

## THE SCIENCE OF FARMING

By W. A. Dougherty, U. S. D.

### WORN-OUT LAND IN VERNON PARISH

U. S. Demonstration Farm Manager  
Tells How to Avoid and Rebuild  
Worn-Out Land.

#### The True Terrace

A true terrace is made by throwing all the land down hill in breaking, allowing the first furrow to lap on an unbroken space each time, so as to raise the surface at this point as rapidly as possible. It usually requires several years to complete a well-established terrace, and when completed the surface of the intervening space is approximately level with the next step or terrace. The chief objection to this way of protecting land are about the same as those for hillside ditches. It is, however, less waste to the land than with the ditch, and the amount of space for weeds is reduced one-half. The most serious difficulty on rather steep hills will be in getting teams and machinery from one terrace to another. This difficulty may be met very materially by leaving sufficient space at each end without embankment to enable teams to move from one level to another.

#### Broad Graded Terraces

Many of our best farmers have found by actual experience that a combination of the hillside ditch and the terrace will more nearly fill the needs of our lands than anything yet tried. The term terrace will, however, be used in the discussion under this heading. The terrace row is laid off by the use of a level, the same as that used for the ditch or the true terrace. A uniform fall of 4 to 8 inches to 100 feet should be allowed on steep lands, and proportionally less on rolling lands. This must be changed to meet local conditions. Where the rainfall is heavy as in many parts of the South, the greater fall is needed. The distances between the terraces is also governed by the steepness of the land. On steep hills, the fall between them should not exceed 3 feet, while on slightly rolling lands, 4 ft. may be given. In laying off the line for a terrace, the operator should look for a good outlet. On hillsides that slope both ways, it is advisable to carry the water in both directions, if outlets can be had. With areas of considerable size, and where several depressions are to be gone through before reaching an outlet, it may be necessary to make a straight ditch at one of these natural depressions, carrying the water directly to the main outlet. This ditch would relieve the strain on the terrace and save damage that would result from attempting to carry the water all one way by means of long irregular terraces. Such ditches can be prevented from getting too deep by allowing grass to grow in them or by putting in brush occasionally. The main differences between this and other methods of terracing are in the construction of the dike or embankment and in the uses to which the embankment is put after it is completed. The construction is much easier and more economical than would at first be thought possible.

The embankment can be made with

the plow by lapping on the unbroken ground and throwing furrows toward the center until the desired width is obtained. The width will be governed by the ideas of the maker. A bank wide enough for three rows is preferred. Such a bank allows a center row on top of the embankment with another row on each side. After this bed has been thrown up once, go to the center, and then by lapping as before, continue in the same manner until the proper height is reached. If a disc plow is used, the embankment may be completed, at the first operation, as it will turn loose dirt. When ordinary turning plows are used it may happen that one must wait until the land is settled by rain in order to complete the job. Obstructions will, of course, have to be removed, depressions or gullies filled, and the bank at these points built up and strengthened to correspond to other parts of the terrace. The height, as well as the width, to which this embankment should be made, depends on the depth of rainfall it must withstand. The one important feature is to make it strong enough to stand against any possible emergency. When the embankments have been completed, run the rows parallel with them. Beginning with the first row on top of each dike, run off in pairs from each side, letting the short rows come in the middle. It has been found best to work in two short rows occasionally before finishing, which would cause too great an accumulation of water at one point. The intervening short rows should always come in pairs, as this will allow teams to make a round without dragging the cultivator, or plow out to the opposite end, as would necessarily be the case if there were only one row. The ends of all short rows should point slightly up grade. Opinion differs as to short rows—some prefer having them all come on one side or the other. The rows on the terrace can be cultivated the same as the others, provided the terrace is made with the right grade and is broad enough. This method of terracing leaves no room for a crop of weeds, but utilizes all the land in the field. As each intervening row has some fall, the water will be carried out by it, but so slowly that the greatest amount possible will be taken up by the land before it can run off. Should water enough accumulate to run over the ordinary rows, the terrace rows will check and hold it until it can be gradually taken up by the land or carried slowly to the outlet. A little judgment in plowing will keep dikes from getting too high. No trouble is experienced in running cultivators, mowers, binders, or wagons on or across the field in any direction. There is no question that this method is better than any one yet used; and any farmer, it matters not how small his farm or limited his means, can practice it. Many of the best farmers in the sand hill and light loam sections of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas are handling their lands by this method. The writer of this bulletin has had practical experience with all the methods ordinarily used in the last

25 years, and this method of drainage is far ahead of all other surface methods in efficiency of surface or economy of construction. The main points are to plan the work properly at the start, and to watch all weak places and keep them up, by hand if necessary. All except a small proportion of the construction can easily be done with plows. The scraper may be required in some low places, where sufficient dirt cannot be thrown up by the plow. This plan will be equally effective on pasture lands that have been turned out to be reclaimed. In fact, if terraced well and all the washing checked, such lands will build up very much more rapidly than otherwise.

