



THE FARMER'S TALK TO FARMERS

INTENSIVE FARMING PRACTICALLY CONSIDERED

(Written Specially for The Bulletin.)

A good many farmers, especially among us of the older generation, seem to have an aversion to the very phrase "intensive farming."

It is not because we are lazy, for the most of us are not. Yet, when one considers the subject coolly and impartially, it is difficult to see why any but really lazy folks should oppose it.

For "intensive cultivation" really means little more than just making the most of our opportunities.

Without the inherent conservatism which accompanies age has much to do with the term or the idea. It's hard to teach an old dog new tricks. And it's harder yet to teach an old farmer new things in farming. Not necessarily because he's stupid or old fogeyish. He's seen so many new-fangled notions go into the scrap-heap; he's seen so many of his own youthful experiments turn out disappointments; he's seen so many of his wisest and earnest plans knocked into failure by sudden freaks of the weather or something else quite as uncontrollable, that he dreads novelties much as the burnt child dreads the fire.

Especially and particularly when those novelties are suggested more often by lecturers and writers and professional advisers than by his own equally hard-headed and careful neighbors.

But there's one phase of the possibilities in "intensive farming" which may suggest to a few even among us older hands some more favorable reflections.

I mean the question of greater proportional profits.

It is not the size of our crops nor the cost of making those crops, considering each matter separately, which brings profit.

The profitable crop is one which sells for more than the cost of producing it.

A crop which costs \$10 an acre to raise and sells for \$11 gives a profit of \$1. If the crop costs \$11 to raise and sells for only \$10 it is a loss. But if, by adding that extra dollar to the cost of production, production is so stimulated that the crop sells for \$12.50—having cost \$11 to raise—then the profit is \$1.50, which is half a dollar better than the profit secured from the smaller expenditure.

Now, it must be admitted and accepted at the outset that intensive farming, which means higher fertilization and more frequent tillage and greater labor cost, necessitates a much larger total outlay, per acre, than hit-or-miss farming.

The one real question about it is whether, having compelled this greater initial outlay, it will result in crops which will not only pay back the increased outlay, but will also increase the profit, i. e., the excess of income over outgo.

If it won't, then the intenser work didn't pay; if it will, then the intenser work did pay.

As an illustration of my meaning, take an acre corn lot. We'll assume that plowing and marking cost \$2; that harrowing and marking cost \$2 more; that seed and planting cost \$1.50 more; that two horse cultivations with a little hand-hoeing around the edges cost another \$1.50; that harvesting and husking and shelling cost \$2.50; and that it takes you and your team half a day to deliver the bagged grain to the mill. This makes your crop cost you about \$11. You have twenty bushels of shelled corn and sell it for 75 cents a bushel, or \$15 for the crop. In that case you make the difference between \$15 and \$11. Your profit has been \$4.

Instead of plowing up an unmanured sward suppose you had put on that

more ten good loads of your own stable manure, worth \$10 of any man's money; had top-dressed with half a ton of ground lime worth, say, \$1.50 more; had cultivated five times instead of twice, at an increased labor cost therefor of \$2.50—and had by these means increased the yield of that acre to just double, to forty bushels instead of twenty. The increased cost of the intensive cultivation would have been \$12.75 which added to the original cost of \$11 makes \$23.75. But the income from 40 bushels at 75 cents a bushel would be \$30, or \$23.75 profit, which is \$12.50 more than that from the slack cultivated acre.

It is certainly better to have \$5.25 than to have \$4. But the small sum of money will really be the least important profit from the intenser cultivation. The ground will have been put in vastly better shape and "heart" for the following crop, be it oats or potatoes or clover. You will be able to see and feel the benefits of your manuring and tillage for several years to come. The land, instead of being impoverished by the small crop taken off it under hit-or-miss methods, will actually have been enriched, despite the removal of a larger crop. The acre will be worth more, not only that year, but the next year and still others.

I'll admit that this is all "spoin" thus far. Fortunately, there are some statistics available in regard to this very crop which will show the average of the situation have been able to gather and apply to actual conditions.

These statistics indicate that, taking the country as a whole, the total cost of getting a 25 bushel yield per acre is about \$17.15, while the like cost for producing a 50 bushel yield is about \$21.

