

In 1847 an act was passed making provision for a State Laboratory, in which the application of chemistry to agriculture was to be undertaken. In 1858 experimentation was undertaken on the College farm. After two or three years this work was interrupted by the general financial distress of the time and by the Civil War. In 1888, under the provisions of the Hatch Act of the preceding year, the Agricultural Experiment Station was established.

This act states the object and purpose of the experiment station as follows:

"That it shall be the object and duty of said Experiment Stations to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants and animals; the diseases to which they are severally subject, with the remedies for the same; the chemical composition of useful plants at their different stages of growth; the comparative advantages of rotative cropping as pursued under a varying series of crops; the capacity of new plants or trees for acclimation; the analysis of soils and water; the chemical composition of manures, natural or artificial, with experiments designed to test their comparative effects on crops of different kinds; the adaptation and value of grasses and forage plants; the composition and digestibility of the different kinds of food for domestic animals; the scientific and economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese; and such other researches or experiments bearing directly on the agricultural industry of the United States as may in each case be deemed advisable having due regard to the varying conditions and needs of the respective States or Territories."

The placing of agricultural demonstrations and extension work on a national basis has been the direct outgrowth of the work of the experiment station.

The students of the University, taking courses in the College of Agriculture, are kept in close touch with the investigations in progress.

The Eastern Branch.

The Eastern Branch of the University of Maryland is located at Princess Anne, Somerset county. It is maintained for the education of negroes in agriculture and mechanic arts.

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