

# Every Farming County Should Have a Model Farm

A Demonstration Farm in Every County Would Bring Scientific Methods Nearer to the Farmers and Would Greatly Increase Interest and Success in Farming—And It Would Pay Its Own Way.

Messrs. Editors: In a number of States, especially in Iowa, the supervisors of the counties are setting aside a portion of the county farm for experimental purposes. This idea is new, but has proved so satisfactory, and the results of such value that it has attracted the attention of people everywhere in the United States.

## Experimental Work Must be Extended.

One Experiment Station in a State cannot meet the demands of the farmers for the whole State. Mississippi is now realizing that, for it has established three branch stations in different sections of the State. These three stations help a great deal, but much more good would be accomplished by having one in every county. It was a great step in the advancement of agriculture, when the United States established an Experiment Station in each State; and we have now reached a stage in our agricultural development when we must extend the experimental work, especially with the crops and soil, to the different sections of the State. The wide variation in soil, climate and needs of different parts of the State are so great that the results obtained in one locality may be of little value to other sections—indeed, they are often misleading.

## County Stations Would Arouse Strong Personal Interest.

In the case of the county Experiment Stations, the experiments are carried along the lines of most value to the people of the county. Every one in the county is deeply interested in these local experiments. The results are published in the county papers, and become the topic of discussion. To make the farmers more interested in the station work, they have been induced to contribute seed for planting and experimental work on the county farm, or have helped in the planting and harvesting of the crops. In this way the people have come to have a strong personal interest in the work. The results should be carefully tabulated and published in bulletin form and distributed to every farmer in the county. This is made possible by the co-operation of the county supervisors with the State Experiment Station. In such reports the reader will find not only the results of the experiments in his own county, but also of every other county having a County Experiment Station.

## Annual Picnic Excursion to the Farm.

But another and more important factor has entered into this work in most cases, bringing its importance and practical value home to every one in a still more effectual way. This is what is known as the County Experiment Station picnic or excursion. Thousands of people in every county where these educational meetings are held have visited the County Experiment Station and seen with their own eyes the work being done. The branch station at McNeill, Miss., has the annual excursion and picnic. No one who has attended these Experiment Station excursions can help being greatly impressed with the fact that these experiments appeal to the people more strongly than those conducted under other conditions a hundred or more miles away, and which they have never seen and

in which they had no personal interest.

## Co-operation Between State and County Stations.

Of course all the boards of supervisors of the different counties will not run the County Experiment Farms the same, but the rules can be general for all farms. The supervisors authorize the steward or manager of the County Farm to set aside a portion of the farm for certain lines of experiments and to co-operate with the State Experiment Station in planning and carrying out the work. They also appropriate money to cover the extra expense of carrying out the work. In some cases the supervisors authorize the

attention directed to the farm. Since the farm steward will spend some time repairing fences, building roads, mowing weeds, and other things for improvement for the excursion, the farm will not drop down to a low level very soon, as is too often the case of a neglected County Farm; and then this eventful day will be a stimulus to better work throughout the entire year. The County Farm, instead of being a burden and an eye-sore, can be made a source of pleasure and profit to the people of the county. And why not?

## Popular Wherever Tried.

Where these County Experiment Farms have existed in the corn sections of the United States, they have

## What James J. Hill Thinks of the County Farm Idea.

The Government should establish a small model farm on its own land in every rural Congressional District, later perhaps in every county in the agricultural States. Let the Department of Agriculture show exactly what can be done on a small tract of land by proper cultivation, moderate fertilizing and due rotation of crops. The sight of the fields and their contrast with others, the knowledge of yields secured and profits possible, would be worth more than all the pamphlets poured out from the Government Printing Office in years. The Government ought not to hesitate before the comparatively small expense and labor involved in such a practical encouragement of what is the most important industry of our present and the stay and promise of our future.—From address by James J. Hill at Minnesota State Fair, September 3, 1906.

carrying out of the work and simply audit and pay any bills incident to the work in the regular way without appropriating any definite amount. However, it is generally understood that the expenditures shall not exceed certain limits.

Co-operation with the State Experiment Station is essential to the best results. If the work is to be reliable and to have the confidence of the people of the county, it must be planned and carried out carefully and accurately; and to this end the State Stations generally send one or more persons familiar with the work, to help the steward in selecting and laying out the ground, in planting the crops, and in harvesting, testing, and weighing of the crops. Sometimes this man remains through the cultivation season to look after the work, and then returns again to the County Farm to look after the harvesting. All the County Experiment Stations should have some one who is familiar with the work and who can look after all the details of the work, especially at the time of planting and harvesting.

