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FIELD SELECTION OF SEED CORN.

Seed Corn Week Suggestions for Field Use.

The increased yield of shelled corn per acre is the purpose of field selection.

Strong germination is one of the essentials that can be taken care of later by a germination test.

Knowledge of ancestry is almost as desirable for seed corn as for dairy animals.

Field selection gives some knowledge of ancestry.

Seed should not be selected from a talk near barren stalks. There would be a strong chance that the barren stalk was one of its parents and that it would tend to produce other barren stalks.

Moderately good ears from a thick stand are better seed than very fine looking ears from a thin stand where they have had an extra supply of sunshine, moisture, and plant foods.

Seed corn from highly manured soil has been found a little lower in yield than seed from soil which had not been fertilized for 16 years. Seed selected from land planted five stalks per hill produced more corn than seed selected from land planted either one or three stalks per hill. It wasn't such fine looking seed, but it produced the yields.

Moderately long ears produced higher yields than short ears twenty-one times out of twenty-two in five years' tests.

The lower yielding short ears invariably exceeded the longer ones in circumference. Greater circumference, then, does not mean greater yielding power.

The heavier ears usually give higher yields. This weight should accompany reasonable length, circumference and shelling percentage. Immaturity must throw it out, however.

Creased-dented ears produced a little more than rough dented ears. Ears selected from the plant averaged over three bushels per acre more than wagon shelled seed from the same field. The wagon shelled ears were shorter in size and general appearance, but the mother plant and its surroundings were not definitely known.

More information may be obtained from Bulletin No. 212 of the Ohio Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio.

Although this corn was grown in Ohio, the results are worth our consideration. Differences in season should be kept in mind.—J. O. Rankin, Editor Minnesota College of Agriculture.

SAVE MONEY BY SAVING SEED CORN.

Some Financial Phases of Seed Corn Week.

Farmers who did not have seed corn last spring paid from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per bushel for it. They could have saved it from their crop of the fall before at a cost of 40 cents per bushel, figuring that a man could select only 5 bushels a day. Storing and curing in an attic or unused bedroom would cost only a few cents, and testing is good pasture for the winter and spring days.

All told, it should not cost the farmer over \$1.00 a bushel to grow, save, cure and test his own seed corn, from a good field of corn. Thus from \$1.00 to \$4.00 per bushel might have been saved by the men who had to buy seed corn last spring.

But the most important consideration is not the cost of saving the seed. When a good crop of corn has been grown on a farm there is no better source from which to select seed corn or that farm than from that crop. The corn is adapted to the soil and climate and is most likely to succeed again. If it is kept pure and attention is given to selecting the best type of ears for seed, constant improvement can be made and the crop made much more certain.

If while saving seed corn for himself, the farmer can save two to five bushels per acre to sell at \$2.00 or more a bushel to those who are not so forehanded, he has put a nice premium on his corn crop. A 40-bushel field at 41 cents, the average price for corn during the past ten years, could be worth \$16.40 an acre for seed. If 3 bushels were sold as seed at \$2.50 a bushel and the balance used for feed, it would bring \$22.67 an acre or \$6.27 more. Twenty acres of corn so handled would yield profit enough to pay the expense of one of the boys at the Agricultural School for the winter. Or, divided among the boys, it might help solve the problem of how to interest them in the farm.—Andrew Boss, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

A WORD TO THE WISE.

The Seed Corn Situation Reviewed By the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Few states are taking more active steps to remedy the seed corn situation than is Minnesota. She was not alone in her predicament last spring, however. New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and North Dakota had also produced more than their average farm crop, but they had little corn fit to plant. C. P. Hartley, in charge of corn investigations for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, says that the little reliable seed that these states did have "was gathered and dried in September," and was in almost perfect condition in the spring. Practically the same thing is said of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri where dry weather in summer, followed by fall rains and November freezes rendered all corn not gathered and dried early exceedingly unreliable for seed.

Mr. Hartley further indicates "that good preservation sometimes increases productiveness by 18 bushels per acre." In speaking of Nebraska last spring it was said "With the facts before us it becomes quite a problem to know just where the seed will come from for planting the Nebraska corn fields. For the entire state a decreased yield of 5 bushels per acre, due to a poor stand, would result in a total decreased harvest of 32,500,000 bushels of corn. At 50 cents a bushel this amounts to a loss of \$16,250,000."

