

# "MY BEST CROP AND HOW I MADE IT."

## 226 2-3 Bushels of Corn on One Acre.

Mr. Batts Tells How He Made It—Good Seed, Liberal Fertilization, Deep Plowing and Constant Cultivation Did the Work—Hopes to Report on Twenty Acres Next Year.

Messrs. Editors: As I am receiving many inquiries concerning my acre on which I produced 226 2-3 bushels of corn, I gladly accept your invitation to write a short article about it.

In the first place, as many seem to doubt that I made so much, let me say that the acre and the yield were measured under the rules of the Wake County corn contest by disinterested and well-known free-holders, and that the evidence was heard under oath before the judges, namely: Major W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture; Mr. T. B. Parker, and Col. Fred A. Olds. These judges after hearing the evidence confirmed the report of the local judges who measured the land and the yield. This will settle the doubts of some, I think.

Now, as to how I made the yield. I did all I could do with the land and the cultivation. I cultivated as much as I thought the land would stand. I manured as generously as I thought necessary. I have made a full report to the State Board of Agriculture on the details of cultivation and fertilizing, and I understand that this report will be printed in the Bulletin. I thought I had the seed corn that would win, if I gave it a fair chance; and I spared nothing to give it that chance.

The acre was not all that I could have wished for. Eight years ago it produced only five bushels. Last year it produced eight bushels of wheat. But I began preparing it last year by planting peas, from which I cut the hay. On the 12th of March, 25 2-horse loads of cow manure were applied. It was then plowed 12 inches deep and subsoiled 6 inches deeper. On the 9th of April, 20 more loads of manure were spread, and the field was plowed and subsoiled again—this time 20 inches deep. Three days later 800 pounds of acid phosphate and 2,000 pounds of cottonseed meal were spread and harrowed in. The corn was planted 8 inches apart with the rows 41 inches apart, and 600 pounds of an 8-3-3 fertilizer put in the row. May 20th, 400 pounds of cottonseed meal, 400 pounds acid phosphate, 800 pounds kainit and 200 pounds nitrate of soda were put along the rows. On the 27th, 200 pounds cottonseed meal, 200 pounds acid phosphate, 400 pounds kainit and 200 pounds nitrate of soda were broadcast and harrowed in. June 9th, 200 pounds cottonseed meal, 200 pounds acid phosphate, 400 pounds kainit and 200 pounds nitrate were applied. The yield was 226 2-3 bushels. The manure applied was worth \$56.25; the fertilizer cost \$58.80, and the total cost of the crop was \$115.05.

I attribute much of my success to seed selection. I have kept a seed-patch seven years, and on this patch I have year by year planted my best seed, selecting the seed from the best ears with a view to good size and quality and prolific type. I do not believe that more than four ears can be safely made on a stalk, and this can be done only under the most favorable conditions. But if we make four ears in the seed patch, and breed the seed to that type, the aver-

age in the main field will tend to run above two ears. This was the plan I worked on, and it has come out all right. I believe I had the benefit of the most prolific seed to be had. And I know the seed had all the chance that I could give.

I am now making plans to show what can be done profitably on 20 acres. I will make no promises, but next year I hope to be able to report on a yield of 20 or 30 acres. I believe that we can do a great deal by increasing our average yields all along the line, and that the way to do it is by the use of prolific seed stock, good manuring and faithful and intelligent cultivation.

J. F. BATTS.  
Garner, N. C., R. F. D. 1.

## A GOOD CROP OF IRISH POTATOS.

### \$105 Profit on an Acre of Irish Potatoes.

Messrs. Editors: My best crop this year was Irish potatoes, and this is how and why. On an even measured acre of ground, last November I sowed oats, and in May, this year, I harvested three good loads of hay. Then I turned this acre with a two-horse Oliver chill plow eight inches deep right away. It commenced raining after I plowed it, so I let it lie until in July. About the 10th I broadcasted nine loads of lot fertilizer on it; plowed again about four inches. Harrowed twice with a two-horse iron harrow. Then marked off rows three feet apart. Dropped in eleven bushels of Lookout Mountain potatoes, that cost \$1.50 per bushel. Covered them with a board attached to a stock, like boarding off corn.

This was July 17, 1909. August 10th I cultivated them the first time, again on September 2nd. I believe this was all the work they got, and all the fertilizer was what they got from the cowpen, which cost me very little. The potatoes cost me \$16.50. We used off these potatoes from the time they were big as marbles and last Monday I finished digging them and had 83 1/2 bushels in spite of the drouth.

