

## Yield Doubled, Profits Increased Three Fold.

That is What the Demonstration Methods Did for Iredell County Corn Growers Last Year—Raise Your Own Corn This Year.

Messrs. Editors: The following is a summary of the result of farmers' co-operative demonstration work in Iredell County for the year 1908:

Total demonstrations on corn 53, and each demonstration is reduced to the product of one acre. The number of bushels grown on the 53 acres was 1,961, making an average yield of 37 bushels per acre. In making up these reports the yield of an acre cultivated in the ordinary way was included, and the total yield of 53 acres was 970 bushels, or an average of 18 bushels per acre. This shows a difference of 19 bushels per acre in favor of demonstration methods. The average cost of producing a bushel of corn under demonstration methods is found to be 24 cents, and that by the ordinary or common way is 34 cents, showing a difference of ten cents per bushel in favor of the better method.

Following up the comparison a little further, we find the following facts:

The 37 bushels at 24 cents would cost \$8.88, and 37 bushels at 70 cents, market price, would be worth \$25.90, showing a clear gain of \$17.02. On the other hand, 18 bushels at 34 cents would cost \$6.12 and would bring on the market \$12.60, showing a clear gain of \$6.48 and a difference in net gain in favor of demonstration methods of \$10.54. Say, a farmer cultivates in the ordinary way 40 acres in corn and is rewarded with the average yield of 18 bushels per acre, he would have 720 bushels of corn that would have cost him \$244.80, and he could sell the same corn for \$504.00, and make a net profit of \$259.20. That looks pretty well, but let another farmer, neighbor to the above, with the same quality of soil take 20 acres and prepare and cultivate on the intensive plan. He will gather from the 20 acres 740 bushels of corn at a cost of \$177.60. If he sells his corn, it will bring him \$518.00, and a net profit on the 20 acres of \$340.40. It will, therefore, be seen that 20 acres produces 20 bushels more corn than the 40 acres and at a cost of \$67.20 less, and at a profit of \$81.20 greater, or a net difference of \$148.40 in favor of the 20 acres. This, however, is only the apparent difference, as there are 20 acres of land to be used for other purposes. It could be sown in peas or clover or pastured with cattle and thus gather nitrogen for the next crop. It would be far better for the farmer to let it grow a crop of weeds than to cultivate it, if the above figures are true; and I know they are true, for I have gathered them with the greatest of care and made separate calculations for each acre, counting every item of cost, and allowing one-third the product of each acre for rent of land.

In a few more years the present average yield of corn in our good county is going to be doubled, and some time our average yield will be three or four times what it is today. When every farmer learns to read more and study his soil, plant food, plant growth, and with plant growth the growing and feeding of live stock, he will be reaching the point where his farm will grow richer, his bank account larger, his family happier and more contented and himself be a man he can lift his own hat to in respect.

E. S. MILLSAPS.  
Iredell Co., N. C.

Editorial Comment: Mr. Millsap's

report is certainly encouraging; but it seemed to us that he figured the cost of all the corn too low, so we wrote him, asking for his basis of calculation. In his reply he said:

"You will doubtless note that no account is taken of the rough feed, that is, the fodder and shucks, or the stover where the corn was shredded. I assumed that the rough feed would be sufficient for saving the crop, and I think so still. It would not market the crop, perhaps, but the price, 70 cents, may be had at the crib without any expense of marketing. The cost as I figured it, was for preparing the land and cultivating the crop. I stopped at that point, and for the purpose of comparison it is fair to both crops or methods of cultivation. The expense account includes all fertilizers used and allows one-third of crop for rent of land.

"I think this was fair to both methods, and if I had taken into the account the saving of the crop, rough feed and all, the calculation would have been much longer and more complex. That would have shown still to the advantage of the demonstration work as the extra feed was worth much more."

One vital feature neglected in both Mr. Millsap's and Mr. Hudson's reports is the draft on the plant food in the soil; but, taking everything into consideration, here is proof positive, it seems to us, that we can, not only greatly increase our average yields of corn, but can also greatly decrease the cost per bushel. That is, after all, the important thing; and the co-operative demonstration work, in showing us how to do this, has done a work of the greatest importance.

