

"HOW I MADE MY BEST CROP THIS YEAR."—III.

I.—How a Prize Corn Crop Was Raised.

One Hundred and Twenty-One Bushels to the Acre at an Estimated Cost of \$26.00.

Messrs. Editors: Last Spring I selected a piece of gray upland with red clay subsoil on which I had made 107 bushels of corn per acre in 1907. On this I put seven two-horse loads of stable manure to the acre; I then turned land with two-horse plow, cross-breaking it with a one-horse plow. After breaking the second time I laid off the rows six feet wide. Then I bedded out with turn plow, leaving a five-inch balk.

When ready to plant I broke out balk with scooter and followed in the bottom of this furrow with a Dixie plow with the wing taken off. Then I ridged on this furrow with half-shovel still going deeper. I planted on this ridge, dropping one grain in a place every four or five inches. This was April 13th.

When corn was small I ran around it with harrow. Then I ran a furrow in the center of the middle which was a high bed, and bedded to the furrow with turnplow, throwing dirt from corn. This left corn on the clay with very little soil around it. I then thinned the corn to six inches in the drill. I did not work corn again until growth had been so retarded and the stalk to hard that it did not grow too large. Experience and judgment are required to know just how much the stalk should be stunted.

When I was convinced that my corn had been sufficiently humiliated I began to make the ear. I ran around with 10-inch sweep when corn was about 12 inches high. In a few days I put 500 pounds of mixed fertilizers to the acre containing cottonseed meal, 10 per cent, phosphoric acid and kainit in equal parts. This was the first fertilizer used at all. I put this down in the old sweep furrow on both sides of every other middle and covered by breaking out with turn plow. One week later I treated the other middle the same way. In a few days I sided corn in first middle with 16 inch sweep and put 150 pounds nitrate of soda in this furrow, covered with one furrow with turnplow; sowed peas broadcast in this middle, at the rate of 1½ bushels per acre, finished breaking out with turnplow. In a few days I sided corn with the other middle with same sweep; sowed peas and broke out as before.

This laid-by my corn with good bed and plenty of dirt around the stalk. This was July 7th when corn was just bunching for tassel. This fall I gathered 121 bushels per acre. Expense on corn was \$26, leaving a clear gain of \$95, not including fodder and peas.

O. P. HILL.

Cherokee Co., S. C.

II.—A Cheap Corn Crop.

A Clover Crop Almost Always Insures a Good Crop of Corn the Following Season.

Messrs. Editors: I take great pleasure in reading the corn articles in *The Progressive Farmer* and the reports of the big yields per acre. I consider corn the most important crop raised in this country. Plenty of corn means plenty of feed, good stock, plenty of meat, and prosperity for the farmer. Big yields per acre are fine to talk and write about, but I don't think they always mean cheap corn, since it often takes a large per cent of the corn to pay for the extra manure and fertilizer used to produce such yields. What the average farmer is most interested in is how to make cheap corn.

I live in the old tobacco belt; our land is light, sandy soil with yellow clay subsoil. It is not an unusual thing for farmers in this section to be corn buyers and that means hay and meat buyers also.

I made some cheap corn on a six-acre lot that was cultivated in tobacco in 1907. The tobacco had a light sprinkling of stable manure and 650 pounds of fertilizer per acre in the drill. The first of September the lot was seeded to crimson clover at the rate of 25 pounds per acre without any manure or fertilizer. This spring, about May 10, I harvested a fine crop of clover hay on it that paid a good profit on the cost of seed and labor. As soon as the clover could be cured and removed from the land I began to prepare it for corn by breaking with one-horse Dixie plow. As soon as the breaking was done it was harrowed with two-horse Acme harrow. In about one week was harrowed again; was then ready for the seed.

About June 1st, corn of a yellow variety was planted 3 feet apart in rows 4 feet wide. Corn was planted with planter. When corn was about hand high and the grass began to show, the middle was wrapped up by

running a Dixie plow twice in a row, the bare side to the corn, and then a three-tooth Iron Age harrow was run around the corn. That left it all clean with a big bed of loose dirt in the middle to be worked back to the corn as it was needed. Before next plowing corn was thinned to one stalk in hill. The next cultivation was with a Climax plow with small fixtures, one furrow around the corn. About one week after that two very shallow furrows were run in the middle with a Dixie plow. By the middle of July the cultivation was all done and the corn was laid-by by running three times in a row with a Climax plow with 18-inch sweeps on.

Cost of Cultivation.

17 days' plowing, \$1.25 per day	\$21.25
2 days' harrowing, \$2.50 per day	5.00
2 days' thinning, 75 cents per day	1.50
Saving fodder	10.00
Gathering and shucking corn	10.00
Total cost	\$47.75

Corn Made on the Six Acres.

45 barrels at \$4.50 per barrel	\$202.50
2,500 pounds fodder at \$1.25 per hundred	31.25
Shucks on 45 barrels corn at 25c. per barrel	11.25
Total value for 6 acres	\$245.00

You will see from the above statement that I have no fancy yield per acre, but as the fodder and shucks lack only \$5.25 paying for the whole cost, I have 45 barrels of very cheap corn made without a manure or fertilizer, and on land that has been in cultivation for more than fifty years.

