CANEBRAKE EXPERIMENT STATION

Bulletin No. 1.

JULY 1888

W. H. NEWMAN, Assistant Director in Charge,

UNIONTOWN, ALA.

—ISSUED BY THE—

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

R. F. KOLB, Commissioner,

MONTGOMERY, - - - - ALABAMA.

W. E. Allred, Printer, Montgomery, Ala.

Canebrake Agricultural

EXPERIMENT STATION.

UNIONTOWN, ALA.

BULLETIN NO. 1.

BOARD OF CONTROL:

R. F. KOLB.....Commissioner of Ag'r., Ex Off.
J. S. NEWMAN .....Director Ex Off.
S. W. JOHN, Secretary,.....Selma, Ala.
H. A. STOELENWERCK, Treasurer,.....Uniontown, Ala.
W. M. BOOKER,.....Uniontown, Ala.
J. H. WEBB,.....Demopolis, Ala.
Dr. J. HUGGINS,.....Newberne, Ala.

OFFICERS OF STATION:

J. S. NEWMAN, Director,.....Auburn, Ala.
W. H. NEWMAN, Asst Director in charge.....Uniontown, Ala.
H. C. SMITH, Supt. of Farm,.....Uniontown, Ala.

CANEBRAKE EXPERIMENT STATION, July 10, 1888.

Owing to the peculiarity of the Canebrake Soils, and the fact that the results of experiments from the Experiment Station at Auburn were valueless to the farmers of the prairie region on account of this peculiarity of soil, the General Assembly, during its session of 1884 and 1885, passed an act establishing a branch station to be located in the canebrake region of the State.

In the spring of 1885 the board of control purchased forty acres of canebrake land near Uniontown in Perry county.

They endeavored in their selection to procure the three types: Shell Ridge, Black Prairie and Red Prairie. The land purchased had been neglected, badly worn by previous cultivation, and was covered by a heavy crop of chicken corn.

Full possession was not secured until January 1886, and, on account of its previously neglected condition, the first year was largely spent in bringing the land into proper condition for experimentation, and destroying the foul growth with which it was infested.

Under the act establishing this station the director of the station in connection with the college was made director of this station also.

The commissioner of Agriculture of the State, the director of the station, and five cultivators of canebrake land, were created a board of control, and the General Assembly of 1886 and 1887 amended the act establishing the station, and changed its title, from "canebrake branch experiment station," to "The Canebrake Agricultural Experiment Station," and increased the appropriation for the purpose of supplying the needed buildings and securing the services of an assistant director.

Under the act of Congress, known as the "Hatch Bill",

—which authorized the division of the fund appropriated for experiment stations between different stations already established in any State,—The board of trustees of the A. & M. College appropriated $2000.00 of the $15000.00 received under the Hatch act to this station, thus supplementing the State appropriation to such an extent as to enable the board of control to largely extend the scope of the work of the station.

The results of experiments hitherto conducted have been published in connection with bulletins from the station of the A. & M. College, but in future they will be issued directly from the canebrake station, The re-organization of the station under the Hatch act took effect from April 1st 1888.

The following results of experiments are from work commenced previous to the 1st of April and concluded since that time.

Bulletins in future will be issued quarterly as required by the congressional act making the appropriation, and oftener if the interest of the work demands it.

EXPERIMENTS WITH IRISH POTATOES.

Object—To compare earliness and yeild of different varieties.

Planted—February 15th; Dug—July 2d 1888.

The same varieties were planted at both stations in order to compare results in the widely different soils of the stations.

RESULTS.

Plat.	Varieties.	Choice, bus. per acre.	Medium, bus. per acre.	Culls, bus. per acre.	Total, bush. per acre.	Scab, bush. per acre.	Rot, bushels per acre.	Total, bush. per acre.
1	Albino	17 50	24 50	24 00	66 00	7 58	4 08	11 66
2	Beauty of Hebron	29 16	24 50	7 00	60 66	11 66	5 83	17 49
3	Beauty of Beauties	29 75	11 66	4 66	46 07	31 50	2 33	33 83
4	Clarks No. 1	19 83	11 66	11 66	43 15	11 66	1 75	13 41
5	Chas. Downing	28 00	23 91	8 66	60 57	8 16	10 50	18 66
6	Dictator	52 50	38 50	8 16	99 16	32 8	4 66	7 94
7	Empire State	81 08	24 00	8 16	113 24	11 66	7 58	19 24
8	Early Sunrise	38 00	27 00	4 18	69 18	7 00	12 86	19 86
9	Garfield	72 36	37 36	15 18	124 90	20 58	7 58	28 16
10	Great Eastern	59 50	11 08	1 75	72 33	6 41	00 58	6 99
11	Mayflower	17 91	12 26	8 75	38 92	00 58	6 41	6 99
12	Morning Star	70 58	52 50	9 36	132 44	52 50	13 41	65 91
13	New Giant	33 25	16 83	14 25	64 33	0	1 16	1 16
14	Pearl of Savoy	24 50	7 00	5 26	36 76	7 58	6 41	13 99
15	The Thorburn	21 66	15 00	11 66	48 32	7 58	1 16	8 74
16	Thorburn Late Rose	42 58	23 91	8 16	74 66	8 16	8 16	16 32
17	Sunlit Star	30 91	9 36	4 66	44 93	13 41	7 58	20 99
18	Rose's Wild Rose	97 00	9 36	2 91	109 27	0	4 08	4 08
19	White Star	105 00	22 75	8 75	136 50	27 33	1 16	28 49

POTATO EXPERIMENT CONTINUED.

