AMERICAN CORN ANNUAL

Edited by John C. Anderson. New York: C. S. Macfarland, Jr. 44 pages. 1950. $2.00.

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, 1935-49, 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 end-point 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, 155 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 and 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 the inexperienced and less able writer, as it is a very practical guide to him prepared just for this book rather than having him look 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 a student to make a more thorough study of a subject.

The critical reader will observe that there is some repetition of spelling and wording which could have been avoided by more attention to proof reading. In a few cases, a phase of material should have been better organized and not repeated, apparently for emphasis, which serves only to consume space. The treatment of some phases appears full for some areas and inadequate for others. Part of the reason is the lack of beltwide data and, in part, the trend of any author to emphasize information with which he is most familiar. These faults, however, and do not in any way lessen the dependability of the information presented.

There is an extensive need for a book of this nature.

O'KELLY.

FORAGE AND PASTURE CROPS


This encyclopedia of forage crops, containing 640 pages in 10-point type and smaller, is much the best book on its topic since Piper's classic "Forage Plant Culture." Its much larger size and greater definition and direction are a significant commentary on the growth of forage crops in the quarter century since the time when "Piper" appeared. This book is the best reference work now available in the United States.

Mr. Wheeler has the experience and contacts of this book. He was breeding forage crops, especially alfalfa, in Dakota from 1903 to 1907; he was a commercial seed selling in improved forage seeds, for nearly 10 years; he held a variety of positions, always connected with forage crops. Part II, 220 pages, discusses individual legumes; Part III, 210 pages, individual grasses. Part IV, 750 pages, tables, references, and index.

Mr. Wheeler has taken his material from leading works on the topics discussed, and gives his sources at the end of each chapter, along with adding his notes. 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 others were given opportunity to review the work with which they were most familiar. These are given such assistance from about 75 persons—a proper part of the older workers in forage crops in this country, therefore, is far superior to that of any one-man text.

FRED O'KELLY.