

## OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

## RESEARCH WORTH MANY MILLIONS

## Agricultural Experiments Help Make Money for Farmers and Food for the Cities.

The people of the State of New York who maintain their college of agriculture and experiment stations have a right to know what the college and stations are doing in return for the money expended.

Those who have been educated at the New York State college of agriculture at Cornell University, or who have received the benefit of the college's extension service do not question these returns because they say they know the results which have been achieved. But the work of scientists, studying quietly and persistently in laboratories and on experiment farms, does not often come to the attention of the people except as it is carried into the teaching of the classroom or into the message which the extension workers take to the farms and homes.

## Figures Show Value

Coming down to cases, actual figures show that the experiment station researches have done enough to pay for these stations many times over.

New York State raises, for example, about 30,000,000 bushels of oats on 1,000,000 acres of land. On the Cornell experiment station fields for five years and also on many farms elsewhere in the state where careful comparisons have been made, the best-yielding new Cornell strain of oats has out-yielded one of the poorer varieties still grown from 40 to 50 percent. In the same tests it has beaten even so good a variety

as Silvermine by from 20 to 25 percent. Cornell's best yielding strain beats the general run of oats by about 30 percent, or nine bushels to the acre.

Last year New York farmers produced about 100,000 bushels of the Cornell strains. Approximately half of this was inspected in the field and again in the bin, by inspectors from the college of agriculture. The greater part of the inspected was sold for planting this spring. If 50,000 bushels of oats from these new strains are actually sown this spring on approximately 20,000 acres, the 1923 crop should not be less than 2,000,000 bushels. Of course all of this will not be good clean seed, but if it were, it would be almost enough to seed the entire acreage of the state. It is pointed out that the increased use of the Cornell strains may well bring about an increase in the value of the oat crop of the state alone of approximately \$4,500,000 a year.

## Farmers Can Get Seed

With the great organization of seed growers associations among the farmers, for the purpose of growing and marketing certified seed after it has been inspected by the college at Ithaca, there is no reason why farmers should long be without the best strains of farm seed. Sources for oats are now available in eleven of the principal oat-growing counties.

While figures are not available, the two strains of Cornell experiment station corn, Cornell and Webbers dent, have proved superior to others; and sources of seed have been established for both of these strains. Strains of timothy bred at the college out-yield ordinary timothy by

more than twenty-five per cent. With an average timothy production in the state of about 1,000,000 tons a year, this would mean an additional yield, if the strains developed by the College were used, of 250,000 tons; and at only \$10 a ton this means an increased revenue of \$2,500,000 for New York farmers on timothy hay.

These are definite figures, and on field crops alone.

## From Actual Practice

Those in charge of plant breeding at Cornell say that the most gratifying feature of the wide interest in Cornell's improved varieties is that this interest has come from actual demonstration plantings where farmers could satisfy themselves and make their own judgments as to results, or else it has come from the crops grown by real farmers on their own land.

When it is realized that the agricultural experiment stations of the state are investigating methods of waging continual, vigorous, and successful warfare against crop destroyers in the form of insects and disease, and that even the results of its investigations in pruning fruit trees, have increased some yields as much as fifty per cent, it can be seen that the monetary returns to the people of the state are far more than proportionate to the amounts which taxpayers have invested for the support of agricultural research. Similar illustrations, according to the experiment stations, could be given on actual results in many other lines of work such as dairying, floriculture, animal husbandry, soils and poultry.

Aunt Ada's Axioms: The only things that worry ever helped are those sagging lines on the face.

To treat fish the best way, clean and wipe, sprinkle with salt, and wrap in a clean, dry cloth.

## POTATO SPRAYING PROFITABLE

## Ten-Year Tests Show Large Balance in Favor of Practice

Spraying potatoes for blight has been shown to be a highly profitable practice in experiments conducted over a ten-year period by the potato specialist at the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. Some of these tests were made on the Station grounds at Geneva, some on Station experimental plots on Long Island, and some were conducted in cooperation with farmers in different parts of the State. Taking the ten-year period as a whole, all of the tests show that spraying potatoes is highly profitable in New York. Tests on the Station grounds showed an average increase in yield for the ten years of 97.5 bushels per acre; while 205 volunteer experiments, covering seven years, gave an average of 54.3 bushels per acre. Records of the financial returns from spraying for the different years show that the practice was profitable in this respect also.

## How and When to Spray

The spray mixture recommended for blight, known as bordeaux mixture, is made up from copper sulfate or blue vitriol, fresh stone lime, and water in the proportion of six pounds each of copper sulfate and lime to each fifty gallons of spray mixture. The first application should be made when the plants are six to eight inches high, it is said, and subsequent applications at intervals of ten to fourteen days throughout the growing season, making from five to seven applications in all. More detailed information on potato spraying may be had upon application to the Station at Geneva.

Growing legumes and profitable dairying usually go hand in hand.

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