A word to the wise,—but a wise farmer does not need this word. He is preparing to observe Seed Corn Week.—J. O. Rankin, Editor, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

THE MINNESOTA FLY TRAP.

Improved Trap Catches Enormous Numbers of Typhoid Flies.

If you wish to rid your premises of flies, order Circular No. 24 from the office of the State Entomologist, University Farm, St. Paul. This circular gives directions by means of which any one accustomed to handling tools can soon make an improved trap from less than half a dollar's worth of material. The trap described is an "improved modification of the old-fashioned traditional fly catcher of the cheap boarding house and the country grocery."

While the size might be varied to suit special cases, the dimensions recommended are 24 inches long, 8 inches wide and 12 inches high. The trap consists of (1) a baseboard upon which rest two pans to hold fresh bread and milk used as bait; (2) a roof shaped partition through which the flies pass by means of a narrow slit at the upper edge or peak of the roof into (3) a large receptacle which holds the flies until they are killed with boiling water or by such other means as the user may devise.

While in use about the College of Agriculture such traps caught 1,700 flies in a day near the dairy barn, 6,000 flies in three days at the rear of a dining hall, and 18,800 in a day and a half when set on the back porch of a dwelling house not far from a stable containing a few horses.

If your neighbors maintain conditions which give you a good supply of flies this trap will help you. In ordering the circular which gives you directions for making it, however, it might be well to ask the Entomologist for directions as to how you may clean up your premises and avoid the fly pest by preventive methods. The use of these hints will lessen a nuisance and may prevent the appearance of typhoid fever or some other disease in your household.—F. L. Washburn, Entomologist, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION, SEED CORN WEEK.

State of Minnesota, Executive Department.

The year of 1912 is proving a prosperous one to the farming and business interests of Minnesota. An abundant crop has resulted from the combination of enterprise and favorable conditions. In the spring of 1912 there was grave danger of a seed corn shortage. Careful testing and grading of seed corn enabled the state to plant a reasonable acreage which is giving fair promise of a successful crop.

It behooves us, however, to profit by the situation in which we found ourselves last spring, and use every reasonable effort to avoid its repetition. All who observed Seed Corn Week last season, and selected seed corn early and stored it carefully, had seed of strong germinating quality; while those who did not heed these suggestions were obliged to pay very

high prices for seed corn of inferior quality. Thus many have been handicapped throughout the season by having a poor stand of corn, and others by having corn that is not adapted to their conditions. Early selection from the field from varieties that have proved successful in the community is the only safe source of seed corn.

The corn crop is now worth about \$30,000,000 annually to Minnesota. It is rapidly increasing in importance, and is too important a factor in our agricultural development to be neglected. The corn crop is important not only as a crop which produces a product of immense value, but the fact that corn is grown successfully in Minnesota, even often leading the so-called corn states in yield per acre, is of immense importance to the state as an advertisement of its agricultural possibilities.

It is extremely important that Minnesota retain the enviable position she has gained during the last decade as a corn state. This is important to every citizen in the state, and I heartily join the College of Agriculture in its campaign for careful seed selection, because only by the careful selection of seed corn adapted to the local conditions of our soil and climate in our various counties can we hope to continue successful in corn growing.

Therefore, I hereby appoint the week of September 16th to 21st, 1912, to be set aside as Seed Corn Week for Minnesota, and I recommend that each farmer in the state appoint a day, or days, during this week to go through his corn fields and select from the crop he has grown seed for his needs during the following year.

Instruction as to methods of seed corn selection will be found in current farm journals and in circulars, sent free on application to the Minnesota College of Agriculture, University Farm, St. Paul.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the state, this ... day of August, 1912.

A. O. EBERHART,
Governor.Attest:
JULIUS SCHMAHL,
Secretary of State.

TIME TO DO THINGS.

Seed Corn Week is the Time to Gather Seed Corn.

Like everything else, there is a time during which it is better to select seed corn than at any other time.