Plat.	Varieties.	Ready to ship.	Total yield per acre in bushels.	Condition of vines when gathered.
1	Albino	June 12	77 66	Dead.
2	Beauty of Hebron	" 10	88 15	"
3	Beauty of Beauties	" 21	79 90	Green.
4	Clark's No. 1	" 15	56 56	Dead.
5	Chas. Downing	" 15	79 23	"
6	Dictator	" 20	107 10	Green.
7	Empire State	" 28	132 48	"
8	Early Sunrise	" 18	89 04	Dead.
9	Garfield	" 26	153 06	Green.
10	Great Eastern	" 25	79 32	"
11	Mayflower	" 28	45 92	Dead.
12	Morning Star	" 25	198 35	Green.
13	New Giant	" 14	65 49	50% Dead
14	Pearl of Savoy	" 29	50 75	Dead.
15	The Thorburn	" 15	57 06	"
16	Thorburn Late Rose	" 18	90 98	33% Dead
17	Sunlit Star	" 25	65 92	Dead.
18	Rose's Wild Rose	" 26	113 35	75% Dead
19	White Star	" 22	164 99	Green.

EXPERIMENT WITH PEAS.

Object—To determine comparative earliness of varieties.

Planted—February 18.

RESULTS.

Plat.	Varieties.	Ready for Table.	Days from Planting	Seedsmen.
1	Alaska	Failure		Thorb.
2	Abundance	May 16	89	"
3	American Wonder	May 12	85	"
4	American Wonder	May 12	85	Dreer.
5	Bishop's New Ea. Dwarf	May 9	82	Thorb.
6	Bliss Abundance	May 28	101	Dreer.
7	Champion of England	April 25	77	Thorb.
8	Carter's Strategy	April 25	77	"
9	Carter's Telephone	Failure		"
10	Culyerwell's Telephone	May 20	93	"
11	Champion of England	April 22	74	Dreer.
12	Day's Ea. Sunrise	Failure		Thorb.
13	Dwarf Improved	May 10	83	Dreer.
14	Dreer's Eureka Ex. Ea	Failure		"
15	Everbearing	May 10	83	Thorb.
16	Ex. Ea. Alpha	Failure		"
17	Ex. Ea. Premium Gem	April 26	78	Dreer.
18	First and Best	Failure		Thorb.
19	Kentish Invicta	Failure		Dreer.
20	Minimum	Failure		Thorb.
21	McLane's Little Gem	May 14	87	Dreer.
22	Pride of the Market	May 15	88	Thorb.
23	Prince of Wales	May 20	93	"
24	Philadelphia Ex. Ea	May 8	81	Dreer.
25	Rural New Yorker	Failure		Thorb.
26	" " "	May 25	98	Dreer.
27	Small's Ea. French	Failure		Thorb.
28	Thorb's Ex. Ea. Market	Failure		"
29	Telephone	May 12	85	Dreer.
30	Saxton's Ea. of All	May 24	97	Thorb.
31	Premium Gem	Failure		"
32	White Garden Merrowfat	April 20	72	"

EXPERIMENT WITH LETTUCE.

Object—To compare earliness of varieties.

Planted—February 20th.

RESULTS. Planted February 20.

Ppat.	Varieties.	Ready for the Table.
1	Bloomsdale Reliable	April 20.
2	Landreth's Forcing	April 25.
3	Select Dutch Butterhead	April 15.

EXPERIMENT WITH BEETS.

Object—To compare earliness and size of roots of different varieties.

Planted—February 18th.

RESULTS.

Plat.	Varieties.	Diameter in inches June 6.	Diameter in inches June 15.	Diameter in inches June 22.
1	Eclipse	2 inches.	3 inches.	3 inches.
2	Half Long Blood Red	3 inches.	3½ inches.	3⅔ inches.
3	Landreth's Very Early	2¾ inches.	3 inches.	3⅔ inches.
4	Long Giant	2¼ inches.	2½ inches	3⅓ inches.

EXPERIMENTS WITH BEANS.

Object—To compare earliness of varieties.

Planted—April 3d.

RESULTS.

Plat.	Varieties.	Ready for Table.	Days.
1	Dreer's Improved Valentine	May 15	42
2	German Black Wax	May 18	45
3	King of the Garden. (Lima.)	June 20	68
4	Landreth's Violet	June 1	59
5	Landreth's First in the Market	May 25	52

EXPERIMENT WITH CLOVER.

Object—To compare effects of manures, and to ascertain for how many years clover will re-seed itself upon canebrake lands.

Seed Sown—February 19th 1886.

RESULTS.

Plat.		Lbs. dry hay per Acre.
One.	Sown February 19, 1886. Fertilized with 50 lbs. Acid Phosphate.	
	Cut July 19, 1886	2860
	Cut June 16, 1887	2720
	Cut May 8, 1888.	2500
	Total three cuttings	8080
Two.	Sown February 19, 1886. Fertilized with 100 lbs. Cotton Seed Meal.	
	Cut July 19 1886	2880
	Cut June 16 1887	2700
	Cut May 8 1888	2440
	Total for three cuttings	8020

The foregoing statement shows the results of the first cutting in 1886, 1887 and 1888 on two plats, one manured with acid phosphate, and the other with cotton seed meal.

It will be seen from an examination of the statement that the cuttings have been earlier each successive year, while yield is somewhat smaller each year. The difference as to the effects of the manures is inappreciable, and no better, so far as appearance of the plants show, than that upon adjacent plat, without manure. Indeed, even the thinner portion of the soil of the experiment station, provided the land is drained, produces clover equal to the blue grass region of Kentucky, and the valley of Virginia.

Clover is a bi-ennial plant. The after-math has been allowed to go to seed each year for the purpose of naturally re-seeding the land.

The result has been that the stand on land sowed in 1886 is as good now as it was from the first seeding.