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# Yields of the Field Experiments 1954



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## 54/W/BE/1 Ley and Arable Rotations

#### **Rothamsted Research**

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#### LEY AND ARABLE ROTATIONS

Woburn Stackyard - 1954 the 17th year.

For details of rotations and treatments etc., see "Results of the Field Experiments 1939-47", Vol.I, Section Bf/1 with the following exceptions:-

In 1949 and subsequently Rye replaced Wheat.

In 1954 the Seeds Hay plots were split into two after the first crop, for testing 0.15 v. 0.30 cwt N per acre applied as nitrochalk.

#### Cultivations, etc.:

#### Treatment crops

Ley rotations

Ley 1st year. Ploughed twice: Sept 16 and Dec 30, 1953.

Basal fertilizers applied: Apr 5, 1954. Seeds mixture hand sown: Apr 7. Nitrochalk applied: July 16. Grazed 7 times: June 17-21, July 7-15, July 24-Aug 1, Aug 11-21, Sept 8-17, Sept 25-Oct 1, Oct 19-27. Seeds mixture per acre: 21 lb S23 Perennial Ryegrass, 12 lb S143 Cocksfoot, 6 lb Late flowering Montgomery Red Clover, 3 lb S100 White Clover.

Ley 2nd year. Nitrochalk applied: May 25 and July 26.
Grazed 9 times: May 17-25, June 8-17, June 21-29, July 15-24,
Aug 1-11, Aug 21-30 Sept 17-25, Oct 3-11, Oct 27-Nov 4.

Ley 3rd year. Nitrochalk applied: May 25 and July 21. Grazed 5 times: May 13-17, May 31-June 8, June 29-July 7, Aug 30-Sept 8, Oct 11-19.

Lucerne 1st year. Ploughed twice: Sept 16 and Dec 30, 1953.

Basal fertilizers applied: Apr 2, 1954. Seeds sown at 28 lb per acre: Apr 7. Dusted with 2% DDT: Apr 8. Cut twice: Aug 11 and Nov 3. Variety: Du Puits.

Lucerne 2nd year. Cut three times: June 24, Aug 11, Nov 3. Lucerne 3rd year. Cut three times: June 24, Aug 11, Nov 3.

#### Arable rotations

Potatocs 1st course. Ploughed: Sept 16 and again Dec 30, 1953. Ridged, basal fertilizers applied: Apr 2, 1954. Potatoes planted with dropper: Apr 6. Earthed up: June 25. Sprayed with copper fungicide, 5 lb per acre: July 30, Aug 16 and Aug 27. Sprayed with sulphuric acid: Sept 23. Lifted: Oct 4. Variety: Majestic.

Rye 2nd course. Ploughed: Oct 1, 1953. Seed drilled at 3 bushels per acre: Oct 22. Nitrochalk applied: Apr 29, 1954. Seeds hay mixture undersown on 4 plots: May 7. Harvested: Aug 23.

Seeds Hay 3rd course. Seeds undersown in Rye: Apr 9, 1953.

Basal nitrochalk applied: Apr 6, 1954. 1st cut: June 24.

Nitrochalk applied: June 30. 2nd cut: Nov 3. Seeds

mixture per acre: 27 lb S24 Perennial Ryegrass, 12 lb

Montgomery Red Clover, 3 lb Canadian Alsike Clover.

Sugar beet 3rd course. Ploughed: Aug 21 and again Nov 5, 1953.

Basal nitrate of soda applied: Mar 29, 1954. Seed drilled at 18 lb per acre: Mar 30. Dusted with DDT: May 12.

Singled: May 28. Sprayed with systemic insecticide ½ pint per acre, high volume: June 21. Lifted: Nov 2. Variety: Klein E.

#### Test Crops.

Potatoes 1st test crop. Ploughed: Nov 4, 1953. Ridged, dung applied: Apr 7, 1954. Basal fertilizers applied, potatoes hand planted: Apr 8. Earthed up: June 25. Sprayed with copper fungicide, 5 lb per acre: July 30, Aug 16 and Aug 27. Sprayed with 20% sulphuric acid: Sept 23. Lifted: Oct 4. Variety: Majestic.

Barley 2nd test crop. Ploughed: Oct 2 and again Dec 30, 1953. Ground chalk applied: Mar 8, 1954. Nitrochalk applied: Mar 11. Seed drilled at 3 bushels per acre: Mar 17. Harvested: Aug 28. Variety: Plumage Archer.

Standard errors per plot, Test crops:

Potatoes, Total tubers, whole plot: 0.797 tons per acre or 7.3%

(4 d.f.)

sub plot: 0.881 tons per acre or 8.1%

(4 d.f.)

