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Report 1921-22 With the Supplement to the Guide to the Experimental Plots Containing the Yields per Acre Etc.



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The Associated Farms : Woburn Farm and Leadon Court Farm

Rothamsted Research

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that there is no delay in action such as is occasioned in the case of fungicides by the slow penetration of the chemical agent.

APICULTURAL INVESTIGATIONS.

The circumstance that Dr. Imms was interested in bees led the Ministry of Agriculture to suggest that the Entomological Department should undertake the study of bees as honey producers, leaving bee diseases to be studied at Aberdeen as at present. Mr. D. M. T. Morland was appointed to be in charge of the work, and he will at an early date proceed to the United States to study the methods in use there. In the meantime, two minor problems of practical importance are being investigated: the suitability of metal combs in place of those naturally built, and the situation of the frames in relation to the hive front.

A field laboratory has been erected and is now in working order.

THE ASSOCIATED FARMS.

WOBURN.

In 1921 the Royal Agricultural Society gave up the Woburn Experimental Farm which they had carried on continuously since 1870, and its two best known fields—Stackyard and Lansome—were in October, 1921, taken over by the Rothamsted Experimental Station so as to ensure the continuance of the permanent wheat and barley experiments which are second only to those of Broadbalk and Hoos fields in point of age. The necessary funds are obtained from a special grant of the Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Voelcker continues to supervise the experiments as he has done since 1890; the continuity of the records is therefore assured. It should be recorded that he acts in an honorary capacity, freely giving much time and trouble to this work. His report will be found on p. 61.

LEADON COURT.

In December, 1922, E. D. Simon, Esq., then Lord Mayor of Manchester, offered us the use of his farm at Leadon Court, Ledbury, for experimental purposes, himself generously defraying the expenses incurred. It was decided to devote the whole farm to a test of the soiling system of keeping dairy cows, which has aroused much interest among farmers. Small scale trials at the Harper Adams Agricultural College had indicated the feasibility of all of the processes involved, but no conclusions as to the economic value of the system could be reached. Mr. J. C. Brown was appointed manager.

The farm is 240 acres in extent, there being at present 110 acres of arable and 140 of grass, of which 20 acres will be ploughed out, making altogether 130 acres of arable and 110 of grass. It is expected to maintain a herd of 100 cows in full milk, and in addition some 30 dry cows, and some 30 young heifers coming on; also a herd of pigs. It is also hoped to have a considerable amount of wheat for sale.

The scheme of cropping for 1923 is as follows :—

<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Green Food</i>	<i>Expected Yield tons per acre</i>
10	Rye	10
16	Marrow-stem kale	20
8	Mangolds	30
12	Seeds in wheat and pea	10
10	Clover aftermath	5
	<i>Dry Ration</i>	
12	Wheat and pea	3
10	Clover	3
18	Mixtures (beans, peas, wheat, and barley)	2½
26	Wheat	

The ration per cow will be, from mid-October to the end of May—60lb. green fodder and 15lb. dry fodder (8lb. mixtures and 7lb. hay). For the rest (June to mid-October) the cows will be at grass, aided by forage crops.

On the best pasture the cows are being grazed in rotation, the aim being to secure the advantages of the continental practice of tethering without its disadvantages. They receive also one feed per day of chaffed rye and peas.

LOANS OF LANTERN SLIDES TO LECTURERS.

Lecturers on agricultural science can obtain from the Rothamsted Experimental Station the loan of certain lantern slides free of charge, but on condition that all breakages are replaced.

CO-OPERATION WITH SCHOOLS AND OTHER AGENCIES

Three of the departments have found it advantageous to invite the co-operation of public and elementary schools for the collection of data, and it is satisfactory to record that the scheme has proved successful. In the first instance, a committee of the Science Masters' Association, under the chairmanship of O. H. Latter, Esq., M.A. (Charterhouse School), was formed, and a number of public schools co-operated. Relations have now been secured with practically every type of educational institution: public schools, secondary schools, training colleges, and rural schools. Certain observations on weeds carried out by training colleges and country school teachers are proving very useful to the Botanical Department; other observations of times of flowering, ripening, etc., are of assistance to the Statistical Department in estimating the effect of season on plant growth.

Recently, through the assistance of the Ministry of Education, it has been possible to reach the rural school teachers, and lectures on agricultural science have been given at vacation courses by the Director and members of the staff.

Certain problems in soil physics are best attacked by simple experimental studies of a number of soil types. During the unprecedented drought of 1921 several of the upper science forms of the public schools determined the moisture contents of specified field soils in their district, thus obtaining information required by the Physical Department for its investigations on the water relationships of soils.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND LECTURES TO FARMERS AND STUDENTS.

The appointment of Mr. H. V. Garner as Guide Demonstrator has made it possible for the Station widely to extend facilities for visiting the plots. Farmers and agricultural students are cordially invited to Rothamsted at any time convenient to themselves. May and June are good months for seeing the grass plots, July for the cereals, and September and October for the mangolds and potatoes. In the Winter, Mr. Garner is available for giving lectures on the Rothamsted results to Farmers' Clubs and similar organisations.

