

# FARM TALK

## Preparing Seed Wheat For Sowing.

We think our readers in the corn belt will agree with us that winter wheat, which many of them said they could not raise at all, has proven to be the surest crop this year, more certain even than corn except where there has been abundant rain fall. Winter wheat, if the seed bed be properly prepared, the right kind of wheat selected, drilled in and then harrowed in the spring, can ripen before even as severe drouth as this year can do it very serious injury. It has suffered some, probably in some cases to the extent of five or ten bushels to the acre; but, taking it all in all, there is less complaint about the winter wheat crop in the corn belt than any other.

We have given a good deal of time and space to suggestions as to the preparation of the land, but perhaps have not said enough about the preparation of the seed for sowing. Wheat is subject to both rust and smut. Rust is a matter of season. This can not be controlled. There is danger of rust damage, and always will be, in a season of great heat and superabundant rain fall.

There are two kinds of smut in wheat: the loose smut and the stinking smut, the latter usually called bunt. Loose smut is sown with the wheat and grows with the wheat, the spores being blown over the wheat field at the time when the wheat is in bloom. Hence the loss from it is often underestimated. The farmer does not often visit his wheat field until he is about ready to cut, and hence fails to see the amount of injury he has suffered from smut. The same is true of oats and barley. He sometimes is blind to the damage he has suffered from bunt or stinking smut; for this grows in the grain, converts it into a mass of stinking spores, but does not greatly change the appearance of the grain itself.

What now is the remedy? First get out your fanning mill. If you do not have one, hire or borrow one; if you can not do that, buy one. Then sift out the small grains and blow out as far as possible all the stinking smut. This can be done, because these smutted grains are lighter than the average grain.

Next treat your seed wheat with formaldehyde, just as you do oats. We don't know that formaldehyde is as effective against loose smut of wheat as it is against the loose smut of oats but it is the best practical means that we know of to prevent loose smut. After thoroughly fanning your wheat, use only the large, well developed grains for seed. Spread it out on the floor, and sprinkle it with the formalin solution as recommended for the oats, then another of wheat, and so on. Be sure that the formaldehyde is pure. Get it in the original package and see that it is sealed. A pound of formaldehyde in forty gallons or a barrel of water will treat from forty to fifty bushels of wheat. This will cost you but a trifle in addition to the work, and will save you money.

There is another way of certainly killing loose smut in wheat, but we do not regard it as practical for the average farmer; what is known as the Jensen hot water treatment. It would not be practical except for enough to furnish seed for the next year, and besides, may injure the germination of the wheat. Hence we do not describe it. The formalin treatment is the most practical treatment for the farmer that we know anything about; but before applying the treatment don't forget to thoroughly grade your wheat and use only the larger grains. It will mean a difference of from three to five bushels per acre to your crop, if the experiments at the various ex-

periment stations mean anything. As a matter of fact they are very safe guides for the farmer to follow.—Wallaces' Farmer.

## Preparing Ground For Fall Wheat.

We have been raising fall wheat for a good many years and in the last quarter of a century have prepared the ground in many different ways. As our soil gets older we find we must do better farming and give the land better preparation. In the early days we broke the virgin soil in June, back-set it in August, harrowed it the first of September and sowed from the tenth up to the twentieth of that month. Then, in a few years, we discovered we got better results sowing in the latter days of September and now in Nebraska we get some pretty good wheat from October seeding. This gives us a longer time in the autumn to get the seed bed in proper condition.

Recent experiment station work has demonstrated that good ploughing done the last days of July and up to the middle of August was the best way to begin preparation, then by the use of the harrow and disc, we kept up the dust mulch condition and retained the moisture, assuring an ideal place to drop the golden grains of promise.

We have been following this plan this season and find that we are getting a fine place to sprout the wheat and give it a start toward a good fall growth. If one has the horse power on the farm, it does not pay to wait for a rain to soak the soil and make it plow easy. No matter if the clouds do roll up and make it look like poor farming, if the horses can stand the work, push the early plowing without reference to the weather conditions. Of course, by early plowing we are apt to have a stand of volunteer wheat or oats on the land. This can be eliminated by a good disking and then when you have rain, the soil is ready to harrow down in fine shape.