This makes the cost, per bushel, of a 25 bushel crop about 68 cents, and the similar cost of a 50 bushel crop about 42 cents. The average farm price of corn, the country over, is about 66 cents. Thus it will be seen that a 25 bushel yield means a net loss of \$2 per acre, while a 50 bushel yield means a net profit of \$9.50 per acre.

Of course, these figures are averages and are not to be understood as applying exactly to any one farm or any one crop. In my own case, my personal experience leads me to think that the statistical cost of \$17.15 per acre for raising a 25 bushel crop is larger than it should be. I am sure I can raise such a crop for less. Likewise, the increase of less than \$4 an acre, stated as the average cost of doubling the crop, is less than I can do it for. I know that it would cost me more than \$4 per acre for the extra fertilizer and tillage which intensive farming presupposes. On the other hand, I should expect to get a good deal more than 50 bushels per acre from an intensively farmed corn field.

The whole matter simmers down to the simple question of profit, which method of raising corn or any other percentage and gives the largest net profit.

It would be poor business and show bad judgment to adopt an expensive system of farming if such a system didn't bring in more money than the one it supplants. Contrawise, if the spending of more money and labor results in the bringing back of larger profits, it would be equally bad business and show equally poor judgment to refuse to spend the additional money.

If any of my readers have a rooted prejudice against "intensive farming" one so deeply seated that they can't overcome it and don't want to try, I should not advise them to make any moves in that direction.

But if one simply hasn't thought much about it—hasn't stopped to figure out probabilities—hasn't troubled to

make any tests of his own, then perhaps he might find it worth while to consider the subject from this viewpoint of profit.

One thing is certain—very few of us New England farmers are making so much of our farms, at present, as to feel perfectly satisfied with what we're getting.

We are all of us ready to grumble over the small profits resulting from our hard work.

Yet more grumbling, which never goes beyond that stage, is neither pleasant nor remedial. A discontent which is never translated into action doesn't get anybody anywhere.

I don't know, probably you don't know, whether in your individual case these means increased the yield of that acre to just double, to forty bushels instead of twenty. The increased cost of the intensive cultivation would have been \$12.75 which added to the original cost of \$11 makes \$23.75. But the income from 40 bushels at 75 cents a bushel would be \$30, or \$23.75 profit, which is \$12.50 more than that from the slack cultivated acre.

But it would be neither a costly nor

a difficult thing to try it out on some test plot. Try an acre of corn or of potatoes or of cabbages or of anything else subjected to highly intensive care for a year or two, side by side with a similar acre given ordinary attention. Then, by comparing results, you'd have something definite to go on.

But be fair with your land with yourself in the trial. Don't go at it with the preconceived expectation and hope that it will be a failure. Don't undertake it simply for the expectation of getting results which will enable you to say "I told ye so." Make the test with the sole desire to find the exact truth, whether it turns out one way or the other.

If you'll unprejudicially consider your own "snags" and habits of thought, perhaps you'll find that the attainment of this attitude of mind will really be the most difficult part of the whole job!

THE FARMER.

LETTERS FROM TWO STATES

Tolland County BOLTON

School Board Organizes—Thanksgiving Program at the Grange Follows Supper.

The school board organized recently for the coming year as follows: Chairman, F. D. Finley; secretary, Mrs. E. W. Finley; auditor, Theodore Reichard; sub-committees for the different districts, Center, A. E. Manegia; South, F. D. Finley; North, Theodore Reichard; South West, Mrs. E. W. Finley. It was voted to purchase new seats and desks for the Belknap schoolhouse. Superintendent A. N. Potter visited the Bolton schools Monday.

William B. Trowbridge, teacher in the Center school had a Thanksgiving day program at the last part of the Wednesday afternoon session. The Bolton schools closed Wednesday for the balance of the week.

Thanksgiving Sermon.

Rev. W. C. Besseliere preached a Thanksgiving day sermon at the local church Sunday morning.

The Bolton grange held a Thanksgiving day meeting last Tuesday evening, the program being composed of violin duets by Mrs. R. C. Eaton and Miss Mary Mathieu, a song by ten young ladies, readings, a pantomime entitled "In Search of a Wife" by ten persons, and an account of a trip to California by Miss Edith Maxwell, which she took last summer. At the close of the evening a chicken pie supper was served.