## The County Farm Would Grow Into a Source of Pleasure and Profit.

In starting this county co-operative experiment work, we should not begin on too large a scale, but take it easy and increase by experience and meet the demands of the farmers. As the good work progresses and the farmers go on the annual excursion to see the farm and have a fine time, they will see the farm cleaned up in fine shape, for the steward will take more pride in the place and spend more time in cleaning it up and getting it ready for the excursion. Then the people will ask their supervisors for more appropriation and more aid and at-

shown that the farmers have been raising poor corn, much below what they can raise in their counties. There are hundreds of farmers in every county who do not pay any attention to seed selection. By the aid of the County Experiment Farms this has been shown to farmers and they have learned to profit by the experiments. As I have said before, the nature of the experiments conducted should depend upon the particular interest of the county. Some counties are interested more in one crop than some other county; so, experiments should be made with reference to the crops of greatest interest. This is being done on the well conducted County Farms. Where a county is making a success with the farm and the farming interest is increasing, many implement manufacturing companies will supply the farm with tools to carry on the work. By so doing their farm machinery is advertised.

There is no question that the rapid growth of these institutions throughout the States is assured. Wherever these Stations have been at work the people are anxious to have them continued and are urging their supervisor, through County Institutes and Farmers' Meetings, to increase appropriations in order to enlarge the scope of the work. This active co-operation between the farmers and the supervisors is resulting in a substantial growth in the movement, which will grow in the years to follow.

If every county in all the States had an Experiment Station, there is no question that farming would be made more scientific. The scientific knowledge of the world's agriculture would be drawn closer to all the farmers, and would increase the products of the farmers. The County

Farm would be a paying thing, instead of a burden to the county. The Department of Agriculture would be drawn closer to the farmers and would be more able to help them. Why cannot every agricultural county in the South have one of these County Farms?

LLOYD G. PRENTICE.

## Waterworks, Backbands, Steel Collars.

Messrs. Editors: I was surprised that in your article on farm waterworks you did not mention the system of forcing water into an iron tank and having it carried from the tank through pipes by air pressure, up into the building. Is not that system practical?

I notice that Mr. E. J. Beale, of Tchula, Miss., advocates plowing without backbands. Now, I have done that several times in emergency, and could not keep the horse from stepping with his front feet out of the trace chains, at the ends of the rows. I would like for Mr. Beale to state how he managed that.

I will give my experience with steel collars; and at the end of next year Mr. French (I infer that he bought his first this spring) will write you the same experience—they will do all the manufacturers and Mr. French claim for them, for about two seasons. Then the galvanizing will wear off, and the steel will rust and you will have the worst kind of a collar imaginable, and will have to have a pad.

A. R. KILLINGSWORTH.

Editorial Answer: It is understood that the gentleman who wrote about farm waterworks wrote only of his own experience; and presumably he had had none with a tank to hold water under pressure caused by pumping water into the bottom of a tank and thus compressing the water in the upper part of the tank, so the compressed air would force the water out when a cock is turned for that purpose. Both systems are good. The compressed air system has one advantage in cold climates, that does not hold good to any great extent in the lower South, viz., the tank kept in a cellar does not let the water freeze. The tank would keep the water cool in hot weather, though, which is worth thinking about.

Mr. Beale will do a favor by answering the question put to him; but it may be added now that some use backbands in plowing, but have them long. They are let out so long that no weight comes on them while a plow or harrow is being pulled, but the traces are kept from dropping too low when no pulling is being done. If one does his own work and uses care, this plan is not bad, but if backbands are allowed for use by careless help, one need not be surprised to find that the backbands have been shortened up so that the man behind the plow can work in a lazy way by throwing weight on the backs of the horses that should not be thrown there.

Vocational study must be the backbone of the high school of the future—manual training and household arts and business practice. Educators and school boards in their zeal to produce wise men should not forget that one of the chief functions of the public school should be to give the child increased capacity for making a living.—Supt. Cooley, Chicago Schools.

Cement gutters can be kept clean easily. They do not leak and have a smooth surface, which is appreciated when cleaning up.