

Soil Survey of Adams County

Agriculture is the principal resource of Adams county. It began as early as 1820 in a small way, and not until about 1834 was much progress made. Development was slow, as all the earlier homesteads were located only on land having good natural drainage, and this as a rule was heavily forested with hickory, oak, beech, elm, maple, and walnut.

Small fields were cleared and planted to corn and potatoes, and a little later wheat, rye, and buckwheat were introduced. Some flax also was grown and used in the manufacture of homespun. Later the higher parts of the poorly drained areas of black soils were gradually encroached upon, but several years passed before any large areas of these lands were reclaimed.

In recent years drainage systems have been greatly improved and extended through co-operative effort. The channels of the Wabash River and many of the creeks and small streams have been straightened and deepened, and larger ditches also have been constructed. Tile drains have supplanted the small open ditches which originally were used in operation on practically all farms located on level, low-lying lands, composed of the Clyde, Brookston and Genesee soils, nearly all of which were formerly too wet for cultivation. Such areas have been freed from surface water and now form the most productive lands in the county. Lands of the Miami silty clay loam type, with more relief and better natural drainage improved by laying tile drains, while much has been done to improve the originally wet lands of the county, the question of drainage is still an important one, as more effective drainage systems could be installed profitably on many of the farms.

Corn, oats, and wheat are at present the principal crops, ranking in the order named. Rye, barley, sugar beets, alfalfa, buckwheat, sorghum, and truck crops are grown to some extent.

Corn has always been the leading crop. Wheat remained second in acreage until after 1899, but was third in 1909 and 1919, oats going into second place. According to the census the total value of all cereals in this county is brought out by a comparison of this sum with the value of all crops, which is given by the same authority as \$5,670,168.

Corn is considered the most profit-

able of the cereal crops on most of the soils of the county. The Clyde and Brookston soils are especially well adapted to the crop, and the acreage has increased steadily with the reclamation of these productive black soils.

Hay and forage crops, with a total value of \$1,326,954, are next to the cereals the most important products of Adams county. Hay is grown on all the soils except the Genesee silty loam and Muck and Peat. The hay consists of clover, timothy, timothy and clover mixed, alfalfa, and an occasional cutting of oats. Seeding of clover and timothy may be done with either wheat or oats, the former being more generally used. Rye is also a very desirable nurse crop.

The importance of clover as a feed and as a soil renovator is generally appreciated, and it is grown on practically every farm.

The growing of alfalfa is not extensively followed; in 1919 there were approximately 200 acres in this crop, and the production was 365 tons.

Small fields have been successfully established, but there have also been numerous failures. It is believed that the lack of proper drainage was responsible for many of these. For the successful production of alfalfa it is essential that the soil should be thoroughly drained, in some instances subdrained, richly manured, limed, and reduced to good physical condition each year.

Within the last few years the growing of soy beans has increased decidedly. The county agent has been particularly active in his efforts to increase the acreage in soy beans and alfalfa. He states that the soy bean acreage was increased over 1,000 per cent in one year—1917. The crop is considered a promising one for this section. The common method of planting for a seed crop is to drill the seed in rows. It requires one-half bushel of seed to plant an acre. Soy beans are planted about one-half inch deep, May 15 to 20. Cultivation is given during the early stages of growth. The seed may also be planted in corn at the last cultivation, or sown broadcast on well-prepared ground. The yields range from 20 to 25 bushels per acre. Hollybrook, Ito San, and Early Brown have given good results. For late planting the latter two varieties are considered best. These varieties mature early. The Hollybrook is the best variety to sow with corn for silage.

The practice of sowing soy beans with corn intended for silage should be extended. By this method a well balanced ration is obtained, and at the same time the stubble adds more organic matter and nitrogen to the soil than where corn alone is grown.

Sugar beets have been grown rather

extensively in the county for a number of years. The beets are sold to a sugar beet factory at Decatur.

The cost of production has so far varied between \$18 and \$25 an acre. The yields average about 12 tons per acre and a maximum of 35 tons per acre has been obtained under especially favorable conditions. The soils and climate are well suited to growing this crop. The better drained areas of Brookston silty clay loam give a larger tonnage and larger net Crosby soils, though it is stated that the sugar content of the beets produced on the two soils last mentioned is 1 to 2 per cent higher. The sugar company, which is the only one in Indiana, receives beets from various parts of the State of Ohio. The price paid for beets ranges from \$5 to \$6 a ton. The townships of Washington, Monroe, Wabash, French, Kirkland, and Preble lead in the production of sugar beets.

Potatoes and other vegetables are grown for home use and to supply local markets, but there has been no marked development of the trucking industry. Fruit growing also is confined to production for home needs.

Most of the farms have an apple orchard and usually a few peach, plum, cherry and quince trees. On many there also are grapevines and patches of small fruits.

Hog raising is the most important branch of live stock farming at the present time, and the industry is growing. The raising of beef cattle is not very important, though a few head are fed in winter on a number of farms.

Commercial dairies supply the larger towns. Many farmers keep a few milk cows and sell the milk and cream to local creameries, ice cream factories, and the milk condensers at Berne, and at Vera Cruz in Wells county.

