



LANDBOUW-ECONOMISCH INSTITUUT

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STUDIES ON FARM ECONOMICS BY THE A.E.R.I.

Although "calculations of unit-costs" and "farm management surveys" hold a prominent place, much attention is also paid to other kinds of research.

The problems investigated by the department of farm management research can be summarized in three questions:

1. which crop should be produced, what quantities, and when?
2. which resources should be used and how much of each?
3. how to purchase the factors of production in the cheapest way and how to market the finished product in the most advantageous way?

Regularly reports are published regarding the farming results, in which the development in costs and returns are minutely reviewed over several years. These reports, so-called "Farm Economical Communications" (B.E.M.) are given separately for the different farm types. The data for these reports are derived from the farm accounts. As strict secrecy is guaranteed to the participants only average figures are published, although in some of these publications the variation in the results of the individual farms has been given.

Further it is worth mentioning, that bookkeepings are kept for a number of pilot farms and for experimental farms experiments in the field of mechanization, nitrogen fertilizer, manuring with organic matter. Of these farms special studies are made.

Also mathematical methods are applied in the analysis of the results of groups of farms. This so-called "factor analysis" is still in an experimental stage. The purpose is to find out what simultaneous coherences exist between the different elements of the farm.

Finally a number of other investigations are carried on at the moment. About these, however, nothing has yet been published. The following studies can be mentioned:

1. The effect of the intensification of dairy farms by application of more nitrogen fertilizer on grassland on net returns. The effect of increased grassland production turned out to be frequently levelled out by faults in feeding technique.

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2. Investigation into the best tractive equipment for arable farms. The purpose is to give a general idea of this problem, and to give an outline about the way it has to be calculated for the individual farm. The idea is to set up calculations for the same standard-farm at different provisions of tractive power.
3. Studies about the costs of different tractors in the years gone by.
4. A trial with a new system of recording labour consumption in such a way that this system does not only provide norms for the calculation of unit-costs, but also enable the participating farmer to judge directly the efficiency of the work done.
5. Influence of farm size on the results and structure of the farms.
6. Influence of the quality of the soil on the results and the structure of the farms.
7. Inquiry into the owner's charges.
8. Profitability of sprinkling irrigation systems.

Also economic problems in special cases, such as re-allocation, reconditioning, enclosure, diseases in crops etc., in which cases the most advantageous way has to be searched. Therefore, members of the A.E.R.I. often sit in special formed temporary committees, which especially have been established for the study of these problems.

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