We had some extra horses on the place. We put them on the harrow and followed the gang and kept the fresh plowing harrowed down. It only took a couple of hours each evening to harrow the day's plowing and it saved un hitching from the plow and using the tired horses to pulverize the day's working. Even the driving horses can stand a few hours harrowing each day. Of course we did no harrowing when the ground broke up in clods as big as a man's head, as they did before the first rain but as soon as it rained we put the harrow on the land and kept the harrowing done up right along afterwards.

Some farmers who do not follow the practice of sowing oats on the ground where they expect to put fall wheat follow the practice of sowing wheat in the cornfields. We have done this, but it almost invariably failed to pay and although we have not been raising many oats to the acre of late, we still follow the practice of sowing every bit of wheat land in oats the preceding spring. We would rather sow wheat two years in succession than sow in stalk ground. We remember one case when we got 30 bushels of wheat the first year and by early and good preparation of the soil, obtained a 33-bushel crop the next year. We attributed the increased yield to the better and earlier preparation of the soil, for we got the wheat stacked early and set about plowing at once.

In early days we burned the stubble, but no one does that these days, as in Nebraska we have learned the fact that we need all the humus we can return in the way of stubble and weeds.

We recently took a trip through the famous wheat lands of Canada and found that they were growing wheat for several years in succession and not even plowing the ground. They simply disked the land, harrowed it down and sowed with a disk drill. This brings big crops on the virgin soil of that country and this method is followed on our western farms of the arid belt, where they do not summer-fallow every other year, but westerners will find in coming years that summer-fallowing will pay better, if they have no time to plow and properly prepare the ground and want to use it every season.—J. O. Shroyer, in Nebraska Farm Journal.

## Wheat in Standing Corn.

In your issue of August 11, page 1106, there is a reply, "Wheat in Standing Corn," that attracted my special attention, as I was intending to sow wheat in forty acres of corn the coming fall.

We value Wallaces' Farm very highly. In fact, we look upon it as the most reliable farm weekly that comes to our home. But the reply given in the above article was to us most disappointing.

You say it will knock off the ears very much to seed in the corn and then advise seeding both ways, which would require going through the corn twice; once each way. This surely would break down and knock off twice as many stalks and ears. Again, if we seed both ways, as you advise, there arises another difficulty. With one seeder it will take very active work to seed forty acres in six days. Then there is one rest day at last, and possibly one or more wet days; at least the latter would just now be very desirable. That would make seven or eight days from the first seeding be-

gan until the second seeding would commence. By that time the first few days' seeding would be up and half of the seeding would be sprouted. You would not surely advise cross seeding under such conditions. This cross seeding is therefore impractical, unless in a very limited acreage. It might do on ten acres.

This is to be my first effort at growing fall wheat, and that is the reason why I am so interested in the "know how."

I have never been able to make fall wheat growing work into our rotation of corn and clover and pasture, cattle sheep and hogs.

Pasture, hay and stock, with what spring grain we could raise, has been our forte. The spring grain has never given us much profit as grain, but served well as feed and bedding.

Your article makes it a little discouraging, but if weather conditions prove favorable we will not give up our effort.

Our cornfield has been well worked, level culture, so that it is as well as any field prepared for crop could be desired—free from weeds and the corn standing well. The seed was good and the stand of corn is quite heavy. This is not so good for a corn crop as if the stand was lighter on account of the dryness of the season. The last working was just before the corn came into silk and this made a fine dust mulch and leaves it in fine shape for seeding to wheat.

Our pastures became so dry that our stock, cattle and sheep, were taken from the pastures and put on a stubble field adjoining our corn field, where we feed them fresh corn every day. We give them all the corn they will clean up, cutting from the outside of the field so as to give us a good turning place when seeding the wheat. And this will give the outside rows a better chance to make a good showing until the next harvest comes. That is quite important along a public road.

Now I would not like to make a failure in this, our first effort, as that would be quite discouraging, so you will tell me what is wrong in our plans and what would aid us in our efforts.—David Brown, Dodge County, Nebraska.

Remarks:—In the foregoing Mr. Brown has clearly set forth the objections to drilling both ways. Against them must be considered the advantage of a more thorough covering of the ground by double drilling. In his case it appears that he will have a level field in either event. Therefore, it seems to be a matter for him to decide after considering the advantages and disadvantages. We do not urge the drilling of wheat in corn for the reasons set forth in our issue of August 11; but under favorable conditions good crops can be grown by this method.—Wallaces' Farmer.

