

BE SURE TO TEST SEED CORN

AGRICULTURAL
Experts predict short corn crop this year. Farmers advised to test every grain of seed in order to avoid loss—situation serious

By P. G. HOLDEN.

THERE will be a short corn crop this year and millions of dollars will be lost to the farmers if great care is not taken in selecting and testing the best matured corn for this season's planting.

We may well take the warning to heart, for this section of the country lives and prospers largely on the production of its land, and follow the advice of agricultural scientists who can tell our people how to escape heavy loss. This advice will work no hardship and no expense if followed. It will require a little careful work and sharp watching at a season of the year when the farmer is not overburdened with labor.

Nineteen fifteen was a bad year for corn. A cold, wet season retarded the growth of the grain. The crop in many parts of the corn belt was immature; it contains an excessive amount of water and is unfit for seed. The scarcity of seed corn is really the most serious in many years.

You farmers may say you are going to use seed from your 1914 crop. Don't trust it. The grain may have been damaged by the frost during the hard freezes of last year. Don't trust it—test it. The high price of corn, too, on account of the war has nearly exhausted the 1914 crop and this source of supply then is not reliable.

Missing Hills, Weak Stalks.
There are about 800 kernels on the average ear of corn. One poor seed means 800 weak, moldy or dead kernels. If these are planted it means missing hills and weak stalks producing little or nothing. According to reports just received, every indication points to very serious trouble with seed corn, especially in sections lying north of central Illinois and in North Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Iowa.

This community ought to get busy right now, for the prosperity of our community—our merchants, our bankers, our builders, our workers—depends on the prosperity of the farmers hereabouts. We ought to start a seed corn campaign. The county superintendent of schools can reach the farmers through the rural schoolteachers, who in turn will see that the children carry the message home. You bankers, merchants and implement dealers who trade directly with the farmers ought to write personal letters urging them to go into this matter scientifically. In short, all of us ought to mobilize our forces, just as our nation would have to mobilize all its resources in case of war.

You farmers must not use poor seed this spring. It means too much to all of us. Poor seed means not only a poor stand and a portion of the field idle, but that you must cultivate missing hills, one-stalk hills, and poor, worthless stalks, and receive nothing in return.

Don't Work for Nothing.
Thousands of people every year work more than a third of every year on ground that produces nothing. Do not depend for seed on the occasional good ears selected during the husking period. The corn will be injured by freezing before it is husked or before it has had time to become dry after husking.

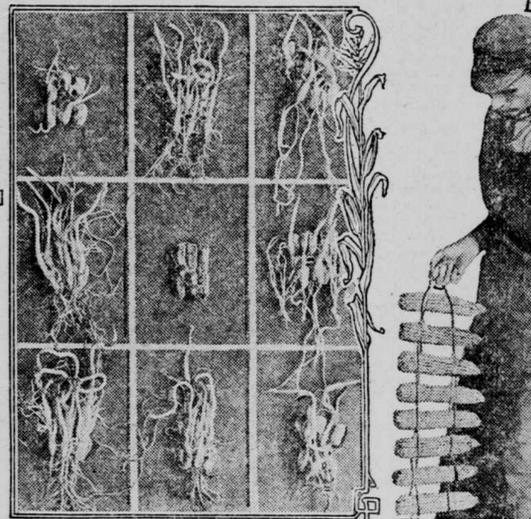
Select the best ears, if you have not already done so, and string them on binder twine and hang up.
Do not store seed corn in barrels or boxes. It will "gather moisture" and mold or freeze. Do not store over the stable. Do not put immature or freshly gathered seed corn in a warm room, on the floor, or in piles. It will either sprout, or mold, or both. It should be hung up at once, and the windows opened to allow the freest circulation of air. Do not depend on the crib for seed corn.

One day devoted to the seed corn, at the proper time, may be worth more than an entire month of hard work next summer put on a poor stand of corn.

