

HOW TO GROW PROFITABLE CORN CROPS.

"A Deeply Broken, Well Pulverized Soil, Filled With Humus, Planted to Good Seed, and Properly Cultivated Should Insure a Big Yield."

IT IS NOT the purpose or the method of those engaged in the farmers' co-operative demonstration work to try to get large yields by the heavy application of commercial fertilizers, as some farmers seem to think. We do not advocate excessive use of fertilizers, but want to make the best use of the amount used. Dr. Knapp's idea is not only to make large yields per acre but to grow them as cheaply as possible. The great thing is to use such methods of farming as will permanently build up the soil so that it will make large, profitable crops. Of course, we advocate the use of all stable manure, lot scrapings, leaf mold and things of that character, for the purpose of supplying humus to the soil.

Our records of costs of making the corn crops are not yet sufficiently completed for publication, except in individual instances, but we believe we can safely say that they are about half of the average cost of producing corn. Several of the records already in, run from 20 to 30 cents per bushel and some of them as low as 10 to 12 cents per bushel.

For the benefit of those not in touch with the work, we will say that the large yields being reported are due mainly to three things:

1. A deep, well pulverized seed bed, with as much humus as possible.

2. Sound, well-improved seed to plant.

3. Proper cultivation.

It is impossible to grow a full crop of corn on three or four inches of soil. There is not enough plant food nor enough moisture in that depth to make a large yield. We must have 6 or 8, or even 10 to 12 inches of soil in most cases, if we are to grow big crops profitably. The deep breaking of the soil is one of the principal factors in the big yields made this year. As a general rule, we advocate doing this deep breaking in the fall, or in the early winter before the soil becomes too wet from the winter rains. The air, sunshine and freezes all help to pulverize the soil and make plant food available, and they are much cheaper than commercial fertilizers. Winter cover crops are advocated wherever it is practicable to grow them.

Clods are rocks and they should be pulverized in order that what plant food they contain may be used by the plant and so that they will help in holding moisture.

An average sized stalk of corn will use as much as 300 pounds of water in making its growth. If this supply is not present, and we do not have the proper amount of rainfall at the proper time, the yield is cut off accordingly. It is impossible to have enough soil moisture for, say, 15,000 stalks to the acre if the soil has no humus and has not been broken for more than three or four inches deep.

Right in connection with the supply of moisture we recall that a pound of vegetable matter in the soil will hold seven times as much moisture as a pound of sand and hold it three times as long: That a pound of vegetable matter will hold three times as much moisture as a pound of clay and will hold it twice as long. Of course the vegetable matter furnishes plant food also, and is necessary for the growth of the bacterial organisms which do so much good for the farmer. Stable manure is one of the best agencies for sup-

plying these organisms as well as for furnishing humus.

Good seed plays no small part in producing profitable crops, often increasing the yield from 10 to 50 per cent and sometimes 100 or more per cent over scrub seed.

By proper cultivation we mean simply the "frequent and shallow stirring of the soil around the growing plant." Sometimes, however, it is advisable to let the first cultivation be rather deep, provided it is done before the plant roots get out into the soil. Care should be exercised in this since the plant roots grow several times as fast in length as the corn stalk grows in height. After the corn gets up considerable height the cutting or breaking of these roots is like pulling an animal's teeth and then expecting it to hustle for the food it needs. Some times farmers cut off the yield of their corn crop from 5 to 10 bushels per acre by deep cultivation, thinking that only "elbow grease" is necessary to make a good corn crop. Frequent and shallow cultivations also help to retain the moisture that should be present in the soil to carry the corn crop through a drought.

A deeply broken soil, therefore, well pulverized, filled with humus, planted to good seed, and properly cultivated ought to make a big yield of corn for any farmer.

C. R. HUDSON,

When You Hire Help.

Messrs. Editors: One of the fundamental secrets of success in any calling is the ability to judge human nature.

When you employ men, employ only good ones, when you can. Careful, honest, conscientious men are treasures. A man so slow that he never makes mistakes is simply N. G., and equally as bad is the rushing man who makes only mistakes and does nothing or little right.

Stick to the man who works his brains some, and his hands some, too.

Fire the man at once who is fiery in temper, yells and storms about the feed lot and barn, storms or clubs the stock and kicks the dog from sheer ill nature.

There are far more balky drivers than balky horses; more kicking milkers than kicking cows.

I do not think any horse properly broken need to be balky, nor any cow carefully cared for, vicious.

When you see a man of 50 or 60 who has worked everywhere, at nearly everything, and is still rolling mossless, you may as well let him roll by, for all the good he will do you. He is wrong somewhere, you may be sure.

I have known many a man to lose a good place or throw away the fruits of a long time of industry and kick himself out of a good job by a single lapse of control. A kind disposition and even temper are absolutely necessary among stock for success, as well as among help.

And if a firm, even temper is essential to the man who does the work, it is even more so to any man who directs other men's work.

A. M. WORDEN.

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