

Press Bulletin No. 186.
FOR RELEASE JULY 20.
Afternoon papers.

Kansas State Agricultural College.

Division of Agriculture.

Exceptional Wheat Yields as a Result of Scientific Soil Treatment.

MANHATTAN, KAN., July 17, 1911.

Four and a Quarter Bushels, the old way; THIRTY-EIGHT AND A THIRD BUSHELS, the new way.

Soil preparation did it—getting the seed bed right and keeping it right: *THIRTY-EIGHT AND A THIRD BUSHELS OF WHEAT TO THE ACRE*, grown, this year, at the agronomy farm of the Kansas State Agricultural College:

Compared with *FOUR AND A QUARTER BUSHELS* on the same kind of soil *TREATED IN THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY*. YOU CAN NOT ARGUE SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST THE SYSTEM THAT PRODUCES SUCH RESULTS.

The time and the method of seed-bed preparation for wheat very materially influence the yield, especially in a season like that through which Kansas has just passed, which put Manhattan for this year in the dry belt. In the experiments recently ended at the college farm eleven methods of preparation were put to test. The report contained in Bulletin No. 178, written by W. M. Jardine, professor of agronomy, shows some mighty interesting results. They are best told in paragraphs. The net returns in these paragraphs are the difference between the selling price of the wheat and the cost of preparing the land and seeding.

Land disked, but not plowed, produced four and a quarter bushels of wheat an acre. The crop, when sold, returned \$1.47 per acre net.

Land plowed three inches deep (too shallow) September 15 (too late for best results) gave a yield of 14½ bushels, a net return of \$8.52 Per acre.

Land plowed a proper depth, 7 inches, September 15 (too late) produced 15¾ bushels per acre, and gave a return of \$9.08 per acre.

Land double disked July 15, to stop the waste of moisture, plowed seven inches deep September 15 (too late for the best results, even when land has been previously disked) produced 23½ bushels per acre, showing a net return of \$14.50 per acre.

Land plowed August 15, seven inches deep, not worked until September 15, showed a yield of $23 \frac{2}{3}$ bushels per acre and gave \$15.34 an acre, net.

Land double disked July 15, to save moisture, plowed August 15, seven inches deep, produced $34 \frac{2}{3}$ bushels per acre and gave a return of \$21.44 after deducting cost of preparation.

Land plowed July 15, three inches deep (plowed at the right time, but too shallow for the best results), produced $33\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre, and showed a return of \$22.32 an acre after paying expenses.

Land listed July 15, five inches deep, ridges split August 15, gave a return of $34 \frac{1}{3}$ bushels per acre, and a money return of \$23.73 net.

Land listed July 15, five inches deep, worked down level at once, to avoid waste of moisture, gave 35 bushels per acre, from which there was left \$24.35 after paying cost of preparation.

Land plowed July 15 (the right time), seven inches deep (the right depth), gave a yield of $38 \frac{1}{3}$ bushels per acre, the highest yield in the experiment. After paying for the cost of preparation, there was left \$25.74 per acre, the largest net return of any method under trial.

Is there anything in "Book Farming"? The truth about this old query is sinking in, slowly. When it has been accepted by the farmers of Kansas that big yields are the reward of proper seed-bed preparation, proper soil cultivation, the average acre yield of the state will no longer be $13\frac{1}{2}$ bushels. It will go up, past Germany's 31 bushels, up where it belongs.

It's all in the soil. The farmer can get it out if he farms right.