

WEED YEAR BILL MANY MILLIONS

Farmers of Four States
Estimate Loss Annual-
ly at \$14,500,000

WASHINGTON (AP)—Spring wheat growers in Minnesota, Montana, and the Dakotas are estimated by the department of agriculture to have suffered an avoidable market loss of \$14,500,000 in the last four years, and to have paid an additional \$2,500,000 for the privilege.

The \$2,500,000 represents freight charges they paid railroads for hauling weed seeds with their grain, and the \$12,000,000 is the estimated loss forced on them because their wheat was not clean.

For the four-year period the reduction in sale price averaged 1.3 cents per bushel on wheat that contained weed seeds and stems, chaff, straw, grain or other than wheat, and various foreign materials known to federal grain standards as "dockage."

In round figures the market loss, added to the cost of weed seed transportation and the value dockage would have had as a farm feed, amounts to \$14,500,000. It would have cost approximately \$12,000,000 to clean the wheat on the farms, but by so doing the growers would have realized a profit of \$25,000,000.

Of the 1926 crop delivered to country elevators in the spring wheat areas of the four states, the grain contained an average of 7 per cent dockage. Flaxseed from the same states contained an average of 16 per cent dockage. From 1923 to 1926 the dockage delivered by farmers to country elevators in the spring wheat region amounted to approximately 360,000 tons annually.

The amount of dockage found in grain has, in general, been increasing steadily. Government charts show the average dockage in spring wheat, including durum, received at Minnesota terminals, has increased during each succeeding five-year period.

Increases are attributed principally to the fact that most weed seeds will remain in the soil in a viable condition for several years and will germinate and grow into plants whenever they are brought near the surface through plowing or other cultivation.

One square foot of North Dakota soil, five inches deep, taken from a field that had been chomped to wheat continuously for 15 years, was found by actual count to contain 4,211 weed seeds, equivalent to 182,000,000 weed seeds per acre. Wheat is sown at the rate of slightly less than 1,000,000 kernels per acre.

During the five years from 1922 to 1926, the average annual production of dockage in North Dakota has been nearly as much as the production of corn, and about two-thirds as much as the production of barley; whereas the farm value of the dockage crop, known as "screenings" when fed to livestock, amounted to slightly more than \$5,000,000—less than half the value of the barley crop.

CHANGES HER MIND

NEW YORK—Pearl Dolores Bell, who has a reputation at Palm Beach for being the best dressed novelist, has changed her mind. Frequently she said she knew too much about love to succumb to it; that it was merely a sure-fire theme for her bread and butter. Now she is on a honeymoon with Gilbert E. Rubens, Havana distiller and art collector.

The leaf stalks that grow around a head of cauliflower are palatable if properly cooked. They should be washed, cut in short lengths and boiled until tender. As this will take longer than it takes to cook the florets, the stalks should be started about 10 to 15 minutes earlier if they are to be served at the same time.

To make a good mayonnaise that does not separate, keep the bowl and ingredients cold. Add oil very slowly at first, only a few drops at a time. Measure in cups or small pitchers the quantities of oil and vinegar the recipe directs. Add salt last.

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OUT OUR WAY

By Williams



HEALTH

QUARANTINE SUREST WAY TO CHECK CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

By E. H. Aldman, M. D.

Hopkins, Wash.

Member Gorgas Memorial
Since the day when experience and observation began to show that most contagious diseases are spread through personal contact with matter from the source of infection, and not through the machinations of the evil eye or other obscure causes created by superstition and ignorance, our efforts to combat the spread of the contagious diseases began to show results. It was found that the surest and best way to check the spread of such diseases was based on the isolation of the patient, thereby limiting contact with other persons and matter as much as possible. That's why you should not break quarantine under any circumstances. That's why you should willingly submit to quarantine whenever a member of your family has a contagious disease.