Miss Madeline Franceshiva is home from the St. Francis Hospital, Hartford, where she was taken for appendicitis several weeks ago.

Returns from Hospital.

Mrs. Thomas Smith has returned to Bolton, after a month's stay at the Hartford hospital.

Miss Jennie E. Pomeroy returned to Windsor the first of the week, after several months spent with her sister, Mrs. William White.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fryer and Mr. and Mrs. Minot Fryer of Willimantic spent Thanksgiving with Mrs. E. Jane Finley.

Mrs. A. Jesse Wood entertained her sister, Mrs. T. Braithwaite of Groton, over Thanksgiving.

Professor and Mrs. Samuel M. Alvord, son Morkan, Mrs. Louis Jewett and son Kennon Jewett, of Hartford are spending several days with Professor and Mrs. Jewett.

G. O. P. MEN IN HOUSE TO HOLD CAUCUS DEC. 2

STAFFORDVILLE

Funeral of Mrs. Leander Walbridge, Who Died at Old Mystic—Thanksgiving Guests.

Mrs. Leander Walbridge, 53, who died at the home of her son, William S. Walbridge in Old Mystic last Friday of heart trouble, was formerly a resident of this place and a member of the Congregational church. She is survived by a brother, George Baker of Mansfield Depot, and a sister, Mrs. Lyman Squires of Ashford, also four daughters and two sons, Mrs. Elwin Phelps and Robert Walbridge of Staffordville, William S. Walbridge of Old Mystic, Mrs. William Batchelder and Mrs. Amy Rathbun of East Milton, Mass., and Mrs. Arthur Hodges of Wallaston, Mass. The funeral was held in the local Congregational church Monday at 2 o'clock. Rev. C. C. Lyon assisted. Rev. L. R. Currier officiated and burial was in the Staffordville cemetery.

On Holiday Trip.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Bosworth and children Herbert and Ruth, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Miller and Arthur Bosworth were Thanksgiving guests of Mrs. Sarah Ballou in Union.

Rev. E. H. Tinkley spent Thanksgiving week with his sister in Philadelphia.

Rev. J. P. Booth will preach in the M. E. church next Sunday.

Mrs. Arthur Bosworth was the Thanksgiving guest of her cousin, Mrs. George Corey in Hampden, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Lyon were Thanksgiving guests of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corbin in Wales, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith and family moved Monday to Entfeld, Mass.

ELLINGTON

Charles Howard Sells Farm—Neighbors' Club Members Entertained at Cards.

Mrs. Harry Hayden is in Essex for a visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hayden.

Mrs. Edgar Pease has returned from a visit in Springfield, Mass.

A company in Springfield, Mass., has been organized in the building of the new organ for the Congregational church now being built.

Thanksgiving service was held in Liberty hall Sunday morning.

Miss Ellen Allen of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., is spending the Thanksgiving recess with her parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Rice and two children of New London are guests of Mr. Rice's sister, Mrs. Eugene Finance.

Sells Farm.

Charles Howard has sold Swastika farm and with Guy Howard and family will move to Hartford Dec. 1st. Many friends here are sorry to have them leave town.

L. B. S. Meets.

The Ladies of the Benevolent society met with Mrs. John T. McKnight Wednesday afternoon to sew on aprons for the coming fair. Afternoon tea was served.

Mrs. Arthur Hale entertained the Neighbors' club at whist Saturday evening.

Miss Alice Bancroft has gone to Newport, called home by the serious illness of her mother.

Abbot Thomson and Mabel Thompson are spending the Thanksgiving holidays here with their parents.

Miss Frances Clapp of Mt. Holyoke college is home for holidays.

Turkey Contest at Grange.

At the Grange meeting Wednesday evening a farce entitled Dr. Dobbs' Assistant was given by the members of the dramatic committee, C. J. Thru, Earl Hathaway, Harold Catrick and Mrs. A. D. Hale. This was followed by a Turkey contest, which created much fun.

COLUMBIA

Modern Dressed Guests at Ladies' Aid Society's Social Fine—Rev. Claus Olandt Going Abroad to Work Among Prisoners.

Charles Palmer and William Wolf motored to Norwich Tuesday evening of last week and attended the theatre. On their return it was discovered that Charles's automobile was being driven by an unknown party. They arrived home in time for a late breakfast Friday morning.

