

Industry Gives Us A Yardstick

How about the cost of agricultural research?

Are we spending too little, enough, or too much in our efforts to improve the practices by which food and fiber are produced? Public expenditures always are of interest, and it is healthy to examine them.

A comparison is suggested by a roll of Scotch tape. Years ago, up in Minnesota, a company was begun carrying the name of Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Company. It was a small company, and the early years were not easy. Today, however, it is one of America's top industrial companies, and for the past few years financial journals have referred to "3M" as a "blue chip growth stock, with excellent growth possibilities and dynamic management." In fact, if you'd invested a few thousands of dollars in "3M" several years ago, you would be immensely wealthy today. (Each pre-1920 share of "3M" stock, before World War I worth less than a dollar, has been split into 64 shares, worth about \$120 apiece today.)

What has this to do with Arizona agriculture and the cost of agricultural research? Recently the Saturday Evening Post discussed Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing. The company's gross sales last year were approximately \$400,000,000—almost exactly the same as the dollar value of Arizona's agricultural production last year.

In the Saturday Evening Post article, officials of "3M" are quoted as saying the company spends up to 5 per cent of its gross income on research—which would have been twenty millions dollars for research last year.

For its \$400,000,000 agricultural production, Arizona spent in state funds

\$1,378,981 for research in fiscal year 1958-59. Federal funds available to the Agricultural Experiment Station amounted to \$363,882, for a grand total of \$1,742,863 for agricultural research.



OCTOBER

- 1- 2—Arizona Turf Conference, Student Union Bldg.
- 2- 4—Greenlee County Fair.
- 9—Dairy Field Day. U of A Dairy Science Research Center.
- 9-11—Graham County Fair.
- 12—Aggie Seminar Meeting. UA Cotton Research Center.
- 14—Field Day. Cotton Research Center, Phoenix.
- 16—Cotton Commodity Day. Yuma Valley Station.
- 23—Fall Field Crops Day. Mesa.
- 29—Citrus Field Day. U of A Salt River Valley Citrus Farm, Phoenix.
- 29-30—Annual Meeting of Western Vegetable Growers Assn., Los Angeles.

NOVEMBER

- 6—Citrus Commodity Day. Yuma Branch Experiment Station.
- 19—General Field Day, Livestock & Crops. Yuma.

DECEMBER

- 7- 9—Garden - Nursery Short Course (including Landscape School). U of A Campus.
- 10—Arizona Insect Control Conference (with industry). U of A Campus.
- 14—Aggie Seminar Meeting. Cotton Research Farm, Phoenix.

JANUARY

- 14-15—National Cotton Council, Belt-wide Production & Mechanization Conference. Memphis, Tennessee.
- 17-22—Annual Conference, Agricultural Extension Service. U of A Campus.
- 22-23—Pest Control Conference, U of A Campus.

FEBRUARY

- 5- 6—Dedication of New Home Economics Building, U of A Campus.
- 23-24—Annual Conference, Arizona Research Entomologists. U. of A Campus.
- 26—7th Annual Conference of Arizona Airplane Applicators. Cotton Research Center, Phoenix.

This ~~1.74 million dollar figure~~ for agricultural research in Arizona compares with 20 million dollars for Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing, a business of comparable size. Its brilliant progress, based on solid research and sound management, has made dynamic history in American finance and industry.

The ratio in research expenditure, "3M" and Arizona agriculture, is about 12 to 1. Do we spend too much on agricultural research in Arizona?

What has Arizona's meager agricultural research (compared with industrial research) meant to Arizona's agriculture and to the general economy of Arizona? In 1958, the gross value of the Arizona cotton crop was estimated to be \$150,000,000. If Arizona's cotton farmers had used the production know-how of the 1920's for the 1958 crop, the gross value would have been about \$50,000,000 instead of \$150,000,000. This assumes that both acreage and price would have been the same as actually existed in 1958.

All other crops and livestock have responded in varying degrees to the magic of agricultural research. The public money spent for agricultural research produced a tremendous return on the investment in 1958. The return will be repeated in 1959 and in all subsequent years.

Is agricultural research an expense or an investment?

Harold E. Myers

Dean

College of Agriculture and School of Home Economics

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Editors: John Burnham and Joe McClelland.

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