The attic is a good place to hang up the seed corn. There should be a circulation of air through the room. A space three by eight feet will hold 200 strings of corn, twelve to fifteen ears to each string, or about enough to plant 200 acres. Three-fourths of this



SELECT EARS CAREFULLY



SEED AFTER GERMINATION



HANG UP SEED CORN EARS LIKE THIS

corn may be discarded after testing, but there will be enough seed to plant fifty acres, more than the average acreage on each farm. There are several objections to the average cellar. It is apt to be too damp, and the corn must be well dried before putting in the cellar, and it must not be corded up or put in piles, but hung up.

Will Your Seed Corn Grow?

It is only good business to know that the seed that you put into the ground will grow; and the only way you can tell good seed is by testing it. You can't tell by merely looking at it. If you want profitable yields, you must plant good seed.

The ten million acres of corn planted in Iowa every year are grown in 217,000 farms, an average of about forty-six acres to each farm. It will take about 600 ears to plant forty acres. Twenty-four hours' time of one man, two days' work, will test six kernels from each ear to plant forty acres. Yet, because it is "too much bother," most of us pick out 600 ears, look at them, guess that they will grow, and plant them. As a consequence, more than twelve acres out of each forty acres of corn planted produce nothing. This is worse than useless, because one must plow, plant and cultivate these twelve acres and get nothing in return.

By testing you get rid of the bad, weak, and moldy ears. Testing does not hurt the corn. It costs but about ten cents an acre, and can be done at a time of the year when other farm work is not pressing. By testing you have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Discard Poor Ears.

In the winter, during a slack season or in the early spring, from February 20 to March 20, select the best ears from the corn you have stored in the fall and get ready to put them through the test.

The sawdust germination box is without doubt the best method for testing seed corn. It costs nothing but a little time and labor. It furnishes nearly natural conditions. It is not essential that the box be of any particular size, although about thirty inches square and four or five inches deep will be found convenient. This size will test 100 ears at a time.

The sawdust is light, clean, and easy to get and handle in February and the first of March, when the testing should be done; is a good nonconductor of heat and cold, so that the temperature is kept even during germination, and holds the moisture so perfectly that there is no danger of drying out.

The number of boxes required will depend upon the amount of seed to be tested and the time limit. After the germination boxes are made, inspect carefully the ears you are to test from the standpoint of the kernel.

Take two or three kernels from each ear, about a third of the length of the ear from the butt. Lay them germ-side up at the tip of the ear from which they were taken. If the kernels are small, wedge-shaped, narrow, shallow, too deep, or if they show immaturity, starchy, a tendency to mold, or if the germs are small, or shriveled, discard the ear.

Remove six kernels from six different places on each ear you have selected to test, taking two from near the butt on the opposite sides of the ear, two from near the tip, turning the ear enough so as not to take two kernels out of the same row.

How to Test Seed Corn.

Fill the box about half full of moist sawdust, well pressed down, so as to

leave a smooth, even surface. The sawdust should be put in a gunnysack and set in a tub of warm water for at least an hour (or still better, overnight) so that it will be thoroughly moistened before using. Rule off a piece of good quality white cloth (sheeting), about the size of the box, into squares, two and one-half inches each way. Number the squares, 1, 2, 3, etc. Place the cloth on the sawdust and tack it to the box at the corners and edges.

Use care that the kernels do not get mixed with those from the ear next to it. After the kernels are removed, boards may be laid over the rows of ears to keep them in place until the result of the germination test is known. Place the six kernels from ear No. 1 in square No. 1 of the germination box; from ear No. 2 in square No. 2, and so on with all the ears. Lay a piece of good cloth (a good quality of sheeting) on top of the kernels and dampen it. Press the cloth down gently with the palm of hand, being careful not to displace the kernels in the squares.