Thomas Cox of Hartford spent part of last week with Mr. and Mrs. James A. Utley. He brought a coon dog with him and spent a portion of the nights in the effort to round up coons, but failed to capture any.

Guests in Costume Entertained.

The Ladies' Aid society gave a social at Yeoman's hall Friday evening. Those who attended were supposed to be dressed in ye antique style or pay a fine of five cents. They were also obliged to assist in the program or pay a fine of two cents.

Breeding Handsome Fowls.

L. E. Winter and son Aubrey, have erected two new up-to-date poultry houses and are at work on a third one. They have at present between two and three hundred Rhode Island Reds, many of them pullets hatched early last spring from eggs produced from hens specially selected for breeding. Their aim is to breed a pure strain of these handsome fowls.

Rev. T. N. Owen, of Sokonk, Mass., occupied the pulpit in this place last Sunday and preached an excellent sermon, his topic being "God will that all men shall be saved." In the evening at the Young People's meeting his theme was "God a shield and a Reward."

London Little of Hartford spent the week-end with relatives in town.

The first snow fall of the season came Tuesday night. Nearly an inch of snow was on the ground Wednesday morning.

To Work Among Prisoners.

Columbia friends of Rev. Claus Olandt, who has been pastor of a church at Montrose, N. C., for several years, learn that he has been appointed a secretary of the International

Thank your lucky stars

if you feel that way about it when you get good service from your tires, but there is a deeper and more understandable reason.

The tire that you and every other motorist undoubtedly want most is not the result of hit or miss efforts.

Some great factory has gone to the limit in giving you the best that human ingenuity can produce, and stakes its reputation on the result.

That's how Diamond Tires are built and the great factory behind them is the largest rubber factory in the world.

The horse-shoe was all right to nail over the barn-door, but for the garage four Diamond Tires on the wheels of your car constitute the best omen of good luck we know anything about.

DIAMOND "FAIR-LISTED" PRICES:			
Size	Diamond Squeegee	Size	Diamond Squeegee
30x3	\$ 9.45	34x4	\$20.35
30x3 1/2	12.20	36x4 1/2	28.70
32x3 1/2	14.00	37x5	33.90
33x4	20.00	38x5 1/2	46.00

Diamond

"SQUEEGEE TREAD" TIRES



WILLIAM S. GREENE (upper) JAMES R. MANN (lower)

On Dec. 2 the Republican members of the national house of representatives will meet in caucus to select a leader for the coming session and for the discussion of the minority attitude on national defense and other matters. Representative James R. Mann of Illinois will be re-elected minority leader. William S. Greene, member from Massachusetts, is chairman of the caucus.

RUB RHEUMATIC ACHING JOINTS AND STOP PAIN

INSTANT RELIEF WITH SMALL TRIAL BOTTLE OF OLD, PENETRATING "ST. JACOB'S OIL"

Rheumatism is "pain" only. Not one case in fifty requires internal treatment. Stop drugging! Rub soothing, penetrating "St. Jacobs Oil" right into your sore, stiff, aching joints, and relief comes instantly. "St. Jacobs Oil" is a harmless rheumatism liniment which never disappoints and can not burn the skin. Limber up! Quit complaining! Get a small trial bottle of old, honest "St. Jacobs Oil" at any drug store, and in just a moment you'll be free from rheumatic pain, soreness and stiffness. Don't suffer! Relief awaits you. "St. Jacobs Oil" is just as good for sciatica, neuralgia, lumbago, backache, sprains.

Next Mon. Tues. Wed. KEITH V. UDEVILLE Feature Photo-Plays

DAVIS THEATRE BROADWAY ONE NIGHT ONLY Thursday, December 2nd

A MESSAGE! "To those who know that Mirth is Medicine, and that Laughter Lengthens Life."

JOHN P. SLOCUM'S COMPANY in the Smartest Musical Comedy of the Season (By Arrangement with Marbury-Comstock Co.)

Nobody Home

METROPOLITAN CAST—Percival Knight, Zoe Barrett, Royden Keith, Mabel Withee, Arthur and Rose Boylan, Della Niven, Lew Christie, Helen Jost, Tracy Barrow.

