



Tom Cornwell, Jr., 16-year-old Cleveland County farm boy, who won the 4-H cotton club championship in North Carolina by producing 1,114 pounds of lint and 57 bushels of seed on two acres. He tells the story in his own words in the accompanying article.

4-H BOY TELLS HOW HE WON STATE COTTON CHAMPIONSHIP

By TOM CORNWELL
Shelby, N. C., Route 1

IT WAS early in the month of February, 1935, that our principal of Fallston High School asked all the students from the 6th through the 11th grade to assemble in the auditorium for the purpose of forming a 4-H Club. At that time I knew nothing of Club work. We were told that the club was to help us in many ways, which are too numerous to enumerate here, but I was interested particularly from an agricultural standpoint.

One of the requirements slated for the members was to carry a project. Since cotton is the major crop of Cleveland County, I wanted to learn as much as possible about this staple crop. I also figured that I could realize a very good financial return which would aid me in my later club work and give me spending money for the coming school year.

Superior Seed First

No producer can expect the highest returns from any crop project unless superior seed is used," my club director told us; so I decided to use the best. I decided to use certified Farm Relief No. 1 cotton and try to produce certified seed from my cotton. I secured two bushels of certified seed for my project.

I selected a clay type soil and turned it early in February. I believe in winter plowing because the soil has a chance to pulverize before planting time, thus insuring a better stand; and the water-holding capacity of the soil is increased. Early breaking of soil also aids in the control of insects and diseases.

I planted my cotton on May 2nd, using 600 pounds of 6-5-6 fertilizer to the acre. No top dressing was used in producing this crop. I cultivated my cotton seven times and hoed it two times. Frequent cultivations aided the soil from drying out and eliminated hoeing to a great extent. I picked my cotton myself.

On my two acres of cotton, I produced 114 pounds of lint cotton and 57 bushels of certified seed at a cost of \$58.75.

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Work Calendar For MARCH

1. Spraying of fruit trees and vines and ornamental plants is now in order.

2. Many chicks will be lost if they are put in a brooder that has not been properly cleaned and disinfected. Keep the brooder house clean and see that the litter is changed as often as necessary.

3. Good fence posts are becoming scarce. Black locust make the best posts and it is now time to begin making arrangements to plant the seed or set the seedlings.

4. Breed cows now. Dairy cows bred in late winter or early spring freshen in the fall and winter and produce an average of about ten per cent more milk and fifteen per cent more butterfat than cows calving in the spring. Summer produced milk sells for less than winter milk.

5. Continue to repair fences, clean up the lots and grounds, and white-wash outbuildings and fences.

6. Watch calves for lice which at this season do greatest damage.

7. Give the baby chicks plenty of fresh air and sunshine as often as the weather permits—and remember that each two chicks need one square foot of floor space in the brooder house and each 100 chicks need one mash hopper five feet long and two half-gallon water containers.

8. Get a start on that apple pest, the codling moth, by cleaning up the orchards, packing sheds, apple boxes and other places where the cocoons spend the winter.

9. If you have not already done so, seed lespedeza on fall and spring grains. This wonder crop serves the dual purpose of holding the soil in place and improving it at the same time.

10. Have your seed tested for germination. North Carolinians can get this service without cost by sending samples to the Seed Laboratory, State Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

Interesting Carolina Farmers

Biggest

One of North Carolina's biggest farmers is W. J. Long, who lives near Garysburg in an ancestral home built by his great grandfather in 1810.

Of Mr. Long's 8,000 acres, 4,000 are in cultivation as follows: Cotton, 1,400 acres; corn 1,200 acres; peanuts 700 acres; soy beans and other legumes 700 acres.

The farm is dotted with tenants and all told 600 negroes are on the place.

Through the use of leguminous crops and proper rotation Mr. Long keeps his land in a high state of fertility. Mr. Long has found through experiments that Coker-Cleveland 884 is the best type of cotton for him to grow. He plants improved seed, has his own gins and sells his cotton co-operatively so he gets the benefit of the grade and staple premiums he deserves.