A case of contagious disease should be promptly reported to the proper health authorities. This is done either by the physician in charge or by any person living on the premises if no doctor has been called. Neglecting this, or hiding such a patient as they are known to do in some backward communities, is a condemnable thing and one of the greatest obstacles in fighting the spread of contagious diseases. Totally ignorant of the presence of such a patient, people will continue to visit the premises and come into contact with infective matter. They will either come down with the disease themselves or become carriers of the contagion and thus, unawares, spread the disease.

Upon receipt of a report, the health authorities will immediately take steps to check further spread of the contagious disease. They will remove the patient to a hospital for contagious diseases, if such an institution exists in your community, then they will disinfect the premises and keep the persons living there under observation during the incubation time—that is, the time it takes for a contagious disease to break out after infection has taken place. If no hos-

pital is available, the patient is taken care of at home and in certain types of contagious diseases, as the law provides, the house is put under quarantine. Nobody is permitted to enter such a place except the attending physician who has the means and knowledge to avoid contact with infective matter, and nobody can leave the premises until such time as the health authorities see fit to lift the quarantine. Nothing can be removed from the premises, and all supplies which are needed are placed on the porch or doorstep. The house is placarded with the name of the disease in plain letters, as a warning to stay away. Before the quarantine restrictions are removed the premises are disinfected under the guidance of the health authorities. As a rule quarantine restrictions are particularly rigid in cases where persons engaged in the sale, handling or distributing food stuffs have been exposed to contagion.

All these regulations and measures are usually common knowledge, easy to understand, and gen-

erally admitted to be necessary. But how about the willingness of the general public to abide by these restrictions? It is true that these restrictions are often inconvenient, and even financially a burden, as in cases where the provider of a family is compelled to refrain from his work and is confined to the quarantine premises. And there will often be considerable interruption in school attendance to the detriment of children. This is deplorable, to be sure, but individual discomfort and inconvenience should be subordinate to the welfare of the community as a whole. Quarantine measures are passed for the protection of the public. We should not forget that. It is up to each and every one of us to assist the health authorities by abiding by the restrictions and doing our share in the commendable work of preventing the spread of contagious diseases.

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Farm Pointers

Feed dairy heifers, six to 15 months of age, all the alfalfa they will eat up clean, and let them pick leaves off the fodder. Feed from 2 to 3 pounds of ground corn daily, depending on the age, size, and vigor of the heifer. Other grains can be used, but corn usually is cheaper and will give just as good results.

Rabbits called for commercial sale require careful handling. If occasion arises to pick them up, it always should be done by grasping the skin at the back of the neck, and if the animal is to be held any length of time it should be placed in the arms, or rested on the floor or some other stationary object. Rabbits never should be held by the ears, as sometimes is a common practice. In many instances it not only injures the outer ear but does serious damage to the inner ear.

Contrary to general supposition, weed seeds do not rot within a few years if buried in the soil. In an

experiment begun in 1902 by the department of agriculture, 107 species of seeds were buried in pots of soil at various depths. In 1912, ten years after being buried, 69 species grew, and in 1923, after 20 years burial, 51 species still were able to grow. Most weed seeds plowed under will not perish during the period of any normal crop rotation.

Breeding from good stock is desirable and fundamental, yet the tremendous losses among young livestock are due only to a very limited extent to faulty breeding. Pure bred animals generally re-

ceive better care than ordinary stock because they are more valuable, and they usually are the property of the more skillful stockman. But, equal care should be extended to young animals in general, regardless of whether they are purebred. Livestock owners must drop any attitude they may have toward fatalism and indifference to deaths of young animals, and challenge every death to show cause why it occurred.

Because some fine-quality wild pecan trees grow on land that is sometimes flooded, some growers have made the mistake of plant-

ing pecans in wet soil. Overflows rarely damage pecans, but for good development, there is needed a well-drained and friable subsoil through which the taproot and laterals may extend readily. Soil that is wet at times and well drained at others is desirable. Soils that stay wet will kill pecan trees.

Rotation of pasture is necessary to elimination of stomach worms in sheep. Lambs should be given special preference in the matter of pastures. They should be placed on fairly dry hillside, never on bottom lands, and the dams treated for worms.

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