Certainly it needs no further argument or demonstration to convince any farmer that he can raise corn for less than it will cost him to buy it next winter. Then let every reader see that he raises his own supply, at least.

### TO THE FARMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Prepare This Year for the Census Report Next Year.

1. The crop and management of the farm this year, not of next year, will be reported in the census, as it will be taken before the crop of 1910 is produced.

It is important, therefore, for those who desire to make anything like an accurate report to pay attention to these matters this year. Besides the regular farm work, you will be asked to report number of cords of wood consumed by family or farm hands, pounds of butter, value of poultry and eggs, etc., etc.

I give this notice in order to aid in getting as accurate a report as possible of agricultural matters.

2. I wish every farmer who raises corn and desires to improve his seed would plant six of his best ears in six parallel rows. A bulletin on producing and selecting seed will be published in July by the Department of Agriculture.

W. A. GRAHAM,  
Commissioner of Agriculture.

If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown.—Emerson.

## How to Make a Good Crop of Corn.

Well Broken Land, A Well-Prepared Seed Bed, Good Seed and Thorough Cultivation Are Essential.

By Dr. S. A. Knapp.

It is impossible to lay down rules applicable to all climates, soils and conditions; hence good judgment should always be used in application of any instructions. The following suggestions can generally be followed with profit:

1. We prefer deep fall breaking (plowing) for corn.

2. It should be done with a disc or sub-soil plow so as not to bring to the surface too much of the un-aired, subsoil.

3. In sections of very light winter rainfall the field should be disced or harrowed at once after breaking, but where the winter rains are abundant the breaking should be left in the furrow.

4. If no fall breaking was done, commence as early as conditions permit in the spring; break 8 to 10 inches deep with a disc or subsoil plow and cross plow once with the same implements.

5. Then, whether fall or spring broken, work the land with disc or harrow and continue till the soil is fine as powder. Repeat the process just before planting. Pulverizing with the harrow should be about four inches deep.

### Bedding Up

Bedding up for corn is always advisable in territory of considerable rainfall; with lighter precipitation

and good drainage on loamy soils, flat planting is the better. In either case the seed bed should be thoroughly pulverized. Delay planting till safe from frost.

### Distance Between Rows.

For corn, if land will not make large ears on every stalk when standing 20 inches apart in the row, rows being four feet apart, it should be summer fallowed and crop of sorghum and cowpeas turned under.

There is more waste of labor on poor corn fields in the South than on any other crop.

Test the seed for germination. A box with garden soil in it will answer. Place in a warm room.

### Plant Shallow.

The main causes of so many poor stands are a poor seed bed, bad seed and deep planting. Planting from ½ to 1 inch deep is better than deeper in most soils and climates, and the seed bed must be high enough not to be water soaked.

A poor stand is a bad start for a good crop.

### Use the Tooth Harrow.

The use of the tooth or smoothing harrow just before and immediately after planting by crossing the furrows is an excellent practice; and as soon as the corn is up you should commence to cultivate immediately.



## Paint Talks, No. 7—Painting Cement and Concrete

Cement and concrete are bidding for popular favor as building materials. The only bar to their immediate favor is their liability to discolor and streak.

Paint is their only salvation. But paint—even the best—so often softens and becomes sticky, bleaches or scales off cement. What is to be done?

The whole trouble lies in the moisture and alkali in the cement. Let it stand a year or eighteen months and there is no trouble. To artificially age it, two methods are effective. (1) Wash the surface with zinc sulphate dissolved in water. (2) Wash it with carbonic acid water.

When dry, paint with pure white lead and pure linseed oil, according to specifications which we will send on application.

Do not use sulphuric or muriatic acids as a wash before painting and do not try to get along with a substitute for linseed oil. Kill the alkali as directed and use nothing but pure white lead and linseed oil paint.

Write for Houseowner's Painting Outfit 13, Contains specifications for all kinds of painting, color schemes, etc.

Buy of your local dealer if possible. If he hasn't it, do not accept something else, but write our nearest office.

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