

eliminated from the study because of unusually severe boll weevil infestation, incompleteness of the data or some irregular practices that divided the cotton field into too many sections. There were 131 farms included in the study. Table 15 shows the yields of cotton on these small farms under different practices of crop rotation and fertilization. The yield figures are for the 1940 crop.

TABLE 15.—AVERAGE YIELDS OF COTTON ON 131 SMALL FARMS UNDER DIFFERENT PRACTICES OF CROP ROTATION AND FERTILIZATION,\* JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA, 1940.

Cropping System for the 1940 Cotton Field, Four Years (1937-40)	Initial Fertilizer with Side Dressing Added		Initial Fertilizer Only, No Side Dressing Used	
	More Than 400 Pounds	400 Pounds or Less	More Than 400 Pounds	400 Pounds or Less
Pounds of lint cotton per acre				
Cotton every year .....	382	330	232†	228†
Crops rotated, no peanuts were dug during period	290	252	300	229
Crops rotated, peanuts dug either one or two years during the period	265	239	206	189

\* Over 90 percent of the initial fertilizer used was a 3-8-5 mixture and the side dressing consisted of either nitrate of soda or a mixture of nitrate of soda and potash. The most common practice was to use about 300 pounds of 3-8-5 initial fertilizer and side dress with 100 pounds of nitrate of soda to the acre.

† Less than 4 farms in group.

The highest yields of cotton were obtained from fields where cotton was planted each year and on which more than 400 pounds of fertilizer per acre was used. It is a fairly common practice on small farms in this area to plant cotton on the same field year after year. This will probably not hold true on larger farms. The highest yield was obtained under this practice on small farms for a number of reasons. Some of these reasons are that the fields selected for cotton were frequently of the best soil on the farms or were the nearest fields to the dwellings and thus received greater care by family labor.

The cotton field was adjacent to the dwelling on 50 of the 131 farms studied. Yield on these 50 farms averaged 283 pounds of lint per acre while that on the remaining farms averaged but 233 pounds.

The soils of each field were carefully examined and classified as excellent, good, or fair.<sup>6</sup> Very few farms in this area had

<sup>6</sup> Soils were examined and classified by Mr. Hugh Dukes of the Soil Conservation Service.