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## Report for 1935

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## Farm Report

### Rothamsted Research

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## WOBURN FARM

REPORT FOR 1935 by J. R. MOFFATT

The weather during the year 1934-35 was generally favourable to farm work. The winter was unusually mild, very few severe frosts occurring. Both autumn and spring sowing periods were dry and crops went in under good conditions. The grassland remained very green during the winter and though growth was slow early in spring the grassland was very productive throughout the summer. Hay was made under satisfactory conditions and yields were quite good.

Stackyard field permanent wheat and fallow plots were fallowed again this year. Barley after folded swedes in Series C went in well and looked well throughout the season. The seeds undersown in this barley and under the rotation barley for the 1936 crop were sown shortly after the corn was drilled. This early sowing was very successful as both areas had a very good plant after harvest. The 1935 clover crops in both Series D and the rotation were poor and patchy and yields were very low.

The wheat on the farm, although looking poor early in the summer, filled out well later and gave high yields. The yield of the plots on the time of application of nitrogen experiment in Butt Close was 25.3 cwt. per acre for the no nitrogen plots and 31.0 cwt. per acre for those plots receiving nitrogen. The yield of the wheat plots on the six course rotation in Stackyard field was also well above the average. Barley yields, however, were not so good as last year.

The root crops were very disappointing, all giving much smaller yields than usual. The germination of sugar beet was slow and growth seemed checked throughout the summer. The plant recovered to some extent by making late growth but yields were very much below the average. In Butt Close the average yield of the plots was 12 tons of washed beet per acre compared with the 1934 average of over 18 tons per acre. The sugar content averaged under 16 per cent. compared with the 1934 figure of over 17 per cent. The yield of carrots was also much below last year's figure. The kale crop was quite satisfactory.

The potato crop looked quite well and clean throughout the year although many plants showed symptoms of virus disease. The usual Dunbar Cavalier variety was replaced this year by Majestic as there was no ready market for the former variety. Yields of both experimental and commercial crops were lower than usual and many of the tubers were rather misshapen. The tubers came up rather wet and selling commenced immediately.

*Livestock*

The lambing was carried out successfully, the final percentage being almost 170. Five sets of triplets were born, three of which were run as such. As at Rothamsted the early born lambs were rather small. The lambs were sold fat off the grass during summer and winter and were all sold by the new year.

The Large White Gilt purchased in 1934 have done well and have provided us with sufficient gilts to maintain a herd of this breed. A few Large Black sows are being retained but the crossbred sows are being sold fat as they age. The bacon factory grading returns are given on page 93.

Thirty Irish cattle were purchased in the autumn, the best of which will be sold fat during the winter and the remainder fattened on grass during the summer.

*Show Successes*

We were successful in obtaining the first prize for fat lambs at the 1934 Bedford Christmas Show, and at the Ampthill Show in July we secured a first prize for a crossbred gilt, 2nd prize for a purebred gilt, 3rd prize for fat lambs, and reserve for an in-pig sow.