OUTSTANDING WEAKNESSES IN INVESTIGATIONAL WORK IN AGRONOMY

(Abstract)

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The following is a brief summary of the outstanding weaknesses in agronomic investigational work, in the opinion of the author of this paper:

The using of abstract averages, as a basis for conclusions from date, rate, and depth of seeding work conducted over a period of years, is inaccurate and unreliable.

Recommendations based on variety tests conducted under conditions of soil, climate, and weather that are not comparable to the conditions under which the farmer is operating are unsatisfactory.

Results from investigations regarding rate, frequency, and time of applying irrigation water have supplied no fundamental information suitable for general application.

Duty of water work is based on an arbitrary and not necessarily a correct definition of the term and consequently the results, though mathematically correct, have little agricultural value.

A slave to continuity of work may continue plot work long after the results have become valueless.

Field plat work may be so over-systematized in its original plan that it becomes nothing more than routine work after it is once established.

Many of the so-called “scientific” articles which appear in the journals represent nothing more than published note books.

Many authors do not make the necessary analysis of their own data to justify conclusions and consequently much of the published material is practically valueless.

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