One of the most important factors in successful corn culture in Minnesota is the securing of seed corn adapted to our conditions. Absolutely the best seed corn that can be secured is from corn that has been grown on the farm and has yielded successful crops. If seed corn is selected early from such a corn field, one is almost certain to have seed corn adapted to his conditions and corn that will grow if properly stored. If the selection is deferred for several weeks, or until all of the corn is ripe, one is likely to select ears that did not mature at the proper time. Consequently when planted it is liable not to mature ahead of frost next year. If corn is selected each year at about the time when the first killing frost may be expected a variety that will mature at or before this date will be secured.

This is one of the reasons why the Minnesota Agricultural College is urging the setting aside of the week of September 16-21 as Seed Corn Week, with the hope of calling attention to the importance of the early selection of seed corn.—A. D. Wilson, Superintendent Extension Division, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

THE KIND OF CORN MINNESOTA NEEDS.

Minnesota needs the variety or varieties of corn which planted on her soils will give the largest yield of shelled corn per acre. Because this is true many who have not given a great deal of thought to the selection of corn are liable to select for large ears without giving consideration to other more important factors. Large ears of corn are desirable if they can be produced. As a rule, large ears of corn require a longer period of growth than do comparatively small ears of corn. If one persists in selecting large ears of corn the corn will gradually get later and later until it ceases to be a safe crop.

The farmer is confronted with the problem of balancing up the two factors, early maturity and large ears, in such a way that he can get corn that will mature early and at the same time give a large yield. The safest way to make such selection is to select seed corn early. Select at or before the time when the first killing frost may be expected, selecting at least fifty ears of corn for each acre you contemplate planting next year. Then, before planting, the largest of

the early selected ears may be selected for planting, as but from fifteen to twenty ears will be needed for the acre. Those that do not show a strong germination test can be discarded. By following this practice one will get the largest variety of corn that can be produced and matured under his conditions.

This is one of the reasons why the Minnesota Agricultural College is urging the early selection of seed corn, and has set aside the week of September 16-21 as a desirable time in which to select seed corn.—A. D. Wilson, Superintendent Extension Division, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

TEN DOLLARS PER BUSHEL FOR SEED CORN.

The fact that many farmers last spring were forced to pay from \$5 to \$10 per bushel for seed corn will result in benefit to the state, as many of the people have been very forcefully reminded that the selection of seed corn is an important part of farm management. The Minnesota Agricultural College is urging that the week of September 16-21 be set aside as Seed Corn Week. The College believes that there is no other way by which one can be assured of reliable, strong-growing seed corn.

It is sometimes very difficult at this season of the year to find time to devote to the selection of seed corn. On this account it is often neglected until later in the season when the husking is being done. Last year's experience has shown conclusively that the practice of deferring the selection of seed corn until husking time is decidedly unsafe and impractical. One can go through a field of standing corn and select in one day enough seed corn to plant from ten to forty acres. From ten to forty acres of corn planted with good seed corn may easily yield from \$10 to \$200 more than it would if planted to corn of poorer quality. When there is so much at stake it would be a profitable matter to pay \$10 or even \$20 per day, if necessary, for a man to relieve the farm owner so he could devote his time for a day or two to the selection of seed corn.—A. D. Wilson, Superintendent, Extension Division, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

BUSINESS FORESIGHT.

An Intensely Practical Application to Seed Corn Week.

The so-called progressive farmer is mainly so because of his attention to the details of successful management. With him the necessary operations in regard to every crop receive attention at the proper time and in the best manner possible.

He has long since learned that he cannot always rely on others for his seed corn. Neither can he depend upon seed corn of his own gathering unless it is gathered before hard frosts and early freezes, and properly cured before storing. With him, saving seed corn is a portion of his season's work. It is just as necessary an operation as the harvest time. When the proper time arrives, he makes the saving of seed corn a part of every day's work until he has gathered an ample supply for next year. When this has been cured and stored in a proper manner, the terrors of poor seed give him no anxiety. In fact, this same foresight has probably caused him to gather much more seed corn than he needs, and when the alarm comes he is in a way to profit thereby.—O. M. Olson, Extension Division, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

MONEY EASILY MADE.

Millionaire Wages Possible to Farmer by Selecting Seed Corn Early.

There are few persons in the United States, or anywhere for that matter, who are drawing \$200 a day in wages, so few that it would not take long to mention them all. As a result, a Minnesota corn grower would be decidedly surprised if he were to be told that he could make as much, at least during one day in the year, as the very rich.

