

thirteen and fourteen feet in height and the ears were large and firm. Soy beans, too, grew in rank luxuriance with well-filled pods. The enormous growth of all foliage plants on this soil is amazing. Abundantly supplied with Nitrogen, the soil produces an extremely heavy growth of stem and leaf.

INITIAL WORK OF RECLAMATION

The initial work of reclamation consisted of dredging the main canals. These were dug at intervals of a mile on the earliest work, but on the large Norfolk Southern Farms tract they are being dredged at distances of a half mile.

These canals are dug with the proceeds of drainage bonds which were issued and mainly sold in neighboring cities. The drainage, where main canals were one mile apart cost approximately \$10 00 per acre; with this ditch at one-half mile intervals, the cost is \$18 00 per acre. To these main canals are dug lateral ditches, ten to the mile, with the main ditches one mile apart, and six to eight where one-half-mile apart. The hand-ditching

for the laterals cost 60¢ per 100 cubic feet. These ditches vary from 3 x 3, to 3 x 3½ and 3 x 4. Approximately ditching with laterals eight to the mile costs \$4 00 per acre.

Soon after draining, the timber and brush is cut and allowed to fall in place. Shrubbing, or the cutting of the underbrush precedes the felling of the timber. The following specifications are now enforced on the Norfolk Southern Farms tract:

"1. All ground should be thoroughly shrubbed in advance of timber cutting, as directed by the Superintendent;

2. All trees, when cut, shall be completely separated from the stump;

3. All trees shall be cut to fall in the direction designated by the Superintendent;

4. The limbs of all trees not lying close to the ground shall be cut;

5. Payment to be made for cutting timber on a per-acre basis.

----Failure to observe the above instructions will result in the refusal to accept and pay for the work until the specifications have been fully complied with."

The cost for thus clearing the land varies between \$7 00 and \$9 00 per acre.

In the spring when the trees and brush have dried sufficiently, the entire mass is set afire. The dense growth, together with its compact felling, produces an intensely hot fire which consumes all brush and many timbers and chars the stumps. About two inches of the soil (so largely composed of organic matter) is also burned.

The timber on this land being largely hard wood, when burned, furnishes a valuable fertilizer in the resulting ashes. Hardwood ashes, unleached, contain approximately 50% of limestone and 5% Potassium.

SUBSEQUENT WORK

After this burning there are a large number of stumps and fallen timbers still upon the land, and corn is planted by "sticking". Negroes with sticks punch holes among the debris, and thus plant the crop. For "sticking" corn the following wages are paid:

Boy	\$	75	per day
Woman	1	00	"
Man	1	50	"