Now place over this cloth another cloth of the same material, considerably larger than the first one (about six feet square), and fill in on top with two or three inches of moist, warm sawdust. Pack it down firmly with a brick or with the feet. The edges of the cover should then be folded over the sawdust in the box to prevent drying out. Now set the box away until the kernels sprout. Keep in an ordinary warm place, like the living room, where it will not freeze. The kernels will germinate in about eight days.

Remove the cover carefully to avoid displacing the kernels in the squares. Examine the kernels in each square in the germination box, and discard all ears whose kernels in the box are dead, moldy, or show weak germination.

Caring for Seed Corn.

If the kernels show weak, spindling sprouts, or a part of them are very weak and uneven, the ear should be thrown out to make place for an ear whose kernels give strong, vigorous sprouts. Remember that the kernels which are slow to sprout, and are weak, will be behind the strong ones in the field.

After the seed has been sorted, tested, shelled, and graded for the planter, and the bad kernels removed, it should be placed in half-bushel sacks and hung up in a dry place. Put in sacks, separate from the rest, the seed from the best 100 ears. When planting, use the seed from "the best 100 ears" on one side of the field from for the next year's planting.

We cannot afford to neglect this important work. If every farmer would test every ear of his seed corn in the winter in the way described above, the yield would be wonderfully increased. No other time will be so profitable to the farmer as that spent in testing the vitality of his seed and in grading to insure the planter dropping the proper number of kernels in each hill. It is possible for everyone to do this work. It will cost nothing but the time, of which there is plenty at the season when the work should be done.

Low-Grade Melody.

Walker—I'm thinking seriously of investing in an automobile.
Ryder—Well, I've got a little beauty that I'll sell to you for a mere song.
Walker—For a mere song, eh? To the tune of what?
Ryder—"Old Hundred."

He Knew.

Professor—Tell me what are some of the uses of hot air?
Student (absent)—Well, in oratory it is especially useful in warming up an audience to the subject.

BIG LAND OPENING

14,000 MORE ACRES IN NO. PLATTE PROJECT READY FOR ENTRY.

DRAWING TO BE AT ALLIANCE

Applications Will Be Received March 24; Project Consists of Forty and Eighty Acre Farms.

COMING EVENTS.

- State Retail Clothiers' association annual convention, Omaha, February 8.
- League of Nebraska Municipalities' annual convention, Kearney, February 9 and 10.
- Omaha Automobile Show, February 21 to 26.
- Convention of National Association of Automobile Supply Jobbers, Omaha, Feb. 21 to 26.
- Christian Church Sunday School Workers' conference, Hastings, Feb. 21 to 25.
- State Jewelers' association annual convention, Grand Island, February 23 and 24.
- Nebraska Collegiate Press association annual meeting, Omaha, February 18.
- Convention of County Treasurers of Nebraska, Omaha, February 23-24.
- State Y. M. C. A. association annual convention, York, February 18-19-20.
- Baby Week in Nebraska and all over the country, March 4 to 11.
- Annual Midwest Cement Show, Omaha, February 29 to March 4.
- State bowling tournament, Lincoln, April 3 to 8.
- Basketball tournament at Lincoln, March 8 to 11.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of the Interior Lane announces that approximately 14,000 additional acres in the North Platte irrigation project are ready for entry and that homesteaders may make application at the Alliance land office where a drawing will be held.

The farms contain from forty to eighty acres each, are fairly smooth, easily prepared for crops and are in the midst of an agricultural community already developed and prosperous.

Entries will be received March 24 and the drawing will be held later.

In making the announcement the department of the interior said: "Homesteaders will find here nearly 60,000 acres in tillage, with hundreds of comfortable farm buildings. Cities and towns are flourishing, schools have been established and excellent transportation facilities are provided.

"The annual harvests now total millions of dollars and the pioneering stage of development has long since passed. Taken in connection with a fertile soil, low cost of preparation of land, good markets, and a healthful climate, these farms should prove exceptionally attractive to homesteaders from the Mississippi valley states."

Under the terms of the reclamation entrymen are allowed twenty years to pay for water rights. The second payment does not fall due for five years after the date of making entry.

