

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Departmental Bulletin

TO TEACHERS OF RURAL SCIENCE

No subject in Agriculture is better adapted for presentation to school children than **seed testing**, and in view of the present need for maximum production of food and the importance of seed testing in this connection, it is urged that this subject be presented to your classes during the coming weeks.

The making of a vitality test of some kind of grain by putting 100 seeds in soil in a box or flower pot and keeping it moist but not wet and at living room temperature would make an interesting and valuable piece of home work. The necessity for cleaning out all small, light, and immature kernels from grain intended to be used as seed should be

emphasized. Such kernels are poor seed but valuable feed.

Each rural and village school should form a Seed Testing Club to test the seed grain for the district. Germination tests can easily be made by using blotting paper kept moist and at a temperature from 60° to 70° Fahrenheit. The Department of Education has a supply of Germination blotters for distribution. Full instructions are supplied with each blotter. Teachers may procure from five to ten of these free, and an additional supply at cost, two cents each. Orders will be filled until the supply is exhausted. Apply to H. W. Watson, Department of Education.

IMPORTANCE OF SEED TESTING IN CROP PRODUCTION

The amount of foods, whether meats, dairy products or cereals, that can be produced this year depends on the yields from our fields. All food in the last analysis is derived from plants.

Every lot of grain to be used as seed should be tested for germination now, so that there will be plenty of time to locate a suitable supply should the seed

on hand be found unsatisfactory. If any grain or other seed is purchased it should be examined for impurities. The labor shortage makes weed increase inevitable, but much unnecessary loss results from the introduction of noxious weed seeds through the use of untested seed.

SCHOOL GARDENS AND WAR-TIME PRODUCTION

By H. W. Watson.

In almost every school, children are being encouraged to save food. It would be better still if, in school and home gardens, they can be induced to produce food. They should be taught that vegetables raised at home may save not only wheat, meat and dairy products, but also transportation. To win the war we must as a nation produce more.

Teachers can mobilize the schools of the country in many ways, but particularly for service in "war gardens." They should enlist as "war garden"

workers, instructors and supervisors at the earliest possible moment so that plans may be fully worked out. These captains of the fields should be instructed and trained to take charge of the greater mobilized, yes conscripted army of school children.

Every boy and girl in our high schools and even down to the fourth grade of our elementary schools should be conscripted for service in a greater food production. This army of workers should be divided into companies or clubs, properly officered, equipped