HOW THE SOIL SURVEY IS PROVING MOST VALUABLE TO NORTH CAROLINA

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At present serious problems are confronting farmers of North Carolina. But perhaps none other is of as great economic importance as is that of the building of the fertility of their soils by economic means. In order to carry on soil investigations systematically and logically in any state, it is necessary to have the different types of soils mapped, analyzed and described. The mapping and analyses of the soils are as basic in soil investigations in any state as is the carrying on of the field work, because it will not be possible to conduct the field work most intelligently and apply the results most rationally unless one knows the soil conditions and their deficiencies in the different counties of the State. The soil survey furnishes the data that are needed in applying the results of the field investigations, both with soils and with crops.

North Carolina (in 1899) was one of the first of the states to take up the study of its soils in this systematic way.

In this state, all experimental work with fertilizers and in variety tests and for improvement of crops is carried on with reference to soil types. At first, the larger and more important types were selected for the location of the branch stations and the outlying fields. Later on, as rapidly as funds have been available for carrying on the work, it has been extended to the important agricultural types of the State. Working under such a plan, after definite information has been secured from the field, it has been found that the results may be applied quite safely in a general way to the soils of nearly all farms located on

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