

# Dwight Star and Herald.

VOLUME XLVIII

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER 6, 1913

NUMBER 36

## CROP NOTES

BY ROY C. BISHOP  
County Agricultural Agent

### Livingston County Corn Crop.

Much speculation is being engaged in with respect to the corn crop this year. So many factors must be taken into account in estimating the corn yield, that it would not be an easy matter to give even a close approximation as to the yield of corn this season.

Many fields of corn in Livingston county will make a normal yield. There are large numbers of fields, however, which will not make more than 25 bushels per acre. Crops which make 35 to 40 bushels of corn this time will be above the average.

Every corn producer in the county could very profitably devote much of his spare time this fall to the study of the different methods of corn production in his corn and adjacent neighborhoods, and the results of these methods, barring weather conditions. It is a very evident fact that those corn fields which have been cultivated thoroughly from the beginning are all found among the best corn crops in the county. It is possible that there has not been such a season for years which has brought out a more striking contrast between the results of different methods of corn cultivation. This has been the season for thorough cultivation and mulching. Where the shovel cultivators were used vigorously for the first and second cultivation, and the surface for subsequent cultivations, the best results have been gotten. Those who persist in cultivating their corn only with the shovel cultivator or surface cultivator, should study carefully the results of corn cultivation where the surface and shovel cultivator are both used in cultivation. Many of the corn fields were cultivated only about three times this season, but some producers stayed with

their corn throughout the season and continued to cultivate until the corn became too large for the one or two row cultivator. A few would not stop with this, but utilized a small one row mulcher, and in this way gave their corn one to three additional cultivations. Where such practices of corn cultivation were pursued, the largest corn crops are to be found. It goes without saying that the additional yield which will be obtained by such producers will pay them many times over for their labor.

The conditions of corn crops, in all cases, are not due to weather conditions, seed and cultivation, but, in many cases, to a very much more effective factor than any of these, namely, corn insects. How many fields of corn were planted this time on land which had been in corn last year, or which had been in corn for 2, 3, 4 or 5 previous years? Certainly hundreds of acres of corn was planted on land last spring which had been in corn the year before. Great numbers of fields were planted on land which had been in corn from two to five years in succession. The result of succeeding crops with corn is the infection of the corn plant by the most destructive of insects, namely, the corn root worm, Aphis, and the white grub. There are very few fields where corn has been planted on the same field twice in succession where the corn root worm is not found. It is true that in many cases no great damage is done by the corn root worm, but certainly in the larger number of instances the yield is substantially lowered even where corn has been planted only two years in succession, but where corn has been planted three years in succession, it is possible that not even a single field has escaped the ravages of the corn root worm this season. The yield on these fields in Livingston county will be lowered, in practically every instance, 30 to 50 per cent. Not only does the corn root worm attack the plant where corn is planted on the same land for the third time, but the corn root Aphis does about as much

damage. Many of these fields are also affected with white grub, and in those localities where the white grub is found, the corn crop is almost totally destroyed.

The corn root worm will often eat off the end of all the larger roots of the plant and then burrow just under the outer covering of the root the entire length of the root. Practically all of the large roots of the corn plant are bored out by this little pest and are thus rendered useless to the plant. The corn root worm can be easily found by carefully splitting the root. It is usually about 3/8 inch long, about the size of a pin and white. When it reaches maturity, it may be seen as a small green beetle about 1/4 inch long upon, or near the silk of the corn.

The corn root Aphis is much smaller. It is about the size of a pinhead and of a light apple-green color. It is found in clusters on the roots of the corn plant where it obtains its nourishment by a sucking process. The white grub is pretty well known and recognized. It is found on sod land and where corn succeeds corn, or in some instances where the rotation brings corn on the same land every other year. This grub eats off the corn roots and is doing much damage in Livingston county.

The presence of the corn root worm is very much disguised. Few producers, whose fields are affected by this insect, know of its presence. Where the corn goes down, apparently without cause, and then curves to an upright position, the stalk is small and sickly and the ear remains undeveloped, evidence of the corn worm is had. If the corn root worm has been at work on these plants, the plant can be pulled from the soil with very little effort. The roots will be short and stubbed. Close inspection will reveal many shriveled brown roots, the tips of which have been eaten off. On splitting these roots longitudinally small burrows will be discovered just under the outer covering of the roots.

