

FARMING TAKES ITS COAT OFF

Fenland is still under water. Scores of square miles of prime agricultural land is out of action, for though the rivers are no longer flooding it may take till the end of May to pump the water out of this low-lying country. Farmers hereabouts are the worst hit of all in what is officially declared to be the greatest agricultural catastrophe ever known in Britain. The damage to the farming community as a whole is already computed at twenty millions, a figure which many experts fear may turn out to be an underestimate.

Bugabaw
~~... Hangers at a disused airport were taken over by one farmer who~~

W managed to rescue his cattle before his farm became completely submerged, but still putting a brave face on misfortune Mrs. Betty Bedford refused to give way to pessimism. the typical farming attitude in face of calamity.

~~to~~
Upon Welsh-mountain sheep-farmers has fallen disaster of another kind. They are among the greatest sufferers in the nationwide loss of sheep. At ^{just one} farm in Brecon, ~~the~~

the value of sheep lost was eight hundred pounds. Some of the animals were a pathetic sight, still just alive when the snow melted. They were given ^a stimulant, but were ~~too~~ far gone to benefit.

(after CU sheep) No such farmers can sustain loss on

this scale without help from the national fund. To contribute is the obligation of us all. Not only are one-and-a-half-million sheep dead; that is serious enough; but the frost came in the lambing season and many ewes were killed ~~by the frost~~. Their surviving lambs are being bottle fed.

At a large three-thousand-acre farm in Oxfordshire, where the seeds of winter-sown wheat were washed away ~~by the floods~~ in the rivulets of the receding flood ^{to} ~~was~~ _f vivid evidence of the damage to arable land. ~~On this farm, by great good fortune,~~ One large field of winter-wheat survived, but a large crop of clover-seed was destroyed - a loss of £10,000. Of the crop of brussels sprouts only one-tenth remained, and of root-crops, swedes, like all the rest, were killed by the frost. ~~Farmers~~, Self-reliant as ever in face of misfortune, ^{farmers} plough the stuff in. Racing against time, they may yet succeed in ~~raising~~ ^{growing} wheat on such land for the next harvest. And it is a race against time. Using six tractors at ~~a time~~ ^{once} they got the land under the plough and prayed for a few days of drying wind to make it fit for the sewing. The whole ^{country} ~~district~~ is concerned in this operation. Food is short. We must raise every ounce we can.

of one farm - now drying out -
the cattle a remnant of the flood
taken to the hangars of a disused
airfield. The still putting a brave
face on misfortune - the typical
- try attitude in face of calamity
- the farmer's wife refused to
give way to pessimism.

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