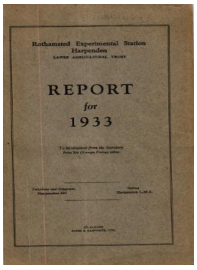
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

Thank you for using eradoc, a platform to publish electronic copies of the Rothamsted Documents. Your requested document has been scanned from original documents. If you find this document is not readible, or you suspect there are some problems, please let us know and we will correct that.

Report for 1933

Full Table of Content



Woburn Farm Report for 1933

Dr H. H. Mann and J. R. Moffatt

Dr H. H. Mann and J. R. Moffatt (1934) *Woburn Farm Report for 1933 ;* Report For 1933, pp 91 - 91
- DOI: https://doi.org/10.23637/ERADOC-1-3

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

WOBURN FARM

REPORT FOR 1933 BY DR. H. H. MANN AND J. R. MOFFATT

The weather during the year 1932-33 was much more favourable for crops generally on the light sandy soil at Woburn than would have been expected. Though short in amount, the rain came at very opportune times up to the end of July, and, as a result, there was a very satisfactory crop of hay, particularly in the pastures laid down in 1930 and 1931, while the grain crops (wheat and barley) were quite good. The fact that from 25 to 28 bushels of good wheat per acre were grown without special manuring in the rotation in Stackyard Field (an area which is not usually considered as very suitable for wheat) shows how well the corn crops behaved.

After the corn harvest, however, the drought became more severe, and this showed itself in the condition of both swedes and sugar beet. The former, at one time, almost entirely lost their leaves as a result of the drought, and, though they recovered later yet the final yield was affected. All the same it reached 9 tons per acre in the four course rotation in Stackyard Field, where it is grown without any special manuring, except a small dressing of superphosphate. A peculiar rot developed in these swedes, however, in January, and during the feeding of the crop to sheep on the land a considerable proportion of the roots became useless. The cause of this rot has not been clearly made out, but it seems clear that it was in some way the result of the drought conditions in the earlier part of the season.

Sugar beet showed a very much reduced top growth during August and succeeding months, and a very small crop was expected. But the actual weight of roots obtained was unexpectedly large, while the sugar percentage was about normal.

Potatoes and kale proved excellent crops, in spite of the drought.

Livestock

In the autumn of 1932, 108 ewes were put to the ram. The 88 that lambed produced 155 lambs, of which 5 were triplets and 58 doubles. The ewes were in splendid condition and did their lambs well—helped, of course, by the very good crop of grass which was available ; 44 ewes and their lambs (88) were put in the old pasture of Broad Mead in May, and were there all the summer till the end of September. They throve very well under these conditions.

The pigs have done well. Starting the season with 336 pigs, 430 were sold during the year, while 316 remained at the end of the period under report. There remains a stock of about 30 breeding sows at the end of the year.

The farm did well at the Bedfordshire County Show in July, 1933, when second and third prizes were secured for pigs, while a first prize was obtained for lambs.