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Stop Growing Scrub Crops: Select Seed Now

IN the future the agricultural measure of the South will largely be gauged by the *quality* of our labors and the products thereof. It is not going to be enough that we labor with our hands; head and hand, brain and brawn, must labor together that we may produce *quality products in quantity*.

Probably in no other single instance do we fall so lamentably short

Aren't these increases worth working for?

Right now every farmer in the South should make up his mind to be done forever with scrub seed. If the varieties of cotton and corn now grown are known to be well suited to our local conditions, the next step is to maintain their standard and even improve them by field selection.



GROUP OF WILSON COUNTY, N. C., CANNING CLUB GIRLS

as in the quality of seed we plant. During the past ten years the razor-back hog in most of the South has become a memory only, his place having been taken by sleek pure-breds. Scrub cattle are going out. Jerseys and Holsteins for milk and Herefords, Shorthorns and Angus for beef are coming in. Scrub stock are giving way to the pure-bred, simply because the pure-bred is the greatest profit-maker.

But we are lagging in the matter of breeding up our field crops by careful seed selection. Many experiment station tests and the experience of hundreds of good farmers have shown beyond all doubt that seed corn or cotton seed adapted to local soil and climatic conditions and held up to a high standard by careful, intelligent selection, may, on an average, be depended upon to increase yields from 10 to 20 per cent. Putting the average increase due to pure-bred seeds at one-sixth, we have, in the case of cotton yielding one-half bale per acre, at present prices an increased per acre crop value of about \$12.50; in the case of corn yielding 20 bushels per acre, we have an increased value per acre of about \$6

Beginning with the cotton, the best bolls from the best stalks, the stalks conforming most nearly to the desired type, should be carefully picked and ginned separately, to prevent mixing. These selected seed should be used for planting a seed patch next spring. Then a

year from now rigid selection in this seed patch should again be practiced, the carefully selected seed going to plant a seed patch the year following and the general run of seed from the seed patch being used to plant the general crop.

A similar plan should be followed in selecting the seed corn, care being taken each summer to detassel all barren or otherwise undesirable stalks in the seed patch to prevent their crossing with the good stalks that are to furnish the selected seed.

Scrub seed and scrub farmers go together, and both, under the new order of things, must go into the economic scrap-heap.

Why not begin now and make yours a farm where none but pure-breds shall have a place?

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