

CROP & SOIL IMPROVEMENT



The soil improvement program might be divided into the following phases.

1. Soil testing continued to be a major project in the county agent's office with a full-time soil tester employed through the cooperation of W.P.A.

Farmers were urged through news letters and through soil and fertilizer meetings to bring samples of soil into the office for analysis.

Under this project 1138 samples of soil were tested the past year. After these soil samples were analyzed, a complete report was sent to the farmer.



2. Winnebago County continued to furnish lime to the farmers under a W.P.A. project, cooperating with a private operator. Under this plan 3225 tons of high quality lime were ground and spread on 259* farms in the county. This year's lime project not only included the grinding of lime but also included the delivery of lime to the farms and the spreading of lime on to the fields.

* This figure is an estimate.



COMMERCIAL
FERTILIZER

3. 9 soil and fertilizer meetings were held with C. J. Chapman, State Soil Specialist.

4. Grain Fertilizer Test Plots -- For the purpose of checking the value of fertilizers when applied with small grains, 18 trial fertilizer plots were carried on in the county on 18 cooperating farms. The following fertilizers were used on these farms: 0-20-0, 0-20-10, and 0-20-20. Each farmer had one plot using each of the above fertilizers and each plot had a check plot along side of it where no fertilizer was used. Each plot was then harvested separately and the fertilized plots compared with check plots. On each of the 18 farms, the fertilized plots showed a decided increase over the unfertilized -- increases of as much as 30.7 bushels to the acre were found. An example of the results is given as found on the Winnebago County Asylum Farm --

Name	Soil	Grain	Treatment	Yield Grain	Yield Straw	Bu. Inc.	Lbs. Inc.	Value of Inc.
County	Superior	Barley	0-20-0	75.7	5020	22.1	1502	13.30
Farm	Clay		0-20-10	72.8	4272	19.2	754	10.73
	Loam		0-20-20	78.0	4250	24.4	732	13.30
			Av.2 checks	53.6	3518			

5. Two fertilizer plots on peas were carried out in cooperation with the Winneconne Canning Company. Three different fertilizers were used on the peas which were used in each plot with an acre check. Peas on these plots were cut separately, vined separately and cleaned and canned separately so that a complete check could be gotten on the fertilizers.
6. The results of all fertilizer trials carried on in the county the past year will be given out to farmers at a series of soil meetings to be held this coming winter. The results of the plots will be accompanied by colored pictures of the plots in the various stages.
7. BARLEY SCHOOL -- A one-day barley school was held in the county. The school consisted of exhibits, demonstrations, discussion on barley raising, production and marketing and a complete analysis of samples of barley brought in for trueness to type. Some 75 samples of barley were brought to the school and analyzed by specialists in the barley field. Seed treating and cleaning demonstrations were given.
8. ROD ROW PLOTS OF BARLEY -- Feeling that a good cross section of barley being produced in Winnebago County might be secured, the samples of barley brought into the barley school were planted in rod rows on plots arranged for on the Winnebago County farm. These rod rows of barley were raised and at the time of maturity, specialists came in and made an analysis of the purity of the grain. The farmers who brought in samples of barley to be analyzed were invited in to observe the analysis of their barley growing in the plots as a result of this type of work. Barley producers received valuable information on whether or not their barley was suitable for growing purposes. Farmers having barley meeting the high standards set up by the barley specialists were asked to have their barley certified and be used as a source of seed stock for the coming year. As a result, 17 farmers certified their grain which will be used as a source of good seed stock this next year.

In connection with the rod row barley plots on the county farm, various types were run in cooperation with the College of Agriculture on new varieties of oats, rye wheat and flax. As a result of these plots, local farmers had the opportunity to observe the new Viclund Oats for the first time. These variety plots were checked for diseases and production.

9. POTATOES -- To counteract the result of disease in potatoes in Winnebago County, two truckloads of certified seed potatoes were brought in and distributed to the farmers. These potatoes were brought in from areas known to be free of potato diseases, especially the wilt and yellows diseases.