Barley, Grain, whole plot: 2.50 cwt per acre or 7.8%

(4 d.f.)

sub plot: 2.12 cwt per acre or 6.7%

(4 d.f.)

#### Summary of Results

Treatment crops

Ley, Sheep days of grazing per acre

1st year | 2nd year | 3rd year |

1817 2616 1018

Treatment crops

Lucerne, yield of hay (at 85% D.M.): cwt per acre

	1st crop	2nd crop	3rd crop	Total
1st year				
No dung Dung in 1952 Increase	18.7 26.1 7.4	11.4 14.1 2.7		30.1 40.2 10.1
Previous Rotation Lucerne Arable with Hay	20.9 23.9	12.3 13.2		33·2 37·1
Mean	22.4	12.8		35.2
2nd year				
No dung Dung in 1951 Increase	38.0 44.3 6.3	24.0 25.8 1.8	9.0 11.8 2.8	71.0
Previous Rotation Lucerne Arable with Sugar	38.8	24.3	9.6	72.7
beet	43.5	25.5	11.2	80.2
Mean	41.2	24.9	10.4	76.5
3rd year				
No dung Dung in 1950 Increase	32.5 39.2 6.7	18.9 24.9 6.0	6.4 11.0 4.6	57.8 75.1 17.3
Previous Rotation Lucerne Arable with Hay	35•4 36•3	23.7 20.1	9•4 8•0	68.5 64.4
Mean	35.8	21.9	8.7	66.4
	Potatoes Total		Rye	
	tubers: tons per acre	Percentage ware	Grain:	Straw:
No dung Dung Increase	8.52 11.71 3.19	85•3 88•3 3•0	32.0 35.3 3.3	33.5 37.9 4.4
Previous Rotation Ley Lucerne Arable with Hay	11.84 10.00 9.48	91.3 87.9 83.5	33.7 <b>3</b> 6.7 34.5	34.8 38.1 35.6
Arable with Sugar beet	9.13	84.4	29.8	34.3
Mean	10.12	86.8	33.7	35.7
Dung applied: Potatoe	s:- 1952 I	kye:- 1951.		

#### Treatment crops

	Hay Yield (at 85% D.M.): cwt per acre					
	1st crop	2nd crop	Total	2nd crop Response to N		
No dung Dung in 1950 Increase	39•4 40•5 1•1	2.7 4.9 2.2	42.1   45.4   3.3	0.5 2.0 1.5		
Previous Rotation Lucerne Arable with Hay	39.8 40.1	4•4 3•2	44.2	1.0		
Mean	40.0	3.8 Suga	43.8 1.2 gar Beet			
	Roots (washed): tons per acre	Sugar percent- age	Total sugar: cwt per acre	Tops: tons per acre		
No dung Dung in 1950 Increase	9.06 10.18 1.12	17.0 17.0 0.0	30.9 34.7 3.8	8.06 8.44 0.38		
Previous Rotation Ley Arable with Sugar beet	10.46	17.0 17.1	35.6 30.0	9.06		
Mean	9.62	17.0	32.8	8.25		

### Test Crops

		Previous Rotation							
		Ley	Lucerne	Arable with hay	Arable with sugar beet	Mean			
Potatoss, Total tubers: tons per acre									
No dung Dung in 1954	(±0.715)**	11.90 14.14		8.34 13.02	5.78 10.44	8.73 13.12			
Mean Increase	(±0.564) (±0.881)	13.02 2.24		10.68 4.68	8 <b>.</b> 11 4 <b>.</b> 66	10.92 4.39 (±0.440)			
Potatoes, Percentage ware									
No dung Dung in 1954		94•5 95•4	95•2 95•7	91.2 95.8	88.0 94.4	92 <b>.</b> 2 95 <b>.</b> 3			
Mean Increase		95.0	95•5 0•5	93.5 4.6	91.2 6.4	93.8 3.1			
-									
	Ва	rley, Gr	rain: cwt I	er acre					
No dung Dung in 1953	(±2.06)*	33.9 35.6	32.0 32.2	30.1 33.6	25.5 31.8	30 • 4 33 • 3			
Mean Increase	(±1.77) (±2.12)	34•7 1•7	32 <b>.</b> 1 0 <b>.</b> 2	31.9 3.5	28.6	31.8 2.9 (±1.06)			
Barley, Straw: owt per acre									
No dung . Dung in 1953	*	42.1 48.9	35•2 44•4	30.5 41.9	27.4 39.7	33.8 43.7			
Mean Increase		45.5 6.8	39.8 9.2	36.2 11.4	33.5 12.3	38.8 9.9			

<sup>\*</sup>for use in comparisons other than vertical.