

Seed Grain Fairs in Western Canada

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such seeds will be weaker and less able to withstand adverse conditions than if grown from mature seed. For this reason the judges will always favor large plump seed and thin, wrinkled, green-tinted berries will detract from the score of the exhibit.

The color serves as a basis on which to estimate the age of the exhibit and also the amount of adverse weather conditions to which it has been exposed. Repeated experiments show that the longer a sample of grain is kept the lower will be its germination percentage. It is also a well established fact that as the grain grows older it loses its bright metallic lustre and assumes a dull, lifeless color. By bearing in mind the co-relation between these points, the judges are able to arrive at a definite conclusion regarding the value of the exhibit for seed purposes.

Some may wonder that more emphasis is not placed on the milling quality of the wheat, as the ultimate object of growing this cereal is the production of flour and the price paid for the grain will depend on its ability to produce a large amount of flour of good appearance. This is, no doubt, an important point and one which must not be overlooked when selecting seed. It is not, however, the most important point, for we must determine, not only the quality of the grain which is likely to be produced, but also the ability of the seed to develop into a large, vigorous plant, under conditions which will often be unfavorable, and it is for this reason that such emphasis is placed on size and maturity of the grains. In judging the milling value, the color and texture of the interior of the kernel are taken as a guide, it having been found that hard, translucent grains usually have a higher protein content and make large quantities of strong flour suitable for bread making, whilst softer and lighter colored grains yield flour more suited for pastry. Keeping in mind the fact that the chief use of wheat is the manufacture of bread, and the fundamental law of nature "that like will produce like," the judges seek to emphasize the desirability of using only the harder, finer textured grain for seed.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Seed Grain Fairs are fulfilling a useful purpose and are doing much to place grain-growing on a scientific and permanent basis. Through these fairs the farming community as a whole has been brought to see that both the yield and the quality of all farm crops can be greatly improved by the use of high class seed. Attention has been drawn to the folly of using weed-infested seed at any time and particularly on newly broken land. And, incidentally, a demand for high class seed grain has been established. It might be expected that in such a grain-growing

country as this there would be an abundance of first-class seed, but it is a regrettable fact that such is not the case and there is now no line of work in which the careful farmer will get larger or quicker returns than in the production of seed grain.

The Fodder Problem.

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When summer-fallow has not been available the following plan has proved successful with me: Plow grain stubble as early as possible in spring, harrow at once to start weed seeds, repeat the harrowing every few days until about May 20th or June 1st, then sow 22 pounds of seed per acre and harrow well. If about forty-four pounds of chopped grain is mixed with the alfalfa seed the combined mixture can be sown with the ordinary grain drill; care must be taken that it is not sown deeper than two inches.

At first a large amount of weeds and volunteer grain will come up and very little clover. This should be cut when about a foot high and the cuttings allowed to remain as a mulch. This mowing should be repeated frequently during the first summer so as to keep down weeds and encourage the clover to branch out freely; it should not be pastured the first summer as this weakens it.

This clover should always be cut as soon as the first blossom appears, otherwise the hay will prove woody and unpalatable.

A few hours after being cut the clover should be bunched and cured thoroughly without being again spread out; this plan prevents the leaves from being broken up and the best part of the fodder lost. When stacked, keep the top well covered with long prairie grass, as clover will not shed the rain and will soon spoil. Remember that well cured alfalfa is worth as much per pound as wheat bran and can be grown on any well-drained land whether light or heavy.

New Hart-Parr Branches

The Hart-Parr Co., Charles City, Iowa, have recently established a branch house of their own at Peoria, Ill., which will look after their interests in Illinois and Western Indiana. They have rented half of the building, corner of Water and Walnut Streets, only one block from the Union Depot. This branch is in charge of J. E. Burnett, formerly sales-manager for M. M. Baker & Co. They have also established a branch office opposite the Union Depot, Des Moines, Iowa, in charge of Sam. E. Bennett. This office will look after their interests in southern Iowa and northern Missouri.

Another branch has been established at Saskatoon, Sask., in charge of R. J. McConnell. This branch will look after their interests in Northern Saskatchewan.



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