[This article on Terracing will be continued in next week's issue.]

## GLADWAY AT THE STATE FAIR WILL PROVE POPULAR

The Wortham Shows, Celebrated in  
Carnival Business, Will Entertain  
Visitors.

The Wortham Shows, declared to be the largest aggregation of carnival attractions put on the road since the world's fair, will entertain the thousands of men, women and children visiting the Gladway at the 1920 State Fair of Louisiana, October 28 to November 7.

According to assurance of the management, the Gladway attractions will be clean, novel and educational. They have passed the censor, and, as announced, they will be as clean and moral as could be hoped. There will be nothing to offend, but plenty to entertain, and every patron is assured of his or her money's worth of fun and frolic.

All told there will be about two dozen different shows in the Wortham aggregation. There will be a wide variety of entertainment, including a number of very thrilling exhibitions.

The management has gone to considerable expense in booking the Wortham Shows, but it knows the splendid reputation of this organization, and is confident that the program to be offered will please everybody who visits the Gladway.

In addition to the seriously educational features of the Fair, the officials feel that visitors should enjoy some lighter recreational features, and with that end in view has contracted for the very best obtainable in this line from Wortham.

For further information, write to W. R. Hirsch, secretary, Shreveport, La.

### JUVENILE CORN CLUBS SEEK STATE FAIR FAME

That corn has become one of the principal products in Louisiana, with a wonderful future in store, will be the impression visitors will get in viewing the exhibits of the Boys' and Girls' Corn Clubs at the 1920 State Fair, October 28 to November 7, inclusive. These exhibits, which will be shown in the Agricultural building, will be among the most intensely interesting exhibits at the Fair, and they will testify to excellent progress being enjoyed by this branch of the Junior Extension Department.

Numerous cash premiums have been listed for the winners in the Corn Clubs, and as the juvenile corn growers have their club work established in practically every parish, practically every section of the State will be represented in the exhibits. Conservatively it is estimated that there will be between 2,000 and 3,000 entries.

In addition to the regular premiums the members will have the privilege of competing for a silver cup offered by E. O. Wild, editor and publisher of the Gulf States Farmer, for ten-cent championship, and for a handsome trophy offered by Modern Farming, also for the Louisiana State Corn Growers' Association's state championship cup. For this latter trophy the champion in the club contest will compete against the champion of the adults' contest. Many of the boys' and girls' corn will compete against that of their fathers and brothers and other grownups.

An interstate corn club contest, in which several Southern states will be represented, will be one of the features of the Corn Club Department, and students will also compete for prizes offered for corn judging.

For catalog and further information write to W. R. Hirsch, secretary, Shreveport, La.

Plaquemine.—Sam Polizzotto, a merchant of this town, has been appointed a member of the jury commissioners, in place of Lyman P. Rhodes, who has resigned.

Visit your Parish Fair in October.

In every home where there is a baby there should also be a bottle of McGEE'S BABY ELIXIR. It may be needed at any time to correct sour stomach, wind colic, diarrhoea, or summer complaint. It is a wholesome remedy, contains no opium, morphine, or injurious drug of any kind. For sale by all druggists.

# Your Washing-

The Llano Laundry is equipped to do your household laundry at very moderate charges.

The best of care is given to all work and quick service is our watchword.

Send us all your work and you will be satisfied with the result. Our wagon calls for and delivers work in Leesville.

## Our Wet Wash Department

This department takes your clothes and sends them back washed but not finished. Our steam machinery gets the clothes clean without the drudgery of the usual washtub, and you can finish them up to suit your own tastes. This service is cheaper, too,—only six cents a pound for a minimum of twenty pounds.

Why sweat and worry over the wash tub?

## Newllano Steam Laundry

PHONE 176

# Let Us-- Grind Your Corn and Mill Your Syrup

See Mr. Synoground

Llano Co-operative Colony  
Newllano, Louisiana

## JOB PRINTING

Of The Better Kind

The Printing Plant of the Vernon Parish Democrat has been replenished and reorganized, and they are now able to execute all manner of Job Work in quick time.

There will be no better printing obtainable than the Democrat kind.

## Franklin Prices

The Franklin Printing Price List is used by the Democrat. This list is compiled by experts and covers almost every line of printing. With this list in use we are assured of a reasonable profit on each piece of work and the consumer is protected against overcharge.

OUR MOTTO:

GOOD WORK FAIR PRICES QUICK SERVICE

Send Your Printing to  
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PLANT AT NEWLLANO COLONY