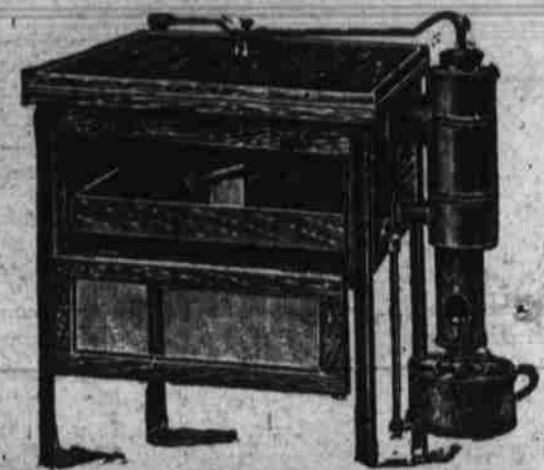


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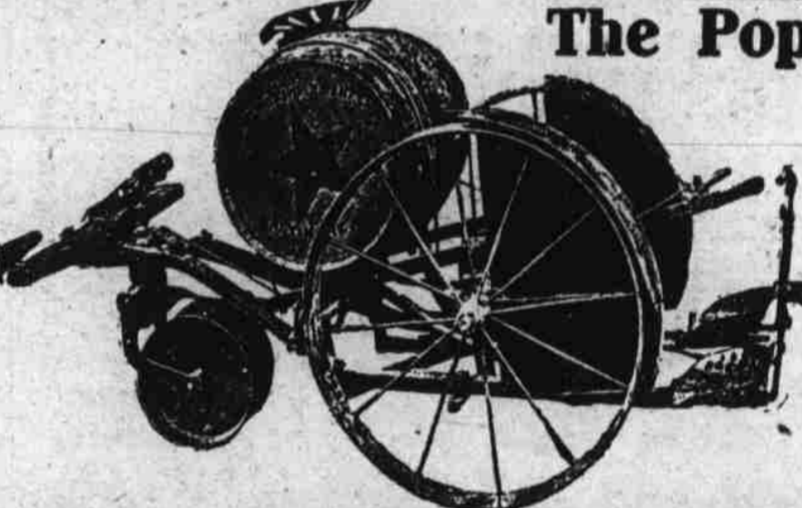
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