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Rothamsted Report for 1936

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Farm Report

Rothamsted Research

Rothamsted Research (1937) *Farm Report* ; Rothamsted Report For 1936, pp 160 - 160 - DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.23637/ERADOC-1-68>

WOBURN FARM

REPORT FOR 1936 BY J. R. MOFFATT

Stackyard field permanent wheat and barley plots were cropped in 1936 after a two years' fallow. All plots of both barley and wheat, except the acid plots, appeared to benefit from the fallow. The clover in Series C was very thin early in the year and later became weedy, with a resulting poor hay yield. In Series D the wheat looked well but at harvest time the crop was rather uneven. It ripened late and fallowing operations started soon after the removal of the crop.

In the six course rotation the wheat and barley yielded very well. The beet yielded fairly well, although growth was slow during the summer. Potatoes were badly attacked by late blight and, in spite of two dry sprayings, yields were low. Clover grew slowly after an excellent start in 1935 and the yield was disappointing. The clover undersown for the 1937 crop took well although a few bare patches were noticeable after harvest.

The new rotation experiment (described on p. 203) was started this year. The seeds undersown in the last crop of the old green manure experiment were nearly as tall as the wheat. The mustard and tares drilled on the other half of the experiment covered the ground well in spite of being short. The kale crop drilled immediately after the ploughing in of the green crops grew well and plot differences were soon noticeable.

Beet in Lansome field looked well in June, but made poor growth during the summer. The crop appeared stunted and the leaves formed in a close rosette around the crowns. The experimental plots presented a much healthier appearance, although the yields were below the average.

Potatoes in Butt Furlong looked strong and healthy in June but were later attacked by late blight which affected the yield. The crop was twice dry sprayed but the haulms withered early and the tubers were ready for lifting early in September.

Part of the kale area in Butt Close was sown with cabbage, Xmas, Primo, and Savoy being drilled at intervals. Both the kale and cabbage were attacked by flea beetle and the first sown cabbage had to be re-drilled. The field remained clean, but early growth was slow.

Livestock

Sheep and pigs did well throughout the year, the lambs being sold fat off the grass during the summer. The pigs delivered to the bacon factory graded very well, 65 per cent. of them being in the bonus grades. The cattle, purchased in the autumn of 1935, were sold fat off the grass throughout the summer.

Show Successes

At the Bedfordshire Show in July a first prize was obtained for fat lambs, first and third prizes for gilts, and a bacon pig shared the premier award.