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Results of the Classical and Other Long-term Experiments 2006

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06/W/RN/12 - Organic Manuring

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06/W/RN/12

ORGANIC MANURING

Object: To study, from crop yields and soil analyses, the effects of a range of types of organic matter - Woburn, Stackyard B.

Sponsors: P.R. Poulton and A.J.Macdonald.

The 42nd year, w. wheat.

For previous years see 'Details' 1973 and 74-05/W/RN/12.

Design: 4 blocks of 8 plots.

Whole plot dimensions: 8.0 x 29.5 (8.0 x 26.5 on Block III).

Treatments: From 1966 to 1971 the experiment had a preliminary period designed to build up organic matter from different sources. An arable rotation was started on two blocks in 1972 and the remaining two blocks in 1973. After a period of testing the residues, a further period of accumulation was started; on two blocks (which included ley sown in 1979) in 1981 and on the other two (which included ley sown in 1980) in 1982. A second test phase began when leys on the first pair of blocks were ploughed for the 1st test crop in 1987 and on the second pair for the 1st test crop in 1988. From 1988 two blocks, and 1989 the other two, to 1994, plots were split into 6 sub-plots to test five levels of nitrogen and nil. From 1995 to 1997 residual effects of that nitrogen were measured. In 1998 to 2000 yields were taken from whole plots only. In 2001 plots were split into half-plots to test two rates of N. For 2003 the experiment was modified to test further inputs of organic matter. An arable rotation (w. rye, s. barley, w. beans, w. wheat, forage maize) was started on seven plots within each block; the eighth was sown to a grass/clover ley.

Whole plots

1. **Treatmnt** (Not necessarily applied each year):

1966-1971/2	1979/82-1986/7	Since 2003
Fd	Fd	F
Ln	Lc6	F
St	St	St
Gm	Lc8	CC
Pt	Lc8	Co
Fs	Fs	Dg10
Dg	Dg	Dg25
Lc	Lc6	Lc

F: no organic amendment. St: chopped straw at 7.5t/ha. CC: cover crop prior to spring sown crops. Co: compost at 40t/ha. Dg10: FYM at 10t/ha. Dg25: FYM at 25t/ha. Dg: FYM at 50t/ha. Fd: fertilizers equivalent to FYM. Fs: fertilizers equivalent to straw (+P). Lc/Lc6/Lc8: grass/clover leys. Ln: grass ley + N. Gm: green manure. Pt: peat.

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1. **Treatmnt** (Not necessarily applied each year):(cont.)

Since 2003, all treatments, except Dg25, have also received PKS fertilizers : 20 kg P/ha, 83 kg K/ha, 36 kg S/ha.

In addition in 2003 F and CC treatments received 120 kg N/ha, St received 90 kg N/ha. Dg10 received 60 kg N/ha. No N was applied to Dg25, Co or Lc treatments.

Nitrogen

In 2006 all plots, except Lc (permanent grass/clover), split into 6 to test rates of N. For crops receiving nitrogen rates rotate as follows:

N0 > N1 > N2 > N3 > N4 > N5 > N0 etc.

For 2006 wheat crop nitrogen rates (kg N/ha) were:

0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250 as nitro-chalk (27% N), split 50 kg N late February/early March and the remainder in mid-April.

Experimental diary:

21-Sep-05 : B : : Azural at 3.0 l in 200 l.
11-Oct-05 : T : : Chopped wheat straw applied at 7.5 t to St plots.
: T : : Compost applied at 40 t to CO plots.
: T : : FYM applied at 25 t to Dg25 plots and at 10 t to Dg10 plots.
: B : : Ploughed 35cm wide furrows and rolled wheat plots.
14-Oct-05 : B : : Power harrowed.
15-Oct-05 : B : : Power harrowed, combination drilled Hereward, tr. Sibutol Secur at 350 seeds/m², wheat plots.
13-Nov-05 : B : : tm)Alpha IPU 500 at 2.0 l in 200 l
B : : tm)Stomp 400 SC at 2.5 l in 200 l
B : : tm)Hallmark with Zeon Technology at 50 ml in 200 l
B : : tm)Mantrac 500 at 1.0 l in 200 l, to wheat plots.
01-Mar-06 T : : Sulphate of Potash at 200 kg (not to Dg25).
T : : Triple Superphosphate at 97.5 kg (not to Dg25).
13-Mar-06 : : 1st N applied as 27% N to wheat plots.
20-Apr-06 : : Main dressing applied as 27% N to wheat plots.
24-Apr-06 : B : : tm)Bravo 500 at 1.25 l in 200 l
: B : : tm)Opus at 0.75 l in 200 l
B : : tm)Mantrac 500 at 1.25 l in 200 l to wheat plots.
16-May-06 : : tm)Quantum SX at 30 g in 200 l
: : tm)Copper Man at 2.0 kg in 200 l to wheat plots.
07-Jun-06 : B : : tm)Bravo 500 at 1.0 l in 200 l
: B : : tm)Opus at 0.75 l in 200 l
B : : tm)Vivid at 0.4 l in 200 l to wheat plots.
28-Jun-06 : : 1st cut yield strips Lc plots only, weighed and sampled. Mowed discards.
29-Jun-06 : : Baled.
25-Aug-06 : T : : Combine harvested, wheat plots for yield, swathed straw. Combine harvested discards, swathed straw.

NOTE: Samples of grain were taken for chemical analysis.

Due to poor re-growth the scheduled second grass cut was abandoned.

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GRAIN TONNES/HECTARE

***** Tables of means *****

Nitrogen Treatment	0	50	100	150	200	250	Mean
F(Fd)	2.34	4.21	5.41	5.48	5.59	5.68	4.79
F(Ln, Lc6)	3.40	5.13	6.35	7.20	6.84	6.36	5.88
St(St)	2.80	4.99	6.56	6.68	6.84	6.56	5.74
CC(Gm, Lc8)	3.04	5.17	6.28	6.41	6.61	5.87	5.56
Co(Pt, Lc8)	4.51	5.95	6.43	6.37	6.62	5.70	5.93
Dg10(Fs)	2.77	5.20	5.93	6.38	6.53	5.91	5.45
Dg25(Dg)	4.71	5.81	7.05	7.20	6.46	6.10	6.22
Mean	3.37	5.21	6.29	6.53	6.50	6.03	5.65

*** Standard errors of differences of means ***

Table	Treatment	Nitrogen	Treatment Nitrogen
s.e.d.	0.343	0.136	0.475
Except when comparing means with the same level(s) of Treatment			0.359

***** Stratum standard errors and coefficients of variation *****

Stratum	d.f.	s.e.	cv%
Blocks.Plots	18	0.485	8.6
Blocks.Plots.Subplots	105	0.508	9.0

GRAIN MEAN DM% 85.2

PLOT AREA HARVESTED 0.00183