

# MUST FEED SOIL TO BOOST YIELD

## Average Corn Yield In Macon County Only 22 Bushels

By T. H. FAGG  
Assistant County Agent  
Farmers are plowing now in preparation for planting corn. More of our land is planted to corn than any other one crop. The average yield for the county is around 22 bushels per acre. At this yield, it takes three acres of corn to feed an average size horse.

As long as the average yield is this low, a majority of our cattle and workstock will be underfed, and as long as it is necessary to plant three acres of corn to produce what should be produced on one acre, the farmer will be overworked.

There are farmers in the county who produce one hundred bushels of corn per acre. And there are whole communities in this county with average yields of 45 bushels or better. These farms and communities have no special soil types, but these farmers have learned that soil that produces must be fed, just the same as a man who works must be fed. These farmers have also learned that land must not be permitted to go through the winter without cover. Legumes turned under will furnish the soil from 35 to 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre. Corn yielding 40 to 50 bushels per acre will remove 80 pounds of nitrogen. This difference of 40 pounds of nitrogen must be added, either by manure or commercial fertilizer.

A farmer's money comes hard, and yet some will go to their merchant and buy fertilizer with no regard to its analysis. There are three main plant food elements that must be in the soil in abundance if corn is to be grown profitably. These elements are: Nitrogen, phosphate, and potash.

Our state requires that all fertilizers have the analysis on the bag. This is a safeguard for the farmer but is of no value if it is never read. Many farmers have done a good job adding phosphate to the soil; but these same farmers are sadly neglecting the other two elements—namely, nitrogen and potash.

Corn that fires early and has a yellow color in most cases is starving for nitrogen. According to experiments conducted in this county, and throughout the state, corn yields have been increased profitably with an application of 500 to 700 pounds of nitrate of soda or its equivalent per acre. Part of this applied at time of planting and part when the corn is not over knee high. The first figure on the bag represents the nitrogen contents of the fertilizer. See that it is not lower than 4, but a 6 will be better.

Corn will also burn for lack of potash. The last figure on the bag represents the potash content in the fertilizer and should not be lower than 6 or 8. The fertilizer that is recommended for corn, then would be 6-8-8, at the rate of at least 400 pounds per acre, and a 10-10-10 for sidedressing.

The corn yield of our county

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# Stewarts' Farm Is Example Of What Can Be Done Here

A recent special study made on the unit demonstration farm of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Stewart shows some interesting results, just what can be accomplished by following a well balanced farm and home program and using good management practices, it is pointed out by the county agent's office.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart purchased a 145-acre farm in the Patton Settlement community in 1941. This farm was made a unit demonstration farm the first year the Stewarts operated it. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart agreed to cooperate with the N. C. Extension service and Tennessee Valley Authority in setting up their farm and home in demonstrating the value of using good rotations of row crops with legumes, improving pastures, proper use of liming and phosphating materials and other fertilizers, improving the quality of their livestock, and last, but certainly not least, improving their home conveniences.

Some of the results the Stewarts have obtained by using their good judgment, hard work, and following the above farm management practices are listed below:

Since purchasing this farm, the Stewarts have built a new home in which they have electric lights, running water, electric refrigeration, and other modern conveniences.

They have increased the yield of their corn from 35 to 50 bushels per acre, and their hay from one to two tons per acre. In 1941, seven tons of corn silage was produced per acre and in 1945, 22.2 tons were produced per acre.

In 1941, Mr. Stewart owned 16 head of cattle, primarily grade Guernseys. He valued these cattle at approximately \$500. He now has a total of 29 head of cows, heifers, and calves, and they are valued at approximately \$2,000. The increase in valuation of these cattle has been due in part directly to a normal increase in the value of cattle due to the wartime conditions. The most important factor in the increase in value of the cattle on the Stewart farm, however, is the fact that the quality of the cattle has been greatly improved by the use of a purebred bull on grade Guernsey cows, culling out of the herd inferior animals, and the purchase of a few purebred cows and heifers.

In 1941, the type of farming carried out on the Stewart farm was general. The total cash receipts taken in on this farm that year was \$842. In recent years, the Stewarts took advan-

tage of a market for whole milk that has been made available to Macon County and changed their type of farming to primarily dairy farming. They constructed a Grade A milking barn and milk house and started producing Grade A milk. In addition, they constructed two upright silos to take the place of the one trench silo that was on the farm.

With the increased production of their cropland and increased grazing capacity of their pasture, they are able to produce more feed, thus enabling them to keep almost twice the number of cattle that they kept in 1941. With the good farm management practiced and the change made in type of farming, the total cash receipts taken in on the farm has been increased from \$842 in 1941 to \$5,044 in 1945. Of this total, \$4,439 was from the sale of milk from 15 cows.

