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The Uses of the Agricultural Experiment Station

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Besides the work of agricultural experiment which is set forth in its Reports and Bulletins the Station does much work for individual farmers which is of general interest and value. What this work is and the conditions under which it may be done is briefly noted in the following paragraphs:

I

For all applicants the Station entomologist and botanist name insects, fungi, weeds, poisonous plants and grasses and give the chief facts regarding them which are of value to the farmer. The botanical department also tests seeds with reference to their purity and vitality.

Insects. It is unlawful to send such *live* insects as are dangerous pests. They are readily killed by dropping into benzine, gasoline, or alcohol. Live insects may be enclosed in boxes (ventilation is not necessary).

The entomologist is charged by law with the inspection of apiaries and of commercial nurseries and with the work for the suppression of insect pests which threaten the whole state, such as the gypsy and brown tail moths.

Fungi. Specimens of affected twigs, leaves, or fruit may be sent by mail.

Weeds and Grasses. Send if possible root, stem, leaves and flower, or fruit.

Seeds. Send to the Station for directions for sampling and blank for description.

Both the botanist and entomologist make inspections of private orchards and gardens when troubles of special general importance or of scientific interest appear, in order to determine the nature of the attack or the best methods of prevention or cure.

When the visit is at the request of an individual and is chiefly for his personal benefit, the necessary traveling expenses should be paid by the individual.

II

The Station chemists test gratuitously the purity and quality of fertilizers, feeds, and, under some circumstances, foods and drugs, for citizens of this State, provided that the name or brand and source of the article are stated, that proof is given that the sample has been fairly taken, that the examination is of general interest and value to the public and that the Station may publish all the facts regarding it. If so requested, it will not publish special prices, etc., but must publish every analysis which is made, with such explanation as is necessary. It is clear that no work can be done by the Station at the State's expense which has not some value to the public.

Fertilizers, feeds, etc. Send for instructions for sampling and forms for description which should be fully filled out. Where possible it is advisable to have the sample drawn by the Station sampling agent.

Milk, Foods and Drugs. A moderate number of such articles may be tested where the need of such examination in the public interest is apparent. They must be sent with such explanation as will show that the analysis will be of more than private interest. They must be securely packed and, if perishable, (milk) must not reach the Station on Saturday or Sunday.

Things which the Station cannot, as a rule, examine.

Water. Apply for information to the State Board of Health Laboratory, Middletown, Conn.

Carcasses of Animals supposed to have been poisoned. Suspicion that death was caused by poison or that some particular person administered poison does not usually justify the long, expensive and malodorous examination. Only in very special cases is an examination justified and carcasses should not be sent without previously ascertaining whether the Station will undertake the work and giving full particulars about the case.

Examination for poison in human beings cannot be undertaken under any circumstances.

Examination of foods for ptomaine poisons requires specialists skilled in the tests for these obscure and ill-defined bodies. It is not work for an agricultural station.

Analysis of Medicinal Mixtures. The detection and determination of vegetable drugs and their active principles in mixtures cannot be undertaken for the public.

Soils. Chemical analyses of the soils of this state as a rule are of no value to guide the farmer in the choice of crop or of fertilizers, as is fully explained in a circular on the subject which is sent to applicants. Tests of soil acidity will be made on request.

III

The Station forester will give information and advice regarding the management of woodland, forest planting and improvement cutting and, if wished, will make examination and report on woodland tracts of considerable area, charging only his traveling and maintenance expenses while doing the work.

IV

The plant-breeder will give information on all matters regarding the methods of improvement of crops, by proper selection and care of seed, by hybridizing and developing pure strains and improved varieties.

V

A department for the study of the problems of vegetable growing is being developed and invites the coöperation of all vegetable growers in advancing this branch of farming.

VI

Members of the Station staff also make frequent addresses at meetings of Granges and Farm Institutes on matters of general farm interest or on special subjects on which they are at the time engaged.

Traveling expenses involved in this work should generally be met by the organization which arranges for the meeting.

VII

A summer field-meeting is annually held at the Station's experiment field at Mt. Carmel in the third week in August.

VIII

Questions regarding poultry, dairy husbandry, animal production and bacteriology should be referred to the Storrs Station.

IX

The above suggests the special departments in which work of immediate practical importance is done at this Station. But the members of its staff are prepared to answer inquiries on a large variety of matters connected with the handling of land, special crops, care of orchards, the use of fertilizers, cover and green manure crops, etc. Farmers are making large daily use of this means of information by letters and further use of this personal method is invited. Often such personal correspondence is more immediately helpful and covers a very much larger field of knowledge than do printed bulletins and reports.

Every farmer in the state has the privilege and the right to apply to the Station for any information he needs and the Station will give every such request its best attention. It will also issue from time to time bulletins which will not deal exclusively with its own work, but will combine with it other information which it may have at command and which its correspondence shows is of general interest and value.

All persons interested are invited to visit the Station at any time and become acquainted with its staff and its work.