To put himself in the millionaire class one day in the year, all that it is necessary for this corn grower to do is to select his seed corn in the fall. This is not mere surmise, for statistics gathered by reliable corn experts prove the point beyond dispute. The story is not long, and is simple enough for anyone to understand.

The average yield of corn in Minnesota during 1900 to 1910 was 27.4 bushels of corn per acre. Based on a cost of production per acre of \$13.75, according to figures taken from a series of farms in southeastern Minnesota for five years, this average yield barely exceeds the cost of producing it. A higher yield of corn must be secured if a profit is to be obtained. Since the items of expense incurred by producing a 60 bushel crop when

compared with a 30 bushel crop, so far as plowing, planting, seed, cultivation, husking, cost of machinery, rent, and other factors are concerned, do not vary much, it would be safe to say that nearly every bushel over a 30 bushel yield will represent a profit.

How is this yield to be obtained, and what bearing does it have on the \$200 wage? It has been proved by the Iowa Experiment Station and others that the yield of corn varies directly, as the stand, and the stand, needless to say, cannot be better than the seed corn planted. If seed corn, therefore can be secured which is so much better than the ordinary seed as to produce a 40 bushel crop where 30 bushels were secured before, this means an additional profit amounting to the market price of the increased yield. One person can easily pick eight bushels of good seed corn in a day, and this will plant approximately 50 acres. The increase in yield, of the seed produced 40 bushels an acre—and there is no reason why 40 bushels could not be produced—would mean an increase of 500 bushels, worth at least \$200. This is a very good day's salary. It certainly would pay the average Minnesota farmer to put himself in the millionaire class one day this fall.—Ray P. Speer, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

CUT CLOVER FOR SEED.

It is about time to get the binder in shape to cut the second crop of clover for seed. The wise farmer has been watching the heads to see whether seed was forming. If they rub out plenty of seed he will mow, or better still, run the binder over the patch. The binder shells out less seed than the tramping of a mower team over the brittle heads in the swath. The bundles are left unbound with the heads up to the sun if the binder is properly adjusted and managed. A tight rack catches such seed as shells out between the swath and the huller.

Some idea of the yields that may be expected can be obtained from the experience of farmers in the Willamette Valley. This experience is set forth in Farmers' Bulletin No. 405, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, and in Bulletin No. 183 of the Experiment Station at Madison, Wisconsin. Either can probably be secured on request by anyone interested. Each gives fairly full directions of all phases of clover seed production in this part of the country.—J. O. Rankin, Editor, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

THE REAL GOLDEN EGG

Clover Seed a Good Money Crop.

We are all familiar with the fabled goose that laid the golden egg. Many also know the wise farmer's saying, that clover seed is the real golden egg. Really it is strongest when golden in color and much weakened when brown with age. We are all familiar with the value of clover as a soil improver and with its value as feed for farm animals. As a money crop, however, the hay is bulky and rather difficult to market, especially over muddy or snow-bound roads. The seed is quite different. It always commands a high price. It can be profitably marketed even from the more remote farms. The cost of hauling is a small item when you can deliver several hundred dollars worth at a single load.

Red clover yields from 4 to 6 bushels of seed per acre in the Willamette Valley and may under favorable conditions yield 9 bushels. Alsike usually gives a little higher yield. It will even yield from 2 to 2½ bushels of seed per acre on the "white land" on which red clover is rarely produced. On "mixed land" it yields from three to five bushels, while on the best dark, waxy overflow land, from six to sixteen bushels of seed per acre may be produced. On thirteen farms which co-operated with one of our neighboring experiment stations the average yield of red clover seed secured was 2.34 bushels per acre. The average yield of alsike on clay soil about 4 bushels and on sandy soil about 1.34 bushels per acre, while medium red clover yielded about 1 bushel per acre on clay soil and 1.13 bushels on sandy soil.

Much interesting information on the various phases of clover seed production may be obtained by ordering Bulletin No. 183 of the Experiment Station at Madison, Wis., or Farmers' Bulletin No. 405 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C.

At the prices which usually prevail the farmer should certainly cut for seed any clover that will give a reasonable yield, while, if he is so favorably situated as to secure the yields of from 4 to 9 bushels per acre quoted above at a sort of by-product of the clover crop, the saying of the golden egg has certainly been justified.—J. O. Rankin, Editor, Minnesota College of Agriculture.