MEETING OF THE NORTHEASTERN SECTION

The Northeastern Section of the American Society of Agronomy held its first summer meeting and tour since the start of the war at the University of Maryland and the Bureau of Plant Industry, Beltsville, Md., July 22 to 24, 1946. Approximately 100 active and associate members from the 13 states comprising the Section attended the meeting which started with a tour of farms in the vicinities of Bel Air, Brooklandville, and Ellicott City. Four farms were visited on which were observed hay and pasture for beef and dairy cattle and race horses, special seeding mixtures, hay drying, pick-up baling, hay fertilizer trials, and soil conservation practices.

The morning of the second day was confined to a discussion of seeding mixtures and fertilizers followed by a tour of soil and crop experiments on the University of Maryland plant research farm in the afternoon. The seeding mixture group discussed the matter of seed mixtures for the Northeast region. There was general agreement that the number of seeding mixtures should be held to a minimum and that the mixtures should be simple and adapted to soil, climate, and use.

The fertilizer group unanimously favored higher concentration in fertilizers and a reduction in the number of grades. A. L. Mehring traced the history of fertilizer usage, stating that there has been a steady tonnage increase in the United States. The sharpest increase is occurring in the midwestern and far western states, most of which has taken place within the past few years. This movement will affect the supply for the northeast section, particularly until supply and demand are brought into closer relationship.

William Watkins discussed the fertilizer supply situation, stating that a larger tonnage would be available for the 1946-47 crop season than last year, but that the strong demand would still limit the supply to growers.

Among the experiments observed were short rotations; strip-cropping for runoff control; field corn, winter oats, spring oats, and rye varieties; field corn testing and breeding; comparison of several phosphate carriers; and yields of barley, corn, hay, and wheat on soil fertility plots at different pH values.

The business meeting was held on the evening of the second day, with President W. B. Kemp of the University of Maryland presiding. A report of the committee on seeding recommendations for forage and legumes was presented. The committee felt that there is a marked lack of information on the general adaptability of grass species as orchard grass, bromegrass, reed canary grass, and tall oat grass, and particularly their compatibility with such legumes as alfalfa, red clover, and ladino clover. The available information on management of such mixtures over wide areas in the region is scanty and the problem of maintaining a desirable proportion of grass and legume herbage in the forage under the varied climates in the region is unsolved. On the basis of the information gathered from a questionnaire, the committee felt that specific seeding mixture recommendations could not be attempted until more information had been