The corn root Aphis and white grub are neither very elusive. If the corn

is quite spotted, parts of which are very much undeveloped, having small sickly yellow plants, many of which have no ears, the corn root Aphis, or grub worm may be expected. If the corn root Aphis has been at work, it is possible it will not be found at this season, since in most cases, it will have reached the adult stage and left the roots. If it is the white grub, many of them will be found around the roots. They may not be discovered on uprooting the corn plant unless the soil from which the plant has been removed is investigated. Often 10 to 20 grubs will be found in a single hill of corn.

The corn root worm and Aphis and white grub have cost the farmers of Livingston county this season hundreds and even thousands of dollars. These, no doubt, have done equally as much damage in former years, but their presence has been overlooked. The means of eradicating these pests is simple, but nevertheless, effective—the judicious rotation of crops. There is scarcely ever a field of corn found with corn root worm where the corn follows other crops than corn. This is also true of the corn root Aphis, or louse, and only less so with respect to the white grub. The white grub, however, may so infect fields that even where a rotation of corn and oats is practiced, it may not be possible to rid the soil of these pests, since its life history extends over a period of two years. In the case, therefore, of badly infected fields, a longer rotation should be planned. For instance, corn, oats, and clover, or corn, oats, wheat and clover.

If you have corn on land which has been in corn two or more years, inspect it carefully, uproot plants which look unhealthy, dwarfed and damaged. Such inspection may be the source of exceedingly valuable information.

### Winter Wheat.

The acreage of wheat in Livingston county this fall will be much larger than last year. Much of the wheat land, however, has not yet been plow-

ed, due to the lack of sufficient moisture to enable plowing without difficulty.

The soils of many farms in Livingston county are well adapted to the production of wheat. Sandy soils, which are well drained, will, under most seasonal conditions, give as large money returns when sown to wheat, as when planted to corn. This crop will be found equally as profitable, compared to other grain crops, when grown on the ordinary gray, silt, or timber soils, found along the small water courses. Even the lighter, more rolling brown silt soils of this county, will give paying results when sown to wheat. Thus on these soils, a very desirable rotation of corn, oats, wheat and clover could be planned. Clover will, ordinarily, do better when sown on wheat land in the spring, than when it is sown with oats, as is the usual custom.

Early plowing for wheat will, in every case, be found the most profitable. The seed bed, at sowing time, should be compact, with just enough loose dirt to cover the seed at a depth of two to three inches. When the land is plowed early, not only is it possible to get a firm seed bed, but the overturned furrow is thus given time to affect a closer union with the plow sole, or bottom of the furrow, and much more moisture is conserved. Where it is necessary to plow late, it will be found a paying practice to double disc the land ahead of the plow. The plowing will thus be made easier and when the surface soil is turned under, it will affect a closer union with the plow sole, so that only a small amount of moisture will be lost from the soil, and the seed bed can be prepared much more quickly and thoroughly.

Wheat should be sown between the 15th and 30th of September. When sown earlier than this, it may become affected with the Hessian Fly, or so advanced in growth before winter as to be winter killed or very much weakened.

Turkey Red wheat is one of the very best varieties for Livingston county.

When properly seeded, it gives satisfactory yields of splendid quality. The Funk Bros. Seed Co., of Bloomington, had a large acreage of Turkey Red wheat last spring, all of which averaged 40 bushels per acre. Mr. Chas. Feinhold, east of Pontiac, had 32 acres of Turkey Red wheat this time which averaged 30 bushels per acre. Twelve acres of this field made 43 bushels per acre. Mr. Feinhold raised this wheat on rolling brown silt soil which compares favorably with the larger percentage of the soils of this county. Livingston county wheat soils should produce an average of 30 to 35 bushels of wheat per acre. There were a number of crops in the county this time, which did better than this.

