6. A STATE-WIDE CAMPAIGN FOR MORE LEGUMES

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To the agricultural extension worker is given the task of leading and aiding farmers to adopt farm practices that have been proved profitable. Since agricultural extension work is in its infancy, only very meager data and little or no recorded history on methods are available to guide us. Better extension methods are gradually being developed, however, by the expensive "cut and try" process.

Just now the need for an increased acreage of legume crops in many states presents a serious extension problem. The methods of growing legumes successfully have in a large measure been determined. Experiments in many states now show that legumes can be grown with profit, by methods which are both simple and practical. With the need for more legumes apparent and this experimental evidence at hand, a vast amount of extension work on legumes has been done. Yet in those same states the acreage of legume crops is far from sufficient even to maintain soil fertility. A large percentage of the livestock in these states never tastes legume hay or pasture, and the profit from grain crops grown in the rotations without legumes is less than it might be if a sound system of cropping were followed.

Evidently, the job of leading and aiding farmers to adopt systems of farming, including a suitable acreage of legumes, is not a simple one.

In this paper the legume extension program which is being developed in one state is outlined with the hope that it may serve as a basis for valuable discussion and consideration.

HISTORY

In 1920, a survey showed that in Missouri, during the previous year, only 8.3% of the cultivated land in the state was in legumes. Obviously, this acreage of legumes was insufficient to make possible a permanently prosperous agriculture.

Results of soils and field crops experiments showed at that time that some good legume could be grown on all soil types, and that by proper methods the best legumes could be grown on most soil types. A considerable amount of extension work, consisting of preliminary field demonstrations, miscellaneous meetings, and unorganized publicity, had been done on legumes.

At this time the soils extension specialist and the field crops ex-

1Paper read as a part of the symposium on "The Legume Problem" at the meeting of the Society held in Washington, D. C., November 11, 1924.
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