## Drilling Winter Wheat In Corn Stalks.

L. B. Benson, Dawson county, Nebraska, writes: "Having had some experience on this subject I would like to make a few remarks. About the first week in September we got through the corn with a fine shovel cultivator. This process destroys the weeds, loosens the ground and makes a good seed bed. I generally aim to start to sow from four to six pecks to the acre just according to season. After the corn is husked we turn the stock in the cornfield. They will not hurt the wheat unless it is pastured too heavy. I let them run on wheat all winter, but I shut them off when the snow is on the ground.

"The stock breaks the stalks considerably. Early in the spring when the stalks are hard and dry I run over them. The first time I set the teeth so they will dig in the ground a little. This loosens the soil and helps the work a great deal. The second time I harrow it crossways and set the teeth flat, which breaks most of the stalks. The wheat in an ordinary year will be tall enough to cut with a binder. This year some of the farmers had to use headers.

I have sown cornstalk wheat for the last ten years. It yields between ten and thirty-five bushels per acre. Last year my wheat yielded twenty-seven bushels, which is considered a good yield for cornstalk wheat."

A. Pewitt, Williamson Co., Tennessee, writes: "We always sow wheat in the stalks. We take a bull-tongue plow and plow as closely to the corn both ways as we can, then sow the wheat and plow it in good. When the ground is frozen hard take a pole twenty feet long and hitch a mule to each end of the pole, put a rider on each mule and drive all over the fields. This will knock the stalks all off close to the ground. The stalks won't bother much if left on the ground, some times we take a rake and rake them and fill gullies or burn them. I have been sowing wheat this way for thirty years and make from twenty to thirty five bushels to the acre according to the ground."—Iowa Homestead.

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DINNER TIME.

## SOLDIER LADS TO ENCAMP IN OMAHA

### Two Regiments of Nebraska National Guard for Maneuvers Dates During Ak-Sar-Ben.

Program Will Extend Over a Period of Ten Days, Beginning September 26 and Ending October 5—Camp Near Bellevue.

When the visitors from all over the world go to Omaha to witness the festivities incident to the coronation of King Ak-Sar-Ben XVII, they will have the opportunity to witness the Nebraska national guard—Nebraska's contribution to the citizen soldiery of the nation—at its best.

For at the same time, the national guardsmen will be attending their annual encampment, located this year a short distance south of Bellevue, perhaps twelve miles south of the business district of Omaha, and easily accessible by the interurban railway leading to Bellevue and Fort Crook.

In fact, a trip to the camp to visit Nebraska's soldier boys may be made a pleasant outing in various ways, for also may be visited Bellevue, where the French voyageurs of 100 years ago, delighted beyond measure at nature's panorama spread in magnificent colors and scenic grandeur before them, exclaimed "La Bellevue," and Fort Crook, within a mile of which the camp will be located, may be visited, and Uncle Sam's soldiers in their splendid army post may be observed.

Once each year the Nebraska national guard, like the national guard of other states, goes into camp from one to two weeks. This year it will last ten days. This is the period of the year when full time is devoted to military instruction; when by the massing of large bodies of troops in instruction of a character which can not be given at the home stations is given, and when larger military problems are worked out; when camp life is tried out, and the men taught and hardened by experience for the active service to which they may at any time be called; when all become enthused over military affairs, and return to their homes with a new zeal and inspiration for military duties.

Long years ago, before the civil war, but yet within the memory of the older men and women, the military instruction of general character for the citizens consisted of "general training day" once a year; a gala day of unique efforts and of the nation, a day when the old people met and gossiped, and the youngsters ate gingerbread, while the able-bodied men were soldiers for the day.

But the civil war taught one terrible lesson—that raw and untrained men will die in camp like sheep from disease before they ever reached the front; and that loyalty and patriotism without organization often are virtues that lead to dire disaster on the battlefield. The Spanish war taught another lesson—that men must not only be trained in their local organizations, but that these organizations must be uniform in their make-up, quickly answerable to a single head, and prepared to act promptly as the second line of defense of the nation, the regular army, of course, being the first. To that end, since the Spanish war the national guard of the various states has been made a part of the regular army.