Tecumseh Paper Sold.

Tecumseh—Bert Howard announces the sale of the Johnson County Journal-Tribune of Tecumseh to Charles D. Blauvelt of Arapahoe. Mr. Howard had been interested in the paper for several years. Mr. Blauvelt has previously been in the newspaper business at Arapahoe.

Jails Are Uninhabited.

York.—The February term of district court will commence February 7. Judge E. E. Good will preside. Fifty-two civil cases, eight of them divorce, are to be heard. Both the county and city jails are empty.

Cement Show This Month.

Omaha.—The tenth annual Midwest Cement show will be held here Feb. 28 to March 4. A splendid exhibition is anticipated.

Plainview to Have Library.

Plainview.—Plainview will have a Carnegie library in the near future. The Carnegie board has allowed the fund for the building and the city council has passed an ordinance for a levy of a tax to support it.

Short Course at Allen.

Allen.—The first short course will be held at this place March 6 to 10. The town has had a number of institutes and poultry shows, but this is the first venture in a short course.

Daughter of Revolution Dies.

Hastings.—Mrs. Caroline L. Johnson, 90 years old, widow of the late William Johnson and a real Daughter of the Revolution, perhaps the last remaining one in the state, died at her home here, recently.

Y. M. C. A. Meet at York.

York.—Officials of the State Y. M. C. A. association are busy with plans for the annual meeting of the association to be held here February 18-19 and 20.

5,000 Acres in Beets.

North Platte.—Five thousand acres of Platte valley land will be put into sugar beets between this point and Keystone, according to John Bryan, agent for the American Beet Sugar company. Mr. Bryan stated that this is double the acreage of beets in 1915.

MIDGET VISITS OLD HOME.

Smallest Mother Known to Science Returns to Fremont.

Fremont.—Dollita Boyken, a former Fremont girl, is the smallest mother known to medical science. Many Nebraskans remember Dollita, who was formerly Dolly Dodd of Fremont. About eleven years ago she was married to Captain Boyken, a professional showman, who weighs only ninety pounds, and left Fremont to travel on the road. She has just returned for a visit with relatives. Dollita Boyken, mother of two children, weighs only thirty-seven pounds and stands only twenty-seven inches high. She is one of the smallest midgets the world has even known. The younger of the children, little Charles, aged 4, is bigger than his 34-year-old mother. Ten-year-old Lucille Boyken stands head and shoulders taller than her mother.

Nebraskans Capture Prizes.

Nebraska stock breeders were very much in evidence at the Denver Stock show held recently. Following are the awards to men of this state as announced by the judges:

Hereford steer, spayed or Martin heifer, calved between January 1, 1913, and September 1, 1911, O. E. Greene, Genoa, ribbon.

Hereford steer, spayed or Martin heifer, calved between September 1, 1913, and January 1, 1914, O. E. Greene, Genoa, second, \$10.

Percheron 3-year-old stallion, North & Robinson Co., Grand Island, third, \$10.

Poland-China barrow, 150 pounds and under 260 pounds, Phil Dawson, Endicot, second, \$7; third, \$3.

Poland-China pen of three barrows, 175 pounds and under 260, Phil Dawson, Endicot, first, \$12.

P. J. Schmeckle of Cozad won several first, second and third prizes for Duro-Jersey barrows and P. P. Cedar of Genoa, third prize of \$5.

N. O. Denny of Omaha was one of the judges.

The first prize of \$50 for the finest carload of registered yearling bulls was captured by Mortimer & Son of Madison, who sold them to the Tomkins Cattle company for \$450 per head. There were twenty in the lot.

North & Robinson of Grand Island were awarded a third prize of \$10 for the best Percheron 3-year-old stallion.

New Record in Hog Receipts.

South Omaha.—The week of January 17 to 22 was a banner one in the hog division. A new record for hog receipts for one week was established. There were yarded some 108,993 head. The previous record of 102,784 was for the week ending February 17, 1912.

