

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	"

From one-half to one acre per man per day is thus planted by the "corn stickers."

Average yields of 30 bushels per acre are obtained. The "stuck corn" on Broad Acre Ranch this year will average between 40 and 50 bushels per acre.

In the spring of the second year, the corn stalks are burned and more of the stumps and timber are consumed. Again in the spring of the third year the stalks are fired for the last time.

FOURTH YEAR

After the third burning the land is practically cleared. Occasionally stumps remain but with the exception of the cypress stumps, which are by no means abundant, they are easily pulled out. By the constant settling of the soil and the three burnings, the earth about the stump has subsided some three or four inches. After these stumps have been pulled, piled, and burned the fields are ready for cultivation and planting by machinery.