The Nebraska national guard consists of two regiments of infantry, the First and Second; one company of the signal corps, located at Fremont; one field hospital company, located at Lincoln; one machine gun company, located at Beatrice, and one engineer company, located at Omaha.

Though the two infantry regiments would consist of twelve companies each, if filled, the attitude of the state military department in recent years has been that of promptly mustering out a company that does not maintain itself at a high standard, and to not fill the vacancy until a new company, organized with at least forty-five men of good character, offering the moral and financial support of the community, is offered to take its place. As a result, the last roster showed two

vacancies in the First regiment, and one in the Second regiment.

These are the present infantry companies and their home stations:

First Regiment—Company A, York, Captain Roy E. Olmstead; B, Stanton, Captain Iver S. Johnson; C, Beatrice, Captain Charles L. Brewster; D, Norfolk, Captain Charles L. Anderson; E, Blair, Captain Frederick A. Abbott; G, Geneva, Captain Harry E. Ford; H, Osceola, Captain Richard O. Allen; K, Wymore, Captain Jesse V. Craig; L, Omaha, Captain Henning F. Elsassner; M, McCook, Captain J. Roy Weidenhamer.

Second Regiment—Company A, Kearney, Captain Harry N. Jones; B, Beaver City, Captain John Stevens; C, Nebraska City, Captain Clyde E. McCormick; D, Hastings, Captain J. Hamilton Riffe; E, Holdrege, Captain Frank A. Anderson; F, Lincoln, Captain Phil L. Hall, Jr.; G, Omaha, Captain Earl E. Sterrick; H, Aurora, Captain Carl G. Johnson; K, Schuyler, Captain Charles H. Johnson; L, Alma, Captain Arthur Kimberling; M, Albin, Captain Leon H. Davis.

The commander in chief of the Nebraska national guard is Governor Chester H. Aldrich. Direct management is entrusted by him to a general staff of which General Ernest H. Phelps, the adjutant general, is the head, he being a regular salaried officer, and having several salaried officers of the rank of major or captain assisting him. Next to the adjutant general are three heads of departments, whose services are called but occasionally, they being Colonel Allan D. Falconer, quartermaster and commissary general; Colonel A. D. Fetterman, inspector general, and Colonel Willard A. Prince, judge advocate general.

A large part of the advisory work is done by the military board, which meets monthly, and which consists of the adjutant general, the brigade commander, and the two regimental commanders and the chief surgeon of the medical corps.

Attached to the general staff is the medical corps, of which Major John M. Birkner of Lincoln is chief surgeon. He has fifteen surgeons under him. All of the field forces of the guard, previously named, are organized into a brigade, of which General Joseph A. Storch of Fullerton is in command. He has the usual brigade staff.

Under him are the First regiment, of which the field officers are Colonel George A. Eberly of Stanton, Lieutenant Colonel W. Edmund Behr of Omaha, Major George E. Holdeman of York, Major Charles E. Fraser of Madison and Major Albert H. Hollingsworth of Beatrice; the Second regiment, of which the field officers are Colonel Fred J. Mack of Albin, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Elton Clapp of Steele City, Major Herbert H. Paul of St. Paul, Major Walter F. Sammons of Kearney and Major Otis M. Newman of Aurora; the machine gun company, Captain Henry A. Jess; the field hospital company, Major John M. Birkner; the machine gun company, Captain Herbert T. Weston, and the engineer company, Captain F. Otto Hassman.

Altogether, the brigade consists of about 1,400 officers and men, as they turn out for duty, after eliminating those who are ill or who have substantial reasons for not reporting.

This brigade, officered by Spanish war veterans as a rule, for the two



ADJ. GEN. ERNEST H. PHELPS.



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regiments served with credit in that war, well drilled, wishing to make a good appearance, will be in camp from Sept. 26 to Oct. 5. There will be squad, company, battalion and regimental drills, and brigade reviews, dress parades and other spectacular functions, extended order drills and maneuvers to the extent that the ground will permit and practice in making and breaking camp, and in various other matters that go to make up the life of a soldier in the field. One day will be devoted to field day exercises.

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The writer visited that locality the week of August 6th to the 12th and saw everywhere such excellent yields, such highly developed farms, canals full of water, fast growing towns, new land going under cultivation, as to warrant this statement, that there are not today, in the United States, better chances for successful farming and future homes than upon the irrigated lands of the above named regions.

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