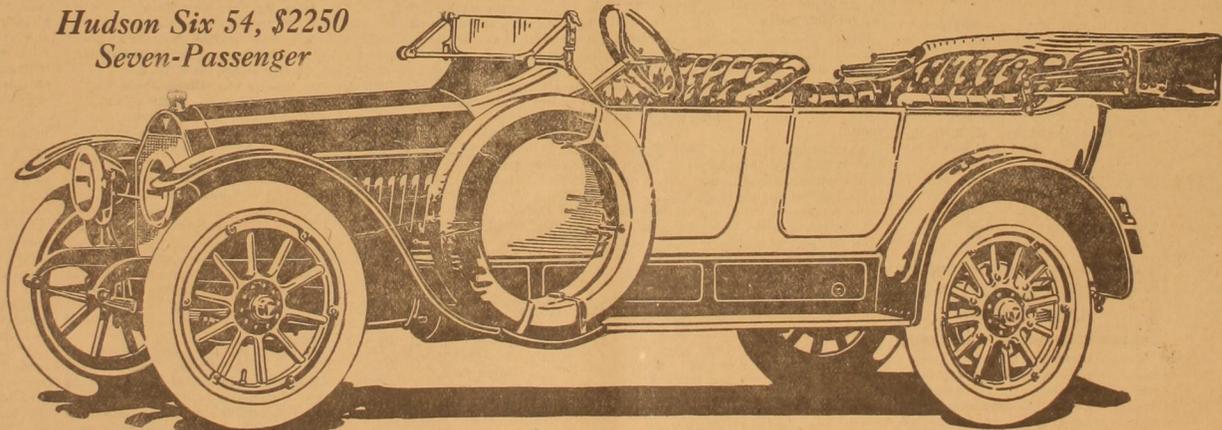
### Alfalfa a Paying Crop.

Oliver Buland, living west of Pontiac, could verify the statement that alfalfa is a paying crop. Last spring Mr. Buland seeded 2 1/2 acres of alfalfa with the oats on gray silt, or timber soil. Nothing special was done to the soil, neither is it a type of soil which is well adapted to the production of alfalfa, but Mr. Buland has kept it well supplied with organic, or vegetable matter, so that it is in splendid physical condition. The first clipping from this 2 1/2 acres, yielded 5 tons, the second 3 tons, the third, which has just been harvested, yielded 4 tons. Mr. Buland has harvested, therefore, 12 tons of finest hay, in one season from 2 1/2 acres of land and in addition to this, has a splendid chance for a fourth crop this fall.

Mr. Buland will feed this hay to fattening cattle next winter. It will very satisfactorily take the place of cotton seed meal, or oil cake, in finishing his cattle. When fed in this way, alfalfa hay is well worth \$18 per ton. This would give Mr. Buland \$216 gross income in one season from 2 1/2 acres of land, to say nothing of the fact that the soil, at the same time, is being improved in physical condition and made more productive.

Renew your subscription for this paper.

Hudson Six 54, \$2250  
Seven-Passenger



Disappearing Seats

Left Side Drive

Four Forward Speeds

## THE HUDSON RIDES LIKE CONSTANT COASTING

At any speed—uphill or down—rough roads or smooth—a HUDSON Six rides like constant coasting.

It is not marvelous spring adjustment, or unusual balance—though these things help. It is the smoothness of the six-cylinder motor.

The delight of the vibrationless and gliding ride you get in coasting down a long, smooth hill is ever present in the HUDSON Six 54.

It's like flying.

Only in six-cylinder cars of proper design and balance do you get such riding qualities.

It's needless to say here a word about HUDSONS mechanically. Every motorist concedes their superiority of design.

## Most Beautiful Car Ever Built

The HUDSON Six 54 is pronounced by many the most beautiful car ever built. Certainly with these qualities you should at least ride in one.

Drive it if you drive—compare its beauty with any car at any price.

It is built like a steel Pullman for sturdiness and safety.

Its streamline body comfortably seats four, five, six or seven passengers.

It has left-side drive, right-hand (center) control, entrance from either side, four-speed transmission. It is electrically cranked and electrically lighted by the new fast type Delco System, patented. It

has 135-inch wheel-base, 36 x 4 1/2 inch tires, Pantasote top, quickly adjusted curtains permanently carried in top, magnetic jeweled speedometer and many other attractive features.

Come see for yourself the true streamline body and experience the smoothness and flexibility of a real six-cylinder car.

# Ferguson & Naffziger

DWIGHT

ILLINOIS