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to leave the crop standing until the water has disappeared and the berry is creamy white and firm, must be left to the individual. He must take into consideration the time of the season, determining whether it is safest, to let the crop stand awhile, or to cut it, as in case a frost threatens. With respect to this small drop of water in the berry, when a frost occurs at this stage some growers go into the crop to find out if the crop is frozen and when they find the drop of water in the berry they will claim the wheat is frozen. This is not correct, for we find it under normal conditions when there is no frost. I found from a personal examination of many wheat fields during August of last season that fields which were considered to be far from ripe by reason of the straw being so green, were at the stage I just referred to. Some were just passing the soft dough stage, and others were in the firm dough stage while the straw was perfectly green. Hence my statement that much of the loss of the past season might have been prevented. Some fields were still in the milk stage while in other fields the straw had a decided green color and looked apparently not yet ready to harvest. The berry was quite firm, with no moisture and in fine condition to cut.

The Effect of Rust on the Berry

When rust is working in the crop the berry will show it in the early stages, especially when it is working to the detriment of the crops. On squeezing the berry it will be found that instead of the clear white milky substance it will change to a soupy condition or be of a dirty color which may be compared to soup. When it reaches this condition and the rust develops at the stage in which when the berry is squeezed between the finger and thumb, the kernel will slip out of the covering, there is nothing to be gained and everything to lose by allowing the crop to stand. When the grain is cut later and is dried there will be nothing left but the skin or bran.

When the berry is in a normal condition at the soft or firm dough stage the dough will be plastic and will cling to the covering. Some of the fields that I examined last season were coming into that soupy stage, while the straw was absolutely green, and others had reached the stage where the kernel could be squeezed out and such field ought to have been cut at that time.

Directions for Cutting Summarized

To make the foregoing clear the best time to cut in a normal season is when the straw is turning a natural ripe color and while the heads still have a slight tinge of green showing and when the berry is firm and on being squeezed shows no signs of milk or water, in color being a creamy white. When rust is showing in the crops as was the case last season then cut it independent of the color of the straw, whether it is green or partly green or ripe, providing the conditions of the season will allow the berry to become firm the same as in a normal season. If the season should be far advanced and the berry is still in the soft dough stage but shows no milky substance it may be cut although the straw be green, as development of the berry will go on while in the stack. This point may be left to the individual to decide, the main contingency to take into consideration being the probability of frost.

In a hot, dry season, when the hot winds or hot dry weather forces the crop prematurely, allow the crop to stand until the berry is quite firm and there is no moisture. It should stand as long as possible but should be cut before the grain becomes too hard. At the time the berry has reached the best stage to cut in normal seasons the heads will show a swollen appearance and the grain bursts the chaff. The chaff will open up slightly and expose the berry. This may happen while the head still has a green shade and the straw also may have a green tinge. If no moisture is found in the berry it may then be cut to the best advantage.

The point I want to emphasize in respect to the foregoing is that considerable of the loss from rust sustained during the past season might have been prevented had there been some better understanding of the effect of rust on the wheat crop. Once it has reached a certain stage, if, instead of allowing

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