It is coming to be a general saying in this section, and a very true one, that corn will grow after clover. A good many of our farmers are beginning to use clover to make corn and most always get a good crop. I believe a good crop of clover on land will leave the land in better condition than it was before the clover was sown. You can see from the

above statement that there was nothing superior about the cultivation; and I only attribute the cheapness of my corn to the clover crop that preceded it. If any of your readers can show 45 barrels of corn that cost them less than \$5.25 I shall be glad to hear from them.

G. L. ALLEN.

Granville Co., N. C.

III.—Two Good Crops of Sweet Potatoes.

A PROFITABLE WET SEASON CROP.

A Chance to Make Some Crops Pay Even in Bad Years.

Messrs. Editors: An acre and a half I planted in sweet potatoes gave the best results this year. The land was planted in early Irish potatoes, but owing to the prevailing rains, the crop was very poor and barely paid expenses. So we concluded to put the land in sweet potatoes, and in July the one and a half acres were set in vines with no other preparation or fertilizer except what was left from the early crop.

Cost of this crop was as follows:

July 1, to plowing up rows...	\$1.00
July 3-4, to setting vines...	1.50
July 15, to plowing with cultivator	.50
July 20, to hoeing	1.00
July 27, to turning vines, plowing and hilling	2.00
Nov. 10, digging 150 bushels	4.00
Nov. 10, carting and banking	2.00
Total cost	\$12.00
By 150 bushels potatoes	\$60.00

By profit on 1½ acres.....\$48.00

I do not recommend following Irish with sweet potatoes; but this land was comparatively new, cultivated only five years. If it had been old land, would not have risked the rotation.

This yield of 100 bushels to the acre is a very ordinary crop, as I have gathered that many from half an acre a number of times. I wish to say here that a good crop of sweet potatoes is about the best crop a

farmer can raise in this section for hogs and cattle.

In the general scarcity of corn a good crop of potatoes is quite a help in fattening the pigs. D. LANE. Craven Co., N. C.

A LITTLE PATCH AND A BIG YIELD.

A Rural Carrier's Good Crop Raised at Small Expense.

Messrs. Editors: I read in last week's *Progressive Farmer* about Capt. W. H. Turrentine's potato crop. I will give you an account of my experience with potatoes, though I am no farmer—only a rural roofer on a mail route.

Last spring I bought one and one-half bushels of sweet potatoes and bedded them about like Mr. Turrentine, only I did not put any sand on top; just covered them with manure. I planted my patch, sold six dollars and fifty cents worth of slips at 12½ cents per 100, and gave away 500 to 800 slips. My patch is about 100 feet square, new ground; had it plowed three times and thoroughly pulverized; opened deep furrows, filled them with stable manure; also drilled fertilizer in with manure; threw up four furrows and planted out my slips. Now, I did not put a plow or hoe in that patch any more.

When the potatoes got large enough to eat we commenced eating them, and kept on till frost nipped the vines, then I had them dug. I put up over forty bushels of as nice potatoes as you ever saw. Have broken the ground and sowed it in rye. Will turn the rye under in spring and make garden.

J. M. HAYES.

Stokes Co., N. C.

IV.—Corn Made for 20 Cents a Bushel.

A Crop That Was Made With But Little Expense and at a Good Profit.

Messrs. Editors: I will try to tell how I made corn for less than 20 cents a bushel. The land was broken with a disc plow drawn by four mules, early in the spring, laid off with a turning plow and planted in checks about thirty-eight inches each way. No fertilizer of any kind was used. The land was old creek bottom that had been in cotton and corn for nearly fifteen years. This land also produced thirty-one bushels of peas. There were eight acres of land.

Cost of Cultivation.

Cutting stalks, ½ day	\$0.65
Breaking land, 4 days	6.00
Checking off land, 2½ days	2.75
Planting corn, 2½ days	2.50
Harrowing corn, 1½ days	1.75
Replanting corn, 1½ days	1.50
Side harrowing, 3½ days	3.25
Running cultivator, 3 days	3.00
Moulding, 2½ days	2.50
Running sweep 1½ days	1.50
Harrowing middles, 2½ days	2.50
Cultivating middles, 3 days	3.00
Hoeing, 2½ days	1.75
Hauling corn, 3 days	2.25
Total cost	\$37.50

The 200 bushels of corn I harvested at 80 cents a bushel would bring in \$160. The cost as given above, \$37.50, deducted from the income of \$160, leaves a net profit of \$122.50, or over \$16.50, net, for each of the eight acres. J. E. GILBERT.

Editorial Comment: The thirty-one bushels of peas should be worth the cost of making the corn crop, and the peas did the land good too. The peas should more than pay the land rent; so that, if the cost of making the crop as detailed in the letter of Mr. Gilbert is admitted as being correct, the corn will be found to cost 18½ cents a bushel.

Just one query, however: How could Mr. Gilbert break land with four mules to a disk plow at a cost of \$1.50 a day?

"At some time or other every man has looked upon a hen as a stupid fowl, and some time or other has been set back by seeing her dodge stones and cobs as long as he could throw."