The dairy products from farms near the electric lines are shipped outside the county. Separators are com-

monly used, the cream being sold and the milk fed on the farm to the young stock. The Holstein predominates among the purebred cattle.

Decatur is a well-known horse market, drawing from a large territory

and many of the farmers in Adams county raise one or two colts a year for their own use or for the market.

There is considerable variation in the crop rotations on different farms. The one in most common use consists of corn, oats, wheat and clover. The substitution of soy beans for oats would make a very desirable rotation.

The principal recognition of adaptation of crops to certain soils is that of corn to the Clyde clay loam. The quality of corn grown on the lighter colored soils may be considerably better than that grown on the dark soils.

Usually early frost, coming before the grain has fully matured may injure the crop materially. This is more likely to happen on the Clyde and Brookston soils than on the Miami soil.

As a result there is in some seasons considerable soft or chaffy corn in the product of the lower lying black lands.

Acid phosphate at the rate of 15 pounds per acre is sometimes applied to corn on the Clyde clay loam and Brookston silty clay loam. For wheat about 200 pounds per acre is applied.

The soils are benefited by liming; the application of 2 to 4 tons of ground limestone per acre has proved especially valuable in farming the Miami and Crosby soils. Ground limestone should be used in conjunction with stable manure to obtain the best results.

The farms of Adams county are well equipped with modern farm machinery, including corn planters, harrows, shredders, wheat drills, disc plows, manure spreaders, hay loaders and rollers. A number of tractors also are employed in plowing and other heavy farm work.

The 1910 census reports the total number of farms in the county as 2,353 and the 1920 census as 2,328 showing little change in number during the decade. There was also practically no change in the average size of the farms during this period.

Approximately 96 per cent of the area of the county is in farms and 87.8 per cent of the farms operated by owners, a decline of 17 per cent since 1880. Farms are generally rented on a share basis rather than on a cash basis, the owner receiving two-fifths to one-half. Leases usually cover a period of one year only.

The average cash rent for improved farms is \$6 to \$8 an acre. For land to be used in the production of sugar beets as much as \$12 an acre is paid.

The majority of farms are well improved. As a rule, the buildings are large and substantial, and many are equipped with modern improvements.

In the southern part of the county the buildings on many of the farms are small and agriculture is not in as prosperous condition as in other sections. In the southern section the income from oil leases has been for over 20 years in excess of the profits

Adams County Society

CLUB CALENDAR

Saturday
Christian Ladies Aid Two-Cent supper—Old Adams County Bank Bldg.

Tuesday
Psi Iota Xi sorority, Miss Donna Parrish, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays C. L. of C., K. of C. hall.

Annual Union meeting of the Missionary Societies of Reformed church, at church, 7:30 p.m.

Annual banquet of Phi Delta Kappa fraternity, Murray Hotel.

Shoemaker-Lybarger

Miss Martha, of Geneva, became the bride of Harold D. Shoemaker, also of Geneva, in a quiet wedding at the Decatur M. E. parsonage Friday afternoon, at 3:30 o'clock. The ceremony was read by the Rev. U. S. A. Bridge, pastor of the local church. Mrs. Shoemaker is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Lybarger, of Geneva. Mr. Shoemaker is a farmer and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Shoemaker also of Geneva. Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker will reside in Geneva.

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A number of out-of-town guests were here today to attend the wedding of Miss Gladys Ann Flanders, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Flanders, to Mr. Richard Chamberlain, of Peru. The ceremony was to occur at the home of the bride's parents, on South Third street at 4:30 o'clock this evening. A wedding dinner will follow the ceremony.

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Twenty-Six Took Test

A total of twenty-six pupils from various parts of the county took the eighth grade diploma examination held at the new high school auditorium here Thursday, it was announced at the office of the county superintendent, E. S. Christen, today. This was a special examination held for those who failed on the regular examinations held last spring. The manuscripts have not been graded yet.

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obtained from farming, and as a result agriculture has been somewhat neglected.

The usual wage for farm hands is \$25 to \$35 per month, with board. Harvest hands and extra help are paid \$2 to \$2.50 per day.

But little land has changed hands in the last few years. Clay lands, or the light-colored Miami and Crosby soils, are valued at \$30 to \$125 an acre. Black land and bottom land are held at \$125 to \$200 an acre.

Van Wert County Is A Great County

in more ways than one and not the least of its greatness lies in its agricultural resources

Van Wert County Fair

Sept. 4, 5, 6, 7, 1923

will afford the best opportunity of seeing what the county can do.

\$5,500 For Horse Races and \$10,000 For Class Premiums

assures high class racing, large and interesting exhibits of all kinds and of high quality.

Every effort will be made to make visitors comfortable and to give exhibitors every advantage in showing their exhibits.

Don't you deserve a rest? Certainly you do. The Van Wert County Fair gives you the chance. Take advantage of the opportunity and come to the fair.

A BIG TREAT IN EXHIBITS, RACES, DISPLAYS, PARADES and SENATIONAL FREE EVENTS IN STORE FOR YOU. DON'T MISS IT. COME.

W. A. Marker, Secretary, Van Wert.