

Kentucky's 4-H Hall of Fame



These Kentucky 4-H'ers are defending championships which they won in 1935. The titlats are, reading from the top down: James Charlotte Sanders, Lancaster, beef cattle; A. Percy Adair, Paris, swine; Noma Arnold, Louisville, room improvement; Louis Hartung, Camp Taylor, poultry; Minnie Ruth Pyle, Hopkinsville, canning; Mickey Malone, South Gate, foods; Greta Moss, Erlanger, clothing.

FARMER BRINKLEY REAPS PROFITS from CROPS of NEW IDEAS

Erosion Control, Crop Rotation and Livestock Production Part of His System

IN these days, with talk of soil erosion control and soil conservation in the air, it might be interesting to consider a Cheatham county farmer who has practiced the most approved methods of soil erosion control for better than a decade.

Middle Tennessee farmers generally know the name of S. F. Brinkley, the Cheatham county resident mentioned above. He has a small farm. Much of its acreage has a grade of nearly 45 degrees.

Some twenty-five years ago, when Mr. Brinkley first took over the farm, located several miles from Ashland City, the county seat, the place looked hopeless for using more than some 20 or 25 acres for growing any sort of crop. There was sassafras, there were sawbriars, there were gullies. It was "thin" land generally.

Had Own Ideas

Mr. Brinkley had his own ideas of keeping any more of his soil from washing away. He began plowing side furrows. He filled in gullies. He got out the sawbriars and sassafras.

And then, about twelve years after Mr. Brinkley had his farm going, with some livestock and a tobacco crop, along came P. W. Worden, county agent, who viewed Mr. Brinkley's tilted acres and expressed a yearning to do things about it. Mr. Brinkley was responsive. So he and the county agent went into a huddle.

Neighbors began to talk about the unusual doings at the Brinkley place. The first procedure was the now well known one of grade terracing.

Runs Beef Cattle

This was kept up, until every one of the tilted acres was covered by the serpentine, flat ditches.

Today, Mr. Brinkley grows lespedeza and other feed crops on his terraced land. He runs beef cattle at present, dropping the idea of having both sheep and cattle at the same time. He believes his profit is greater by having either sheep, or cattle on the small pasture acreage his farm affords.

In addition, Mr. Brinkley keeps a stable number of hog litters. It is his practice to keep his number of hogs about the same, not selling out entirely when prices are high, or dropping out of the hog producing business when prices lag. Thus he has been able to furnish hogs at any season when prices started mounting sharply.

Usually twelve acres of dark-fired tobacco are produced by Mr. Brinkley. This crop also is raised on the terraced

hillsides of the farm.

Thermometer Pioneer

According to Roy H. Milton, U. T. extension service specialist, Mr. Brinkley was the first man to use a thermometer in his tobacco barn, and also a hygrometer. Use of both was due to the fact Mr. Brinkley sought other means than employing a watchman at his barn to check moisture and heat. Together with



This terracing demonstration brought out a big delegation of Rutherford county, Tennessee, farmers. County agents, U. T. extension service specialists and Farm Bureau members attended, preceding the formation of a county soil erosion control association. Mr. Brinkley was one of the first men in the state to show interest in this now popular movement.

the use of the regulating instruments, Mr. Brinkley altered his barn roof and put in round ventilator. The "soft cure" method largely came from experiments on the Brinkley farm.

Mr. Brinkley has two tobacco barns. Both are located at the foot of a hill near running water. He has built a stripping room into the bank of the hill, installed a laundry stove heater in it and has a steam hose to the barns so he can moisten tobacco when there is a lack of moisture.

During his tenancy, Mr. Brinkley has by virtue of good rotation practices, held to the soil and also has built it up.

Mr. Brinkley's theory of farming, agriculture specialists who have visited his place say, is that of the successful, all around farmer anywhere. He sells his surplus.

He keeps poultry, usually Orpingtons. He sells his products as much throughout the year as is practicable.

County Agent Worden now is with the U. T. Extension Service in East Tennessee, directing terracing in the TVA area. His

work on the Brinkley and other Cheatham County farms brought him into wide notice.

And Farmer Brinkley continues to keep his eyes open for more new ideas.

Dark-Fired Growers Warned

MILDER tobaccos are being substituted to some extent in various dark-fired type producing counties of Tennessee, Roy H. Milton, U. T. Extension Service specialist, reports, in giving an outlook for the 1936 crop.

"The dark fired crop is selling today somewhat lower than it did a year ago," Mr. Milton said. "The price is none too encouraging. At the same time, the value of choice cigar leaf has depreciated considerably in recent years. Some of the purchasers of cigar leaf have gone off the market." In addition, Mr. Milton pointed out, tariffs and duties are high on leaf tobacco, as well as the rate of exchange.

For 1936, Mr. Milton advised holding down acreage to "from five to ten per cent of the cleared area of the farm and strive to grow a choice leaf. Heavy bodied leaf," he added, "seems to be in keener demand."

Dark fired growers must "turn part of their attention to other enterprises," Mr. Milton said. "The dark fired industry is a declining one and the earlier the mass of growers realize this, the better it will be for the welfare of the district."

Mr. Milton urged selection of good soil for growing tobacco. "Too much

dark tobacco is set on twenty bushel corn acres," he said. "Land of that character produces tobacco that sells at starvation prices. Set the 1936 crop on a two or three year lespedeza sod. If not that, a red clover, or a grass-lespedeza sod. Early, stocky plants are the first essential."

Acid phosphate and manure, Mr. Milton declared, constitute the lowest cost fertilizer. He advised drilling it in the rows, or scattering it in the hills. A good home mixed fertilizer is made up of 50 lbs. ammonium sulphate to 200 lbs. of cotton seed meal; 200 lbs. acid phosphate or bone meal; and 50 lbs. sulphate of phosphate to the acre.



It takes good fertilizer to make a good crop of burley tobacco, as shown by this test on the farm of John Stephens, Stanton, Ky.