

# In the Field of Agriculture

## WHAT A BOY CAN DO

Roy Ashley of Mize, Mississippi, gives the following description of his experience in raising corn:

"I am a farmer boy and have lived on a farm all my life. I have always lived in the same community. I am only 15 years of age. In 1910 the superintendent of education of this county organized a Boy's Corn club. I joined it, and turned under the turf in the fall and sowed rye on the land.

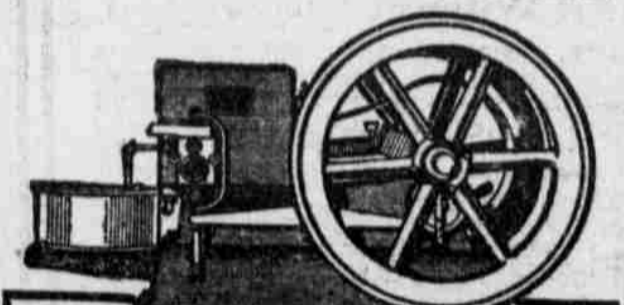
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In the spring I put out lot manure on the land and broke it about 8 inches deep. The people around here laughed at me, and said I would not make five bushels, but when my corn began to grow they changed their minds. I surprised them all the more when I gathered 78 bushels on my acre, while the average yield in this county was only 12 or 18 bushels per acre, this being about all papa made, but since the corn club started in this county, papa has tried diversification of crops and followed the demonstration instructions until now his average yield is from 60 to 70 bushels per acre. Every year since I first joined the corn club I have continued to have an acre plot for myself to put in corn. I can beat papa making corn.

"In the fall of 1913 I joined the corn club again. I began the preparation of my soil. I turned under the cow pea stubble and broke my land 10 or 13 inches deep. I sowed oats and rye on the land and harrowed it with a section harrow. The oats and rye came up and I used it for a pasture for my Jersey calf and two pigs, and it kept them in good fix all through the winter and gave them a better start in the spring. In the spring I turned the sod under, harrowed it with the section harrow, and then bedded the and. I sowed lot manure in the drills and filled the furrow with oak leaf compound; then I rebbeded the land, mixing the humus with the soil. I then let the soil stand untouched until in May I rebbeded the land, put 300 pounds of commercial fertilizer in the drill. I followed this with a spring-tooth harrow and this with the planter. My corn came up well, but the spike worms destroyed much of it. When my corn was about two weeks old I harrowed it crosswise with a section harrow. I let it stand for about two weeks, then I harrowed the middles down with a spring-tooth harrow, and this put enough dirt to the corn, for it must be remembered that I planted in the water furrow. Then I thinned my corn to an average of about 12 to 16 inches in the drill. Then I let the corn stand about a week when I harrowed it again with the spring-tooth harrow, and from then on until the 1st of June I harrowed it with a spring-tooth harrow. The land began to get dry, as it had not rained for weeks. I went two furrows to the row with a heel sweep, and every time I went around my corn it looked like a shower had fallen. Then on July 2nd or 3rd I laid my corn by with a heel sweep, and put out 300 pounds more of commercial fertilizer around my corn, and on the following day it rained and my corn looked fine, but, by the way, I had forgotten to say we had a drouth lasting ten weeks, beginning in May and lasting until July, and you see a rain was needed. While the drouth was going on all corn around me was burning up while mine was perfectly green and doing well. In October, when time came to gather corn, I got three disinterested men to gather my corn. I went ahead and picked out the best grade for first grade seed, and I made three grades and had it gathered separately so I could have good seed. I made 106.35 bushels on my acre while the average yield around me was only 15 bushels per acre. I then had 35 bushels of first grade seed corn, 42 bushels of second grade, and 17 bushels of third grade and 12 bushels of nubbins.

I have sold all my corn, the first

grade at \$2.00 per bushel, second grade at \$1.75, while I sold the third grade at \$1.00 per bushel, making \$161.50 plus the nubbins. I could sell a hundred more bushels if I had it.

I am going to buy me a full bred Hereford bull with my corn money, and papa is going to give me a heifer.

I have cut my corn stalks, turned them under, and now I have a good crop of crimson clover growing on my acre, and the people around here are all following the method I used to raise my corn, and I think the average yield will increase fifty per cent in two years. Most of the people are going to try rotation crops and not plant much cotton, and are going to help make Mississippi a self-sustaining state. I expect to do better next year, as I shall have my soil better prepared. I shall be with you until the last.

In the meantime, I beg to remain,  
A Corn Club boy,  
ROY ASHLEY.

## GRADING SEED CORN

Seed corn may be graded better before the ears are shelled than afterward. The United States department of agriculture specialists in corn investigations consider it difficult to grade shelled corn satisfactorily.

If the seed ears vary greatly as to size of kernel they should be separated into two or three grades according to size of kernel. These grades should be shelled separately, tested in the corn planter and numbered to correspond with the number on the planter plates that are found to drop them most uniformly. These arrangements can be completed before the rush of spring work begins.

The first operation in properly shelling seed corn is the removal of the small kernels from the tips of the ears and the round, thick kernels from the butts. The former are less productive than the other kernels of the ear. The round butt kernels are as productive as the other kernels of the ear, but do not plant uniformly in a planter.

Shelling seed corn carefully by hand is profitable. The greater the acreage planted the greater the profit. Into a shallow pan or box each ear should be shelled separately, rejecting any worm eaten or blemished kernels. If the supply from the one ear appears good and contains no poor kernels it is poured into the general supply and another ear shelled in the same way.

## DAIRY COW RATIONS

A medium sized cow weighing about 1,000 pounds needs a ration like the following to keep without gaining in weight or producing any milk: Twelve pounds of timothy hay and three pounds of wheat bran; or eight pounds of corn stover, six pounds of clover hay and three pounds of corn and cob meal; or twenty-three pounds of silage, five pounds of timothy hay and three pounds of wheat bran; or five pounds of timothy hay, five pounds of clover hay and four pounds of corn and cob meal. These are mere sample rations showing what the cow needs for her own keep, writes a correspondent in the National Stockman. Further, she needs all kinds of building material to repair the breaking tissues of her entire body, and if she is to make milk she must have all the elements

constituting milk, which contains all the food elements needed by man or beast.

Give your cows all the good hay they will eat and if possible some stover and straw for the sake of variety. If you have time and the patience, cut some of it fine and moisten it with hot water and feeding molasses to make it more palatable. Let them have all the water they will drink at least twice a day. Now get some good corn and oats and grind it into a fine chop. A good proportion is four parts of corn and two parts, by weight, always, of oats. To this add two parts of cottonseed meal and two parts of linseed meal and mix. Now give each cow a generous barn shovel full of the cut feed moistened with the hot water and molasses, and on top of this give her the grain mix.

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