Now I can sell these potatoes for \$1.50, which would net me \$131, or a net profit over all labor and seed of \$105. My potatoes command a premium because I planted select seed; otherwise I would have to take 75 or 80 cents per bushel.

A. H. MOORMAN.  
Fruitdale, Ala.

## Good Cotton in Boll Weevil Territory.

Messrs. Editors: I am special agent at Bastrop, La., of the United States Department of Agriculture, and also a demonstrator. I cultivated 30 acres in cotton, following demonstration plan. Broke ground, broadcast, November, 1908; bedded first of April; incorporated 250 pounds 16 per cent acid phosphate per acre in center of bed 6 inches deep, ten days before planting. Planted 15th April, Toole cotton. Harrowed three times before choppin', swept every ten days with 22-inch heel sweeps, until 15th August.

I picked 30,000 pounds seed cotton, or twenty bales, average 502

pounds per bale. I picked the squares and weevils every week from 22nd of May until 1st of September. This is simply department methods for thoroughly infested boll weevil territory.

I. A. ROSS.

Bastrop, La.

## FIRST YEAR WITH THE BOLL WEEVIL.

Farmers Were Not Prepared and Consequently Much Damage Was Done.

Messrs. Editors: I am sending you a few reports on some crops that were made in my parish, although I can not say much for our crops this year as we had a very bad season and could not give frequent cultivation.

Report on one acre of corn planted on ordinary land: The land was broken up about February 15th. It was thoroughly harrowed and pulverized at time of planting. April 15, it was planted in Hastings Prolific seed. It was cultivated three times, hoed once, and yielded 60 bushels of corn. Another farmer planted common seed, though he did not have his land well prepared, gave about the same cultivation, and yielded 40 bushels per acre.

One farmer in an adjoining parish planted forty acres of spring Irish potatoes which netted him \$700. After digging his potatoes he planted the same land in corn which yielded 1,600 barrels, and an immense quantity of peas.

The cotton crop did not do much as there was no fight in the fall before to destroy the weevils and they appeared in immense numbers on the cotton as soon as it was any size. Our best crops were made by rapid cultivation and picking up of squares.

Some few farms averaged 800 pounds seed cotton per acre. No fertilizers were used, just ordinary land.

I think the farmers will do better after this, as they have learned from experience how to fight the weevil. They also see the good of the advice given by the Department of Agriculture and realize the importance of following its instructions.

This was the first time we had ever had the weevil to do us any

damage. They appeared in August, 1908. GARNER SMITH.  
Alice, La.

## Fine Turnips on Poor Soil.

Messrs Editors: Owing to so much rain all my ground was covered with a very rank growth of crabgrass and weeds. On three-fourths acre I spread 24 loads horse manure. This I turned under with a steel beam 2-horse plow. After first rain cross plowed, then cut up with disk harrow. Ran off rows 3 feet apart and drilled in 200 pounds 10-4-4 guano. Laid off and bedded out with same plow. Then almost leveled beds with spike-tooth harrow. Waited a few days for rain to settle soil and sprout the first crop of grass and weeds. When dry enough, ran on top of bed with light harrow, which killed grass and weeds and left top soil mellow. Then planted 1 pound Purple Top Globe turnip seed with seed planter. Seed came up well. As soon as plants were large enough to see row well, cultivated with single plow and sweep; began thinning when large enough for greens, and finished thinning in two weeks. After thinning gave two more plowings, and pulled out weeds in rows while thinning. Began selling greens on first day of September, and up to 8th of December have sold \$43.20 from 3/4-acre, and have fully \$20.00 more in the patch.

Before I began using the 2-horse plow we always had to scratch through grass and then rake it off before planting; now we only clean off top of row so we can use planter easily. KARL G. DALY.

Irondale, Ala.

## Praise From One Who Knows.

Bully for The Southern Farm Gazette. Merry Christmas to you. You're making the greatest paper, almost, in America. Success to you Go on.

By the way, we plowed 10 inches deep on buckshot soil, ridged up well, sowed alfalfa, got glorious results, Madison Parish, La. Needed no inoculation either. All our catch crops came up too late on buckshot to do any good I fear.

JOE WING.  
Mechanicsburg, Ohio, Dec. 14.



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