

Bulletin 261

The Crop System in Iowa County

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Summary

The data on which this discussion rests were obtained by careful records kept on 28 farms in Iowa County from 1925 to 1930.

On these farms it was found that corn was the crop yielding the largest amount of feed and the largest value per acre. Wheat followed second, and oats were decidedly under either corn or wheat in value.

About one-third of the farm land was in pasture; about one-third, or less, in corn, and about one-eighth in oats.

The acreage in timothy for seed yielded a product of the least value per acre of any crop.

It would be desirable to replace a part of the oats acreage with wheat in order to get a crop which would bring in a larger cash income.

Where possible, the elimination of most, or all, of the timothy seed acreage should be considered, and more profitable crops should be used instead.

On the level or moderately rolling upland, which comprises about three-fourths of the land in the farms studied, a four-year rotation with more corn and wheat than are now raised and less of oats and timothy for seed might be expected to increase the cash income and also the amount of available feed.

If some land can be limed and planted in alfalfa, more hay of greater feeding value than that which is now raised may be secured. A small acreage of alfalfa for hog pasture would also be valuable. The remainder of the crop land could then be put into a four-year rotation to increase the production of corn and wheat.

Data are presented showing the usual requirements of the principal crops for labor and horse work as well as for the principal materials used, such as twine and seed.

It is shown that the use of the two-row cultivator and other large-capacity machinery accomplishes a noteworthy saving of labor, and that a larger saving in time and expense is made when the corn is picked or hogged-down than when shredded or ensiled.

The use of sweet clover as a pasture and soil building crop, with an occasional cutting for hay, was successful on the three fields where it was planted on limed ground.