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Timely Farm Suggestions

By TAIT BUTLER

THE season has closed and no one has shown me a yield of 150 bushels of corn on one acre; therefore, I want to again call attention to my standing offer of \$25 cash to the first person who will show me a crop of 150 bushels of corn grown on one acre. This offer has been standing for years and yet no one has offered to show me. I do not doubt that more corn has been grown on an acre, but I have never seen it, and I feel it will be worth \$25 to me to see such a crop. I merely ask that the grower notify me in time so that I can measure the land and see the crop harvested and weighed. This offer will be mentioned again next August.

Boll Weevils Live Only on Cotton

A READER wishes to know "if the cotton boll weevils live on or eat any other plant than cotton?"

This inquiry is frequently received and constantly farmers are reporting that the boll weevils are attacking other plants.

So far as anyone has been able to learn the boll weevils do not, to any appreciable extent at least, live on or eat any other plant than cotton. The mature weevils live on the buds or other tender parts of the plant and the larvae or grub form lives in and eats the squares and young bolls, but on nothing else so far as known. There are many other insects, similar in appearance to the boll weevil, which live or feed on other plants.

Measuring Corn in the Crib

A READER asks for a rule for measuring corn in the crib. He fails to state whether the corn has been shucked, or has the shucks on.

So far as I know, the South is the only part of the country where corn is generally stored with the husks or shucks left on the ears. The data available are not sufficient to enable any one to formulate a rule for measuring unshucked corn in the crib, but a fair general estimate may be made. In fact, measuring corn in the crib, shucked or unshucked, is very largely an estimate or guess. The number of pounds of shelled corn in a given space filled with shucked or unshucked ears will vary quite largely, according to size of ears, thickness of shucks and several other varying conditions. It is pretty certain that the probable degree of error will pay well for the cost or trouble of weighing the corn, when this can be done, and it, therefore, follows that an estimate of the amount of corn in a crib should not be depended upon for purposes of sale when other and more accurate methods of measuring are practicable. We usually allow three cubic feet for a bushel of corn in the shuck, and two and one-half cubic feet for shucked corn, or 5184 cubic inches for a bushel in the shucks and 4,320 cubic inches for a bushel of shucked ears. Some allow 5,000 cubic inches for a bushel of unshucked ears and 4,300 cubic inches for a bushel of shucked ears. As stated, the space required to hold a bushel will vary considerably, but perhaps these estimates are as close as can be given. With small ears and small cobs and rather thin shucks 5,000 cubic inches will give a full bushel, but with other samples of corn three cubic feet or 5,184 cubic inches will barely give a bushel.

To find the capacity of a crib multiply the length by the width and this product by the height, in either feet or inches, and the total will give the

number of cubic feet or inches as the case may be. To find the number of bushels the crib will hold when filled divide the total cubic feet or cubic inches in the crib by the cubic feet or cubic inches in a bushel, as stated above. Care must be taken to allow for any unfilled space at the door, or at the top, especially at the corners.

If shelled corn is to be measured the cubic contents of the bin or box must be found, as with the crib, and this divided by 2,150, the approximate number of cubic inches in a bushel of shelled corn, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet, or to be more accurate, by 1,245 cubic feet.

The following may be worth filing away for reference:

1 bushel of ear corn, in shuck, ... 3 cubic ft.
1 bushel of ear corn, shucked, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cubic ft.
1 bushel shelled corn, $1\frac{1}{4}$ cubic ft.
or
1 bushel of ear corn in the shucks, 5,000 to 5,200 cubic inches
1 bushel of ear corn shucked, 4,300 to 4,350 cubic inches
1 bushel of shelled corn, 2,150 cubic inches

Farmers Should Make Sure of a Supply of Cotton Seed for Planting

WILL there be cotton seed available for planting next spring? The question is one which may be asked with all seriousness. In some sections severe storms and the boll weevils have greatly reduced the supply suitable for planting and increased the ever-present tendency to change seed. The high prices paid for seed by the oil mills will also tend to cause seed to be sold out closer than ever before.

The Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture says his state will need to buy 2,000,000 bushels of cotton seed from outside the state for planting the crop of 1917. The disposition will be as usual to go to the extreme north to get seed for planting. This will be done in order to get seed outside the area infested by the weevils and also because of the general belief that these seed will mature earlier than the local varieties in use and thus suffer less from the attacks of the weevils.

