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To Every Minnesota Editor:

Dear Editor.—The vital importance of good seed corn to Minnesota may be understood from the letter which accompanies this seed corn issue of the Press News. If you want to benefit your community use your columns and your personal influence to secure the observance of Seed Corn Week. The bankers, business men, commercial clubs, teachers, county agriculturists and others are being urged by the College of Agriculture to join in a snappy whirlwind campaign.

THE EDITORS SHOULD LEAD.

Yours very truly,  
J. O. Rankin, Editor.

## SEED CORN NOTES.

Select seed corn early so it may thoroughly dry out before freezing weather.

Make money by selecting seed corn during Seed Corn Week, September 15 to 20, 1913.

The germ of seed corn lies in the tip of the kernel. Broad, well-filled tips indicate strong germs.

Minnesota is now producing over two million acres of corn, and this acreage will be greatly increased.

Early selection of seed corn avoids danger of the vitality of seed corn being injured by early frosts.

Corn seldom ripens uniformly. Early selection of seed corn ensures early maturity in succeeding crops.

Select seed corn early and thus avoid getting the late maturing ears. These ears are not safe for seed.

Early and careful selection of seed corn will easily increase the prospective yields for next year five bushels per acre.

Select ears of corn with straight rows. Such ears have uniform kernels which help to ensure a uniform drop when planting.

Deep kernels give a high shelling percentage, but tend toward late maturity. Medium depth kernels are best for Minnesota.

Large ears of corn are not necessary to large yields. Maturity is essential to satisfactory crops. Don't go after too large ears.

Store seed corn where it will dry out quickly. Do not leave it, even over night, in sacks, as it is likely to heat and be injured.

Select at least 50 ears of corn for each acre to be planted next year. This will allow more careful selection next spring. The poorer ears you can sell to your neighbors.

Spend at least one day during Seed Corn Week, September 15 to 20, 1913, selecting seed corn. This is a busy time, but it is usually a busy man who does things. "Do it now."

Place a wagon at one end of the cornfield. Then make trips across the field, taking one or two rows at a time and aiming to reach the wagon each time the sack is full. This will save steps and time.

Spread seed corn thinly on the floor on racks, or put on seed corn tree or hang up by double or single-string method. It is best to have each ear by itself so the air can circulate freely around it.

In selecting seed corn hang a grain sack under left arm, by string fastened to the two corners and passed over the right shoulder. With open end in front, from twenty to forty ears may be put in it and easily carried, and both hands are free to use.

Get the boys and girls interested in Seed Corn Week, and seed corn selection. A contest among the boys and girls in seed corn selection is desirable, as it arouses their interest, teaches them something useful, and "gets" the seed corn.

Early selection of seed corn from the field of standing corn permits a consideration of the stalk on which each ear grew and the chance each stalk had. Do not select seed corn from hills having only one stalk, as a good ear on such a stalk is due to favorable conditions rather than to its inherent ability to yield well under average conditions.

## PROCLAMATION

### SEED CORN WEEK.

State of Minnesota Executive Department.

Minnesota is now producing over two million acres of corn annually, representing a product worth more than \$30,000,000. Yields of corn secured by Minnesota farmers during the past five years have been equal to the yields in many of the best corn-growing regions. Minnesota is in the Corn Belt, and can compete successfully with any of the other corn states.

Good seed corn is important in every state, but it is especially important in Minnesota, because varieties of corn must be planted that will mature in from a hundred to a hundred and twenty days. Minnesota cannot successfully depend upon importing seed corn. The best seed corn for Minnesota farmers is carefully selected seed corn that has been produced on their own farms. Good seed corn in Minnesota may easily mean an increased yield of five bushels per acre. This will be worth to the State at least \$7,000,000 annually, or more than \$40 per farm.

