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Details of the Classical and Long-term Experiments Up to 1967

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THE SAXMUNDHAM EXPERIMENTS

Introduction. Long-term experiments began in 1899 on land a mile west of Saxmundham in East Suffolk. Until 1909 they were controlled by a sub-committee of the Education Committee of the East Suffolk County Council and supervised by Mr. Harry Fiske, a local farmer. Mr. A. W. Oldershaw directed the work for the County Council from 1911 to 1947, when the National Agricultural Advisory Service became responsible for the Station and Mr. P. J. O. Trist became Director. The foreman for the first 40 years was Mr. C. Cattermole, then Mr. H. Neal for nine years, and since 1948 Mr. V. Woolnough. The Station was acquired by the Agricultural Research Council in 1964 and placed in the care of Rothamsted.

There were originally 20 acres of land for the experiments. Only Harwood's Field of 7·7 acres remains; it contains the two rotation experiments that began in 1899. (The other land, Fiske's Field, was much used for grassland experiments reported by A. W. Oldershaw (1), and later for annual experiments with arable crops, until it was sold in 1951.)

ROTATION I

First period, 1899–1965

Rotation I was designed by Mr. A. Harwood, Chairman of the Educational Sub-Committee. It began in 1899 and is a four-course 'Norfolk' rotation of wheat, roots, barley and legumes. There are four ½-acre blocks, one for each crop. The root crop was usually mangolds and the legume beans, but turnips, swedes or sugar beet were sometimes grown in the root break and peas or clover as the legume. The sequence of types of crops has not deviated, and each of the four types has appeared in successive blocks in turn. Each block is divided into 10 plots for manurial treatments which consist of a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ factorial testing N, P and K plus two additional treatments, farmyard manure and bone meal.

The treatments were arranged in the same order in each block:

Treatment number	
(East)	
1	FYM
2	B
3	N
4	P
5	K
6	None
7	PK
8	NK
9	NP
10	NPK
(West)	

FYM	farmyard manure at 6 tons
B	bone meal at 4 cwt
N	nitrate of soda at 2 cwt supplying 0·3 cwt N

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