The obtaining of new varieties of cotton seed from a distance is not always entirely satisfactory. In many cases varieties are obtained, which are not as satisfactory as the local varieties which have obtained their extended use because of their merits and adaptability to the particular soil and climatic conditions where

they have established themselves in popular favor. This has often resulted in considerable disappointment. It is, therefore, probably wise when seed is purchased from a distance to exercise considerable care to obtain a variety similar in characteristics to the best local varieties. Or, at least, to make certain that the seed purchased actually possess the characters they are supposed to, or that that they are really what is desired. We believe the idea of going to the extreme north of the Cotton Belt to get seed with the idea that their earlier maturity will be an advantage in resisting the boll weevils has proved disappointing. If care is exercised in selecting the earliest fruiting local varieties we believe that in nearly all cases better results are obtained, or at least, that serious disappointment is much less frequent.

In those sections which have established varieties of a longer fiber than the extremely short lint of the small-bolled early-maturing varieties on the northern limits of the Cotton Belt, changes of seed have always proved very disappointing. This was particularly true in the experience of the planters of the Mississippi Valley and parts of Texas.

It is always a misfortune when there is a shortage of seed for planting. It makes replanting to secure a good stand doubly difficult. It is therefore, very important that those who contemplate the purchase of seed for planting do so early and it would appear that anyone having a popular variety can feel reasonably sure of finding sale for any surplus he may have at planting time. Thus there is good reason why seed should not be sold too close now, although the prices are temptingly high.

Learning How to Use Farm Machinery

A MORE extensive and general use of improved farm implements is an increasing necessity to the economic development of Southern farming. A change from light, one-horse implements and hand tools to the use of larger and more economical implements is not easy.

It is often stated that the Negro laborer of the South cannot use the most economical implements and that cotton is a plant which must have a large amount of hand labor and in the cultivation of which one-horse implements are a necessity. The statement may be extended so as to include our white farmers, farm managers and implement dealers in

the class that do not now know how to operate modern farm implements in a manner to obtain the best results. Our colleges and extension workers in agriculture must give more attention to this problem.

At present, because of long established habit and a lack of familiarity with modern implements, many of these workers are great sinners themselves in the waste of labor, through too great employment of the plow, the hoe and one-horse implements, which cover ground slowly and necessitate an excess of man power.

It is a certainty that the Negro cannot be "told" how to use farm implements. If that were possible there are many white farmers, farm managers and extension workers who could teach him how to use them, but he must be "shown." He can only learn from example or by actually seeing the work done properly. To do this, one must himself know how to actually operate these implements.

Recognizing these facts, some of our agricultural colleges are putting on their extension force for work in agriculture, an expert operator of farm implements. The Georgia College of Agriculture has also announced a short course for agricultural implement dealers. This is a timely and most important step forward in an attempt to increase and improve our use of labor-saving or economical farm machinery. This course is necessary for the implement dealers all over the South. Not only are they as a class unable to operate the implements they sell, but in many cases they do not even know how to set them up properly. During the second and third weeks in January, the Georgia Agricultural College, at Athens, should be a good place for Georgia farmers and implement dealers to congregate. We hope other state agricultural institutions will give greater attention to increasing the knowledge and use of agricultural implements, for there is no greater economic need.

IT WORKED FINE

There recently entered the office of a Denver physician a young man making this announcement:

"I want to thank you for your valuable medicine, doctor."

"It helped you, did it?" asked the physician, much pleased.

"It helped me wonderfully."

"How many bottles did you find it necessary to take?"

"To tell the truth, doctor, I didn't take any. My uncle took one bottle, and I am his sole heir."

Our book, "The Boll Weevil Problem," will help you to beat the boll weevil. You can get it together with a year's subscription to The Progressive Farmer for \$1.15.



THE SONG OF THE LAZY FARMER

This Poultry Business Is a Joke

MY neighbor's running off his legs to get a lot of winter eggs, he beds the hen house down with hay and makes the old hens scratch away; they work for every grain they get, and don't have time to roost or set. He gives them grit and silage too, he's working all the whole day through, to keep the hen house clean and dry, so he will get some eggs to fry. When night time comes he makes a mash, and fills the chickens full of hash so they will have a peaceful rest and dream of filling up the nest with nice fresh eggs to pay their way, they each lay three or four a day.

I don't give my hens no such care, I feed them up on good fresh air. They pick the leavings in the yard, then when it's snowing pretty hard, I throw them out a little corn, and give them on a frosty morn, some nice cold water in a dish, what more could any chicken wish? But all this trouble doesn't pay, I hardly get an egg a day. Some day I'll sell the whole blamed lot, or boil the fat ones in the pot; then I can sit and think and smoke. This poultry business is a joke!

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