THIS CLEVER COMEDY, WITH ITS JOLLY TUNES, BEAUTIFUL GIRLS and REAL COMEDIANS, KEPT NEW YORK and BOSTON, SINGING, DANCING and LAUGHING FOR ONE ENTIRE YEAR.

Prices 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50. First time at less than \$2.00. Seat Safe Tuesday

COLONIAL THEATRE

Week of November 29th

ARTHUR J. HUGHES Presents

THE FAMOUS COMUS PLAYERS

and Miss Harriett G. Moran

Direct from New York City

SKETCHES-VAUDEVILLE-NOVELTIES

Complete Change of Program Monday, Wednesday and Friday

The Sweetest and Strongest Singing Show Ever Heard

Performances 2.30—7 and 8.30 Adults 10c. Children 5c

TODAY—"THE BUILDERS OF BRIDGES" in 5 Parts

World Film Production

ARTHUR CAMPBELL LATEST SONG HITS

Next Monday and Tuesday—AUDITORIUM—Extraordinary Bill

DANIEL FROHMAN Presents

MARY PICKFORD in "THE DAWN OF A TOMORROW"

ELENOR ROBSON'S FORMER STARRING VEHICLE

Little Mary Achieves the Greatest Triumph of Her Career in One of the Greatest Successes Ever Presented on the PARAMOUNT PROGRAM

MILLER and KRESCOE Sense and Nonsense | CHORSON and CORLEW Comedy Singing and Talking | WAGNER and LEE Comedy Acrobats

TODAY—3 ACTS—VAUDEVILLE and JOHN MASON IN JIM THE PENMAN

ROCKVILLE

Arthur Burdick, who is employed in New London, was home over Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Phebe J. Crandall has gone to Block Island to spend the winter with her son, who is superintendent of schools there.

Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor took dinner Thanksgiving day with Mrs. Taylor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Palmer.

Mrs. Fred Stanton and two children of Hope Valley were recent guests of Mrs. Eric G. Barber at Woodcrest.

A special meeting of the Loyal Workers was held with Mrs. J. F. Palmer Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Crandall and baby spent Thanksgiving with Mr. Crandall's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Crandall, of Westerly.

HOPKINTON

Mrs. E. R. Allen, her son George E. Allen and his wife made an automobile trip to Boston last week, and have been guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Allen.

Mrs. John S. Cole spent Sunday with friends in Peacedale.

Rev. E. P. Mathewson preached a Thanksgiving sermon to an audience small on account of threatening weather Sunday, taking for a text Deut. 26, 11.

The Bethel woolen mill and the business block on Main street, Ashaway, the latter the property of George B. Langworthy, are receiving a new coat of paint.

The family of G. B. Langworthy returned Monday to their home on High street, Ashaway, after spending the summer and fall in their cottage at Quabonctung.

Emeralds are worth more a karat than any other precious gems.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, R. I.

USQUEPAUGH

Thieves, Believed To Be Boys, Enter J. E. Webster's Store Twice.

Mrs. Anna Wells has gone to Savannah for the winter.

Mrs. Gideon Palmer has returned home, after a week's visit with her daughter, Mrs. Aldrich, of North Stonington.

Thieves Like Soda Water.

J. C. Webster's store was entered last Friday night, also Sunday night. It was apparently the work of boys, as nothing very much was taken, only a few canned goods and some soda water. Friday night they ate some sardines and drank soda. Sunday night, they carried away three bottles of soda, also some coffee. Sheriff John Wilcox was notified.

Mrs. Georgia Bills, who has been

Thieves Like Soda Water.

Robert E. Moore and L. E. Thatcher were at Narragansett Pier the first of the week.

Thomas Otis Tyler and family of Abbotts Run and William Tyler of Providence, were visitors at Monticello Farm last week.

There was quite a little fall of snow here Tuesday night.

R. H. Moore has moved to Barterville.

Eber J. Sherman of Exeter was a caller in this vicinity Tuesday.

Fannie J. Moore, who is assisting her sister, Mrs. Philip Ramsey in Auburn, returned to her home for a short call Saturday night.

The social hop at J. B. Gardner's Saturday night was largely attended, parties coming from distant places by automobile. All had a very enjoyable time.

George G. Palmer was a recent business caller in Wyoming.

NEW CITY HALL WHICH WILL BE DEDICATED FRIDAY AT WATERBURY