The Stewarts are convinced that, by producing the larger amount of feed on the farm, dairying can be one of the best sources of income to the farmers of Macon County.

Since becoming a demonstration farmer, Mr. Stewart has completed the liming and phosphating of all his cropland and open pasture. He has received ample dividends from this practice in increased grazing capacity, increased production of legume and cover crops, which in turn increased yields of row crops.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart cooperate with the N. C. Extension service and in promoting good farm and home practices in their community. They both, at various times, have served on different types of agricultural committees. At present, Mr. Stewart is a member of the Macon demonstration farm committee, and in the past, has served as chairman of this committee. Mrs. Stewart is an AAA community committeewoman and is also a member of the home demonstration club in her community. The demonstrations carried out on this farm were noticed by the people of their community, and it was largely due to these demonstrations that the people of the Patton Settlement community requested that their community be set up as an area watershed demonstration.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewarts' three children are active in 4-H club work in the county and in the farm and home operations on their farm. The Stewarts have one daughter in college, one son in high school, and one son in grammar school.

# GIVES ABC OF SOIL BUILDING

## Lime, Phosphate And Legumes Primary, Agent Says

By S. W. MENDENHALL  
Farm Agent

It makes no difference what type of farming we want to do, there are certain basic principles that we can't overlook.

Our children can't go to high school before they learn their ABC's. Lime, phosphate, and legumes are the ABC's of any sound agricultural program. When we start building our soil on this basis, we can go into dairying, beef cattle, poultry, or general farming with a good chance of making a success.

Lime is not a fertilizer, but it can be increased materially by the use of hybrid corn, providing the hybrids are adapted to this section. The hybrids recommended are: White—N. C. T. 20, Tenn. 10, and Tenn. 15; Yellow—U. S. 282 and U. S. 13;

neutralizes the acid in the soil so that the fertilizing elements that are in the soil will be made available to the plants. Lime should be applied first and phosphate afterwards. A lot of our phosphate is wasted when it is applied to land that has had no lime.

Phosphate stimulates early root growth. Pastures that have had both lime and phosphate applied will start growing as much as 30 days earlier in the spring than pastures that have had no lime and phosphate.

Legumes add nitrogen to the soil which gives us increased yields and cuts our fertilizer bill. The 22-bushel corn yield of Macon County could be doubled in short order if a legume was always turned before corn was planted.

Now is the time to apply your lime and phosphate. See your AAA committeeman and get all the lime and phosphate that your farm needs. Apply this material to your pastures and meadows. Take advantage of the seeding practices on both new and old pastures. Include in your farm plan the determination that no land will be left

# Dairy Payment Plan To Continue Through June 30

The dairy production payment program will be continued through June 30, and rates for the April-June period will be the same as those for the corresponding period for last year, according to Robert Fulton, chairman to the Macon County AAA committee.

Under the program, Mr. Fulton said, the milk rate that will be paid to North Carolina farmers for April is 90 cents per hundredweight for whole milk produced and sold and 17 cents per pound for butterfat. For the May-June period, the rates will be 55 cents per hundredweight for milk and 10 cents for butterfat.

# GEORGE L. CRISP GIVEN DISCHARGE FROM NAVY

George L. Crisp, MM3c, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Crisp of Cullasaja, has been discharged from the navy at the separation center at Memphis, Tenn., an official announcement says. Mr. Crisp, who has been in the service 42 months, has stars for participation in two major arrangements during his 31 months' duty in the South Pacific.

# PVT. BILLY L. DEAN ARRIVES IN GERMANY

Pvt. Billy L. Dean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roston B. Dean of Franklin, has arrived at the European theater army air forces reinforcement depot, and soon will be assigned to a per-

manent station somewhere in Germany, according to an announcement received here. Pvt. Dean, before entering the service a year ago, was a student at Brevard college.

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# Holbrooks Is Back Home From 4 1/2 Years Service In Army

James Weaver Holbrooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Holbrooks, of Franklin, Route 3, who spent the past four and one-half years in the armed forces, has received his honorable discharge and returned to his home.

He spent 48 months in overseas service in the 34th (Red Bull) infantry division, and was in the Tunisian, Naples, Foggia, Rome, Arno and Northern Apennines campaigns. He wears the American Defense, American Theater Service, and EAME Service ribbons, the latter with four bronze service stars, the

World War II Victory medal, and has three regimental citations.

# M'COLLUM BACK HOME, RESUMES FORMER JOB

James G. McCollum, who has been in the navy for the past two years, has been discharged and returned to Franklin. Mr. McCollum, who served in the South Pacific, has resumed his former position with the Nantahala Power and Light company.

World War II Victory medal, and has three regimental citations.

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