

RECORD YIELDS OF COTTON PER ACRE

THREE BALES PER ACRE GROWN ON FIVE-ACRE TRACT—HOW YIELDS WERE OBTAINED

By C. A. McLendon, Soil Improvement Committee.

The Farm Journal, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, conducted a cotton production contest for the season of 1919, and prizes were recently awarded to the three farmers producing the highest yields per acre on five-acre test patches.

The first prize of a gold medal and one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) was awarded to J. O. M. Smith, Commerce, Georgia; the second prize of a silver medal and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) went to S. J. White, Sumter, South Carolina; and the third prize of a bronze medal and two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) was given to William Peterson, Clinton, North Carolina.

All of these farmers practiced the same general method of production, such as selection of the best land available, thorough preparation, the use of the best seed obtainable, good cultivation, and proper harvesting.

The winner of the first prize applied per acre 2,200 pounds of a complete fertilizer (10-2-2), analyzing 10 per cent of phosphoric acid, 2 per cent ammonia, and 2 per cent of potash. He also used 1,200 pounds of acid phosphate and 11 tons of stable manure per acre, applying all of the fertilizer just before planting time.

He planted the Piedmont Pedigreed Cleveland seed, and his yield of lint cotton per acre on the test patch was 1,360 pounds, or approximately three bales. Cotton at 40 cents per pound and seed at \$80.00 per ton, the average yield of 165 pounds of lint per acre in Georgia last season amounted to \$78.80 for the lint and seed; whereas, the yield of 1,360 pounds of lint per acre on this patch sold for \$625.60 for the lint and seed, making a difference in returns per acre of \$546.80.

The winner of the second prize used per acre 1,000 pounds of a complete fertilizer (8-3-3), analyzing 8 per cent of phosphoric acid, 3 per cent of ammonia, and 3 per cent of potash, all being applied at planting time. He also applied 200 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre about the 25th of June.

He planted the Cleveland Big Boll seed, and his yield of lint cotton per acre on the test patch was 1,197 pounds, or approximately two and two-fifths bales of 500 pounds each. Cotton at 40 cents per pound and seed at \$80.00 per ton, the average yield of 220 pounds of lint per acre in South Carolina last year amounted to \$105.12 for the lint and seed; whereas, the yield of 1,197 pounds of lint per acre on this patch sold for \$556.92 for the lint and seed, making a difference in returns per acre of \$451.80.

The winner of the third prize applied 1,000 pounds per acre of a mixture of fish scrap, acid phosphate and cotton seed meal, broadcasting all of this with stable manure just before planting time. He also made a side application of nitrate of soda in the middle of the growing season.

He planted the Peterson's Improved seed, and his yield of lint cotton per acre on the test patch was 1,040 pounds, or slightly over two 500-pound bales. Cotton at 40 cents per pound and seed at \$80.00 per ton, the average yield of 280 pounds of lint per acre in North Carolina last year amounted to \$133.72 for the lint and seed, whereas the yield of 1,040 pounds of lint per acre on this patch sold for \$493.84 for the lint and seed, making a difference in returns per acre of \$360.12.

Taking into consideration the cost of picking and handling the extra amount of cotton produced and the extra amount of fertilizer applied on these test patches, there is still a balance of returns in favor of these higher yields of from \$300.00 to \$400.00 per acre, which is well worthy of the deepest consideration on the part of the cotton farmers who expect to produce cotton with profit under the present conditions.

In the profitable production of cotton in the future larger yields per acre will be the keynote of success. This can be accomplished by practicing more intensive methods, including the intelligent use of commercial fertilizers. To obtain the best results in producing cotton a liberal application of a complete fertilizer should be made at planting time, and where the boll weevil is not present side applications are usually made with profit.

A pamphlet containing results obtained in 1919 by these and other prominent cotton farmers is now in course of preparation, and will be ready for distribution within the near future by the Soil Improvement Committee. More details will be given in this pamphlet and definite recommendations as to the use of fertilizers for cotton will be made.

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