Records

"There are two things I'm a fanatic about—keeping things clean and keeping accurate records."

The speaker is L. O. Moseley, thrice named a "Grade A farmer," a "Master Farmer" and president of the annual Farm and Home Convention held each year at N. C. State College.

It requires only a few minutes with Mr. Moseley at his Edgewood Farm, near Kinston, N. C., to see evidence of the truth and wisdom of his statement. He keeps records on all his farming operations and he knows at all times just where he stands.

As for cleanliness, that is written all over the farm from the neat, well-painted "Edgewood Farm" signs that hangs at the entrance, to the stalls of his 36-cow dairy barn.

Woman

Mr. Moseley is a great believer in livestock, grows the usual cotton and tobacco, but supplements these crops with fruits and vegetables.

Since her husband's death twenty-three years ago Mrs. W. W. Jenkins, of near Wake Forest, N. C., has carried on single-handed the supervision of the work on a 350-acre farm—and the way she has been operating it should put to shame many of our men farmers.

Daughter of Priestley H. Mangum, the originator of the now famous "Mangum Terrace," Mrs. Jenkins inherited the Mangum mind.

Each year for several years she has reduced her acreage in cotton and placed more emphasis on feed crops. Her smoke-house feeds not only her own family but the families of her tenants—her pantry shelves are lined with pickles, preserves, jellies, canned fruits, and vegetables.

Another Woman

"Make no mistake about it, I am boss of my two farms."

The speaker is Mrs. M. J. (Jane) Elliott, 85 years of age, who makes her regular daily rounds on foot to oversee workers who are cultivating 150 acres of land in the Skinnerville section of Washington County, N. C.

Assuming the duties of supervisor over a score of years ago when her sea-loving husband died, Mrs. Elliott has been on the job ever since. Mornings she arises at four o'clock to see that the seven teams are fed and then taken to the field to work.

Last year 24 acres of cotton, 29 acres of peanuts, 40 acres of corn and other kindred crops were tended on the "woman-supervised" farm.

Secured Real Profit

I sold my cotton for 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per pound and my certified seed for \$1.00 per bushel, giving me a return of \$199.03 with a profit of \$140.28. In my costs were included: man labor, horse labor, rent of land, and ginning costs.

I have been asked how I won the title of Cotton Champion. First, I would say that my other club activities had their effect upon this accomplishment. I worked with the Extension forces at the Cleveland County Fair by aiding with the 4-H booth, was Health King in our County Health Pageant, and made the trip to Raleigh on the judging team. Then, too, I tried to produce the most cotton possible per acre at the lowest cost per pound by following proper cultivation methods; and then the most important factor was keeping neat, accurate records of the project. The fact that I did produce certified seed was another very important factor in my winning.

Will Attend College

At present I am in the ninth grade; thus, to think of the future seems like a long distance away. My present plans, however, are to attend State College and take up an agricultural course.

I wish to acknowledge my appreciation for the assistance of the extension workers—Mr. J. S. Wilkins, Mr. H. B. James, Miss Frances MacGregor, and Mr. John L. Reitzel—for working with me this project year. Last but not least, I appreciate the cooperation that my parents have given me. Without their aid, it would have been impossible for me to ever attain the title of State Cotton Champion.

Give The Poultry Home Grown Feed

Several year's results from demonstration poultry flock records conducted by South Carolina poultry specialists show that feed costs make up 80 per cent of the total costs, excepting labor. A reduction in feed costs, therefore, offers one of the best opportunities for lowering production costs.

Since corn is one of the basic feeds for the poultry flock and it composes approximately one-half of usually recommended rations, a material saving may be affected by growing on the farm all corn needed for poultry feeds. Yellow corn has a higher feeding value because of a greater content of Vitamin A as compared with white corn. Other common grains suitable for poultry feeding are wheat and oats (heavy). Approximately one bushel of yellow corn should be grown for each hen kept.

4-H'ers Aim High

The 4-H Club boys in Colleton County, S. C., are already taking steps to outdo their last year's records. Last year 106 boys, the largest number, in seven years, completed demonstrations. Their work showed a total profit of \$1,722.19.