I therefore heartily endorse the campaign being made by the Minnesota College of Agriculture for the careful selection of seed corn, and hereby appoint the week of September 15-20 as Seed Corn Week. I earnestly join the College in urging that every corn grower in Minnesota shall on at least one day of the week designated make it his especially duty to go through his cornfield and select for seed the best ears from his sturdiest stalks, selecting and storing them after the plan outlined in Extension Bulletin No. 9, which may be had by writing to the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Minnesota, this 27th day of August, 1913.

A. O. EBERHART,  
Governor.

(Seal)

Attest: Julius Schmah,  
Secretary of State.

## SORE EYES OF CATTLE

Infectious sore eyes of cattle most frequently makes its appearance during the summer months, although it may also occasionally appear at other times. The germs may be introduced into a herd by the purchase of an animal suffering with the disease, but it is undoubtedly spread in other ways as it sometimes appears suddenly and without any known means of entrance to the premises.

As this disease is infectious, it spreads from one animal to others, and sometimes runs through an entire herd. Its duration in one animal is from one to two weeks, usually about ten days, after which it has run its course and disappears. Although total blindness may result, the sight is not usually permanently impaired. Very often but one eye is affected, the other eye, if affected at all, shows the symptoms from several days to a week later.

The first symptom is a profuse flow of tears. Then the eye becomes very sensitive to light, and is kept constantly closed. Later the eyelids swell, and the discharge shows distinct traces of pus or matter. About the same time a white speck appears on the surface of the eyeball. This speck gradually enlarges and may cover the entire front of the eye, causing temporary blindness.

Treatment is inexpensive and easily applied. When begun in time recovery is hastened, and further spread of the disease is prevented. It is always best to confine the animals in a comfortable but well-darkened stall. Feed sparingly on cooling, laxative foods. Give a physic of a pound of Epsom salts in two quarts of water to an animal weighing 1,000 pounds. Add half a grain of zinc solution and ten grams of boric acid to an ounce of distilled water. Use a medicine dropper to put a few drops of this mixture in the eye several times a day.—C. C. Lipp, Assistant Veterinarian, University Farm, St. Paul.

## SEED CORN WEEK CONTESTS.

Seed corn selection contests for boys over ten and under eighteen years of age will be held on Demonstration Farms in various parts of the State, and elsewhere, early in September. They will be similar to the contests held last year under the direction of the Agricultural Extension Division, with prize money furnished by commercial clubs, county fair associations, county farm bureaus, and local business men.

The contest may be held at any good cornfield in the community. The boys entering the contest will be furnished with rules of the contest, and notified of "the time, the place, and the field." Each contestant arranges his own grain sack after reaching the farm and is given instructions as to how to make the selections; he is then assigned to certain row of corn from which he must select the seed. Each ear broken off from the stalk must be brought in so there is no waste in the field. When the contestants reach the other end of the field they stop, look over their selections, and possibly further suggestions will be given; then each one is assigned another row to go back on. There is no questioning or talking during the time for selecting. Each contestant then selects the ten ears that he believes makes the best sample. The sample is then arranged by the contestant and put away for curing.

In some cases the judging will be done at once, and in other cases the sample may be allowed to cure, and be judged at the County Fair or in some other place as arranged. Liberal prizes will be given.—Geo. J. Baker, in Charge of University Demonstration Farms, University Farm, St. Paul.

## THE KIND OF CORN TO SELECT.

It seems natural for everyone to like to select large ears of corn. It is, of course, more desirable to grow large corn than small corn, but this desire to get large corn has resulted in much loss due to the failure of such corn to mature. Really, the first consideration that should be given to an ear of corn that is selected for seed is whether or not it is likely to mature in the locality in which it is to be grown. If it will not mature, it has no value for seed.

