SOYBEANS IN THE NORTHEAST
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The history of the initiation and long, slow growth of soybean production in the United States is well known. "Growing pains", however, were not apparent until very recently, during which time they have been tremendous and the production of the "Little Honorable Plant" has sprung from quiescent childhood into responsible maturity. This change is evidenced by the admission of soybeans to the Chicago Board of Trade. The first transaction was for 5,000 bushels at $1.20 in October, 1936.

During this initial period and the coming of age of this new crop as a real economic contribution, the corn belt generally has been found to be the best adapted and most promising area of production. This fact, however, has by no means eliminated interest in the crop in the northeastern part of the United States. The farmer, although conservative, is also inquisitive. His continuous and frequent queries would have forced the investigators of the region to establish certain facts upon which to reply to his questions, even though their natural desire for investigation of a somewhat questionable field had not led them into such studies. Every agronomic investigator in the northeast realizes in taking up such studies that he is in a sort of no-man's-land. He realizes that his province lies in a transitional area between the land of abundance on the one hand, and the land of barren wastes on the other as far as the production of soybeans is concerned. The climatic restrictions, the small units of tillable land, unsuitable machinery, the lack of varieties adapted to the particular purpose for which the beans are to be produced, and the cultural idiosyncrasies as well as the proper use of the crop after it is produced, all suggest that the northeastern area cannot be expected to compete on an even basis with the more favorably situated agricultural regions. This is particularly true in producing the crop for grain. A logical supposition even without experimental evidence would be that soybeans in the northeast offer the greatest promise as a forage crop.

The object of this paper is to give certain experimental results as evidence upon which to form an opinion in regard to the possibilities of soybeans in the northeast and in New York State in particular.

SOYBEANS AS FORAGE IN THE NORTHEAST

The high cost of protein as purchased by the dairyman in particular throughout the area under discussion has forced him (1) to increase his leguminous forage as much as possible, as evidenced by the increased use of alfalfa and clovers and in the interest in soybeans as another possibility, and (2) to increase his home-grown concentrates of all kinds and if possible of one high in protein.