The week also established a record for cars. There were received a total of 2,587 cars of live stock and the previous record was 2,810 for the week ending October 16, 1915.

It is probable that a new month's record will be made for hog receipts. Despite the heavy runs of hogs, the market has been gradually moving upward. The week added about 20 cents to hog values.

The lamb and sheep prices for the week closed even to stronger than the previous week. During the week the season's high spot was touched by lambs at \$10.85.

Market Stands High in West.

Omaha.—The party of boosters from this place, who visited Salt Lake and Denver have returned, and all report having had a most successful trip. They found western cattle and sheepmen in a most friendly frame of mind toward the Omaha market. As one returned traveler puts it, "There never was a time in the history of this market when it stood so high among western stockmen."

Arrivals of sheep at the South Omaha stock yards thus far this year show an increase of over 16,600 for this season a year ago.

Organize Y. W. C. A. at Hastings.

Hastings.—At a banquet attended by more than 200 women, a Young Women's Christian association was organized here. There are about 700 self-supporting women in Hastings and the association is expected to start off with about 200 members.

Institute at Wakefield.

Wakefield.—Arrangements are being made for the annual two days' session of the farmers' institute which will be held here February 11 and 12.

Will Extend Hog Cholera Service.

Tecumseh.—Dr. D. W. Hirst, one of the government veterinarians employed in the hog cholera preventive work in northern Gage county and in Johnson county, says that the service will be extended to farmers over the county line on all lines bordering on the territory stated. The veterinarians will investigate herds of hogs for six miles over the county line and will treat them without expense for two miles into the other counties.

Drilling for Oil.

Plattsburgh.—The machinery for the sinking of the well for oil, which is being drilled by Messrs. T. H. Pollock of Plattsburgh and C. H. Baker of St. Louis, Mo., has begun operations, and the starting of what promises to be the exploitation of the interior of Cass county for oil on a grand scale and the hole started for the interior of the earth, and boring will continue until a depth of 3,500 feet is reached if oil is not found sooner. The location is just off the bank of the Missouri river.

Leedom Files for Office.

Gordon.—Joe W. Leedom, editor of the Gordon Journal, has announced his candidacy for the republican nomination to the office of commissioner of public lands and buildings. Mr. Leedom was born in Nebraska and has spent most of his time in the state. His education in a country printing office was supplemented by study in the University of Nebraska and Morning-side college at Sioux City, where considerable time was spent in the study of politics, economics and public speaking.

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The Reason.
"I am surprised to hear that the Jobsons have separated. What was the cause?"
"Incompatibility. He absolutely detested all the moving picture stars she admired."

South Africa is expected to become one of the great beef-producing countries of the world.

PREPAREDNESS!

To Fortify the System Against Grip when Grip is prevalent LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE should be taken, as this combination of Quinine with other ingredients, destroys germs acts as a Tonic and Laxative and thus keeps the system in condition to withstand Colds, Grip and Influenza. There is only one "BROMO QUININE." E. W. GROVE'S signature on box, 45c.

Thousands of Koreans have applied for Russian citizenship, with a view of joining the Russian army.

MOTHER! LOOK AT CHILD'S TONGUE
If cross, feverish, constipated, give "California Syrup of Figs."

A laxative today saves a sick child tomorrow. Children simply will not take the time from play to empty their bowels, which become clogged up with waste, liver gets sluggish; stomach sour.

Look at the tongue, mother! If coated, or your child is listless, cross, feverish, breath bad, restless, doesn't eat heartily, full of cold or has sore throat or any other children's ailment, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," then don't worry, because it is perfectly harmless, and in a few hours all this constipation, poison, sour bile and fermenting waste will gently move out of the bowels, and you have a well, playful child again. A thorough "inside cleansing" is oftentimes all that is necessary. It should be the first treatment given in any sickness.

Beware of counterfeit fig syrups. Ask at the store for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly printed on the bottle. Adv.