The fact that corn has matured in the neighborhood, while a desirable fact, is not sufficient assurance that it will mature every year, because the seasons vary greatly in their test on this quality of early maturity in corn. During favorable years the plants with the later maturing qualities are likely to develop and produce the largest and best ears. Deferring selection until all of the corn is ripe results usually in the selection of the later maturing ears, because they are larger and better. On this account, the Minnesota Agricultural College urges the selection of corn at a date represented by the expected first killing frost. Corn selected at this time one year may reasonably be expected to mature at that time the following year. Likewise, corn that has matured ten or twenty days later than this time, because of unfavorable conditions, is likely to be caught by frost the following year ten or twenty days before it is mature.

The determining factor in the yield of a good variety of corn is not the size of the ear, but rather the strength of the whole plant and the percentage of stand secured. Three eight-ounce ears of corn per hill in corn planted three feet eight inches each way will yield 67 bushels of corn per acre, which is twice the average yield of corn in the best corn states.

Selection of corn at about the time of the expected first killing frost is the best advice that the best corn-breeders can give. Two or three times as much corn should be selected as is needed. Then the following spring a careful re-selection may be made.

For 1913, the week of September 15 to 20 is designated as Seed Corn Week, as the time most likely to fit the greater part of the State.

## SELECT! STORE! TEST!

Save money by saving seed corn. Make money by selling seed corn. In tests, ears selected from the plant yielded three bushels per acre more than those selected from the wagon, which looked better and were larger. So much for a study of the mother plant and its surroundings.

## SEED CORN "JOHNNY DON'TS."

Don't forget Seed Corn Week. Don't select the bare-tipped ear. Don't use scoop-shovel selection. Don't pick very long or very short ears.

Don't forget that maturity is more important than size.

Don't let freezing weather catch your seed corn full of moisture.

Don't think the most careful crib selection can equal careful field selection.

Don't take the ear that is large just because it grew in a thin stand or very rich soil.

Don't forget shelling percentage in figuring which ear will yield the most shelled corn per acre.

Don't think that plump, pampered seed ears are any better selection than pampered, over-fat, breeding stock in the hog pen or the dairy barn.

Don't select from the vicinity of barren stalks that by wind-blown pollen may be parents of the ear you are selecting.

Don't fail to look over your score card and make up your mind just what kind of ears will yield you the most shelled corn per acre next year.—J. O. Rankin, University Farm, St. Paul.

## A SEED CORN HOUSE.

A few people who are contemplating selecting seed corn for sale will be interested in seed corn houses. A seed corn house may be built like any other well constructed building, the chief requirement being dryness and ability to secure thorough circulation of air. It is desirable to have arrangements in a seed house for artificial heat when the weather gets cooler in the fall, and the heat should be provided until the corn is thoroughly dry, whenever there is any danger of its freezing.

The most economical way of putting corn in a seed corn house is in racks made of 2x4 and covered on both sides with wire, so that the ears of corn may be stuck through and will rest on the wire on either side; or else frames made of 1x4 with lath nailed on either side just far enough apart so that ears of corn may be laid in rows between the lath. These frames may be stood up in the building by fastening to the wall or bracing in any other way desired. By starting at the back, filling one frame, then setting in another to be filled, the frames can be put not to exceed one foot apart. In this way a large amount of seed corn can be stored in a comparatively small space and stored in such a way that absolutely free circulation of air is provided. A room 16x20 and 8 feet high will store in this way between 200 and 300 bushels of corn.

When artificial heat is used, the stove should be enclosed in a jacket to cause a circulation of air throughout the room and to prevent the overheating of any corn that may be close to the stove.

