**Book Reviews**

**AMERICAN CORN ANNUAL**


The American Corn Annual is a new yearbook, covering the corn industry, and contains factual and statistical information about the subject. Among the editorial contents are a list of references on corn culture and breeding, certification standards, utilization of corn, a list of corn certification agencies, official market standards for corn, prices of U. S. corn by months, 1955-49, a list of publications in the field, a rate and space planting chart, and a list of names of corn breeders in the United States. There are also articles on the origin of corn, world production of corn, and the definition and description of corn and corn products. A special feature article by Dr. Merle T. Jenkins deals with "The Hybrid Corn of Tomorrow."

**AUTHOR'S GUIDE FOR PREPARING MANUSCRIPT AND HANDLING PROOF**


Although Author's Guide has been prepared particularly for authors of book manuscripts, writers of shorter magazine manuscripts will find it a useful handbook for their purposes.

The book has been published by a company whose dominant interest is in scientific and technical fields, and it is designed accordingly for writers whose work pertains to these subjects. It is recommended as a valuable aid in avoiding the obstacles which often seem to stand in the way before a paper reaches the endpoint of publication.

The table of contents includes chapters on preparing the manuscript and illustrations for the publisher, preparing material for the printer and draftsman, checking engraver's proof, cut dummy, and galley proof, how to proofread, completing production, and formal production and copyright and an appendix giving details of editorial style.

**COTTON PRODUCTION, MARKETING, AND UTILIZATION**

W. B. Andrews, Editor. Published by W. B. Andrews, State College, Miss. X + 476 pages, 153 illus. 1950. $4.50.

This book discusses cotton production from the beginning of seedbed preparation on through harvesting and, in addition, processing not only for market but also for consuming channels. For most agricultural crops a book of this kind would require much study and versatility on the part of the author. These requirements are even greater in the case of a unique crop like cotton, for cotton not only supplies man with fiber for clothing and a host of other needs but also oil which is used by man as food in many other ways and, in addition, provides an excellent protein feed for livestock. This broad task was resolved by contributions from 13 workers each of whom, for the most part, is a specialist in his field. Each of the authors has had several to many years intimate contact with the subject he discusses.

There is much merit in placing the leading thought of the paragraph in the first sentence, which is in bold faced type, especially for college students and other readers whose time for reading and reviewing is quite limited. This practice was not always followed. However, leading off with the main thought was followed for the most part, and this adds much to the useability of the book.

The illustrations, as a whole, are excellent and well reproduced. A few do not show clearly the required detail or have suffered from over reduction to conserve space. Illustrations serve well as visual aids only if they convey the point clearly. Most of them do this quite well and give the impression of having been prepared just for this book rather than having been drawn from someone's files to fill space.

The literature reference lists, one at the end of each chapter, are not all inclusive but are quite adequate for an advanced student to make a more thorough study of any phase of the subject.

The critical reader will observe that there are some errors of spelling and wording which could have been avoided with more attention to proof reading. In a few cases the presentation of material should have been better organized and there is some repetition, apparently for emphasis, which serves only to consume space. The treatment of some phases appears to be quite full for some areas and inadequate for others. This was due in part to the lack of belted data and, in part, to the usual tendency of any author to emphasize information in the area with which he is most familiar. These faults, however, are minor and do not in any way lessen the dependability of the information presented.

There is an extensive need for a book of this kind. — J. Fred O'Kelly.

**FORAGE AND PASTURE CROPS**


This encyclopedia of forage crops, containing 750 6- by 9-inch pages in 10-point type and smaller, is much the most complete book on its topic since Piper's classic "Forage Plants and Their Culture." Its much larger size and greater definiteness in every direction are a significant commentary on the progress made in forage crops in the quarter century since the last revision of "Piper" appeared. This book is the best reference work on forages now available in the United States.

Mr. Wheeler has the experience and contacts to write such a book. He was breeding forage crops, especially alfalfa, in South Dakota from 1903 to 1907; he was a commercial seedman, specializing in improved forage seeds, for nearly 10 years; he held a variety of positions, always connected with forages and forage seeds, for 30 years in the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. His contacts in this period were world-wide.

The book is arranged in four parts: Part I, 240 pages, presents general information on forages and pastures, their fertilization, establishment, and management, harvesting as hay and silage, the improvement of forage crops by breeding, and pests of forage crops. Part II, 220 pages, discusses individual legumes and Part III, 210 pages, individual grasses. Part IV, 75 pages, includes tables, references, and index.

Mr. Wheeler has taken his material from leading publications on the topics discussed, and gives his sources in accurate detail at the end of each chapter, along with additional references. These are cited in a unique manner, by states, U.S.D.A., and miscellaneous, to the list in Part IV—a concise and convenient method of citing the nearly 1400 references listed.

Not only were the references used but many of their authors and others were given opportunity to review sections of the work with which they were most familiar. The author acknowledges such assistance from about 75 persons—a considerable share of the older workers in forage crops in this country. Its accuracy, therefore, is far superior to that of a one-man text.

The illustrations are few, but in general, really illustrate. A valuable feature of each chapter or section is a summary "Highlights." These make the book more usable as a textbook than it might be otherwise.

As a text it has the defect that follows necessarily with any comprehensive book which covers the entire United States, that much of its material is inapplicable to any given region. The repetition made necessary by its organization—the topics discussed in Part I are again covered under many individual crops.