When Housework Drags
Keeping house is hard enough when well. The woman who has a bad back, blue, nervous spells, and dizzy headaches, has a hard lot, for the family tasks never let up. Probably it's the result of kidney trouble and not the much-feared "woman's weakness." Strengthen the kidneys with Doan's Kidney Pills. They are as harmless as they are effective and may be used for children with weak kidneys, too.

A Nebraska Case
Mrs. E. Rieken, Sec- ond St., Alton, Neb., says: "For four years I had sharp pains through the small of my back and when I stooped I got dizzy. I didn't sleep well and mornings felt all worn out. My health was all run down. I lost weight and had a poor appetite. On a friend's advice I used Doan's Kidney Pills. Two or three boxes corrected the trouble and toned up my whole system."

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DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

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When a Postcard Will Bring Free Samples of Cuticura?

Which give quick relief for all itching, burning, disfiguring skin troubles. Bathe with the Cuticura Soap and hot water. Dry and apply Cuticura Ointment to the affected part. They stop itching instantly and point to speedy healing often when all else fails. Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

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Can quickly be overcome by **CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS**.
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Losses SURELY PREVENTED by Cutler's Bleeding Pills. Low-price, fresh, reliable, preferred by the profession where other venous fail. Order by booklet and testimonial. 10-dose package, Bleeding Pills \$1.00. 30-dose package, Bleeding Pills \$4.00. Use any injector, but Cutler's best. The superiority of Cutler's products is due to over 18 years of specializing in venous and venous only. Infallible. Get Cutler's. It's unobtainable, order direct. The Cutler Laboratory, Berkeley, Cal. or Chicago, Ill.

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Always Successful. Write for Booklet. Address NEAL INSTITUTE, 21 Benton Street, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA. Or address J. A. MAY, Manager.

ARE YOUR KIDNEYS WEAK?

Thousands of Men and Women Have Kidney Trouble and Never Suspect It.

Nature warns you when the track of health is not clear. Kidney and bladder troubles cause many annoying symptoms and great inconvenience both day and night.

Unhealthy kidneys may cause lumbago, rheumatism, catarrh of the bladder, pain or dull ache in the back, joints or muscles, at times have headache or indigestion, as time passes you may have a sallow complexion, puffy or dark circles under the eyes, sometimes feel as though you had heart trouble, may have plenty of ambition but no strength, get weak and lose flesh.

If such conditions are permitted to continue, serious results may be expected; Kidney Trouble in its very worst form may steal upon you.

Prevalence of Kidney Disease.
Most people do not realize the alarm-

ing increase and remarkable prevalence of kidney disease. While most disorders are among the most common diseases that prevail, they are almost the last recognized by patients, who usually content themselves with doctoring the effects, while the original disease may constantly undermine the system.

If you feel that your kidneys are the cause of your sickness or run down condition, try taking Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the famous kidney, liver and bladder remedy, because as soon as your kidneys improve, they will help the other organs to health.

If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need, you can purchase its regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles at all drug stores. Don't make any mistake but remember the name, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address Binghamton, N. Y., which you will find on every bottle.

SPECIAL NOTE—You may obtain a sample size bottle of Swamp-Root by enclosing ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. This gives you the opportunity to prove the remarkable merit of this medicine. They will also send you a book of valuable information, containing many of the thousands of grateful letters received from men and women who say they found Swamp-Root to be just the remedy needed in kidney, liver and bladder troubles. The value and success of Swamp-Root are so well known that our readers are advised to send for a sample size bottle. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. When writing be sure and mention this paper.

INTERESTING ITEMS

A novelty for smokers is tobacco packed in paper cartridges to be smoked in any pipe or in specially designed tubes which resemble enlarged cigar holders.

William Frederick Allen, who died recently at his home in Orange, N. J., at the age of seventy years, was the inventor of the present method of computing standard time in this country, which system has been adopted in practically every civilized country.