## FIELD SELECTION OF SEED CORN.

Select the largest, highest yielding ears of the best variety of corn that will safely mature in your locality. If large, high yielding ears are selected without proper care, maturity may be sacrificed for yield. A bad bargain! On the other hand, if very early ears are selected for seed, yield may be sacrificed for maturity. A bad bargain! To avoid selecting ears for seed that will not ripen in the ordinary season on your farm, select your seed ears from the standing corn at the time that practically all the corn in the field should be mature. In any field of corn can be found late plants that in very favorable seasons mature good ears, but when frosts come at about the usual time or a little sooner, they are still green and do not store well, feed well, nor grow at all well. If the seed is selected in the late fall as the corn is husked, in favorable seasons many of these late maturing ears will make a fine appearance and hence many will find their way into the seed-corn pile when they should go to the hogs. The seed of such ears if planted, will produce late-maturing corn with nothing but trouble ahead in ordinary seasons. A number of important operations are required in order to secure a good crop of corn. The one important thing that should be done Seed Corn Week toward getting a better yield of mature corn next year is the proper selection of the seed. With this done now and the other things done in their proper time, a better crop of corn should be produced next year.—A. C. Arny, Assistant Agriculturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

## SEED CORN SELECTION CONTESTS.

In Douglas County last fall a number of the rural school teachers conducted very successful seed corn selection contests among the boys and girls. They asked several of the pupils of their schools to bring to school from a dozen to twenty ears of corn each. A lesson was then given in judging corn, and the students were required to select a certain number of ears that they considered best. This resulted in arousing a great deal of interest among the boys and girls and especially among the parents regarding the selection of seed corn.

While it is probable that not a great many rural school teachers are well informed concerning the selection of corn, they can no doubt arouse a great deal of interest among the boys and girls by taking up this work in their schools. Any teacher can secure a copy, or several copies if they so desire, of Extension Bulletin No. 9 by writing to the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul. This little eight-page bulletin gives in a very concise form complete instruction regarding the selection and storing of seed corn. It is well illustrated, and any one who can read can thoroughly understand it.

We commend this idea of corn contests among the boys and girls and earnestly urge Minnesota teachers with schools in session during Seed Corn Week, September 15-20, to make an effort to take up this work.

## CAN YOU BEAT IT?

Fifty Bushels of Corn for a Day's Work.

A good live man in a good cornfield can select and store 500 ears of corn in a day. Allowing for very careful re-selection, 500 ears of corn will plant 10 acres. Properly selected seed corn is worth 5 bushels per acre. A day's work now means 50 bushels of corn next year. "Can you beat it?"

## STORING SEED CORN.

The main consideration in storing seed corn, for the first two months at least, is good circulation of air so that the corn may become thoroughly dry as soon as possible. Hanging ears by the single or double-string method in a well ventilated place is a very satisfactory means for curing seed corn. Likewise, hanging the ears on a seed corn tree is a good method. A seed corn tree is made by nailing a plank on one end of a fence post so it will stand erect, then driving into the post eight- or ten-penny finishing nails just far enough apart so that the ears of corn jabbed butt foremost onto the nails will not touch each other. This allows excellent circulation of air. By making a hole through a common tin pan and slipping it over the post so it will come bottom side up about one foot from the floor, will protect the seed corn very nicely from mice.

One of the best places for storing corn is an attic over a kitchen, especially if the attic is provided with a couple of windows so that good air circulation may be secured. The heat from the stove helps to circulate the air and helps dry out the corn. It further helps to keep the corn from freezing later in the fall. Corn that is thoroughly dry is not injured by freezing, but it is very difficult to get corn thoroughly dry, so it is better to protect it from freezing if possible. The basement in which a furnace is used is also a good place for storing seed corn after the weather gets a little cool and a fire is started; but earlier in the season, when there is no fire, seed corn will be better hung up in a shed or other open building, unless the basement is unusually well ventilated.

## WINTER WHEAT IN NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA

In the fall of 1911 the Northwest Experiment Station at Crookston began an experiment in sowing winter wheat. It was drilled on a plowed field, in grain stubble, and between the rows of corn. All winter killed, but from a field where winter wheat was drilled between the rows of standing corn a yield of 43 bushels and 38 pounds per acre was secured. The results the second year show the best yield is from the wheat in standing corn and the second best from that in the corn stubble. That on fall plowing winter killed. This experiment was continued in the fall of 1912.—C. G. Selvig, Superintendent N. W. School and Station, Crookston.