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Report for 1923-1924 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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at the Experimental Apiary. During the period under review Mr. Morland has given six lectures and demonstrations before gatherings of beekeepers in various parts of the country.

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. 77.

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 the processes involved, but no conclusions as to the economic value of the system could be reached. Mr. J. C. Brown was appointed manager and retained the post till February, 1925, when he was succeeded by Mr. J. H. Hellier.

The farm is 240 acres in extent, there being at present 86 acres of arable and 144 of grass, of which 20 acres will be ploughed out, making altogether 106 acres of arable and 124 of grass: in addition there are 10 acres of wood and waste.

During 1923 and 1924 it maintained a herd of 100 dairy cows and, in addition, some of the young stock and a certain number of pigs. The stocking, however, has proved to be too heavy and some reduction is now being made.

The cropping scheme of the arable land has been as follows:—

	Oct., 1922–Sept., 1923.	Oct., 1923–Sept., 1924.	Oct., 1924–5.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Mangolds	8	8	8
Marrow stem kale	17	20	16
Mixtures (wheat and peas; rye, beans and peas; wheat, barley)	19	35	55
Turnips		9	
Clover, etc.		5	
Wheat	42	9	7
Total	86	86	86

Of the mixtures part is fed green, part is converted into hay, and part is allowed to ripen, yielding grain and fodder straw. The disadvantage of the cropping of 1924 was that it yielded insufficient straw for fodder and bedding.

The financial returns have been disappointing but it is believed that the initial difficulties are now overcome.

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, agricultural students and agricultural workers 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' and Farm Workers' Clubs and similar organisations.

