

REPORT OF THE COUNTY AGRICULTURIST FOR 1915

(Continued from last week.)

Through a careful investigation and personal observation County Agriculturist A. E. Lovett, in his annual report, has given out information regarding his findings for the last season. Mr. Lovett made a canvass of the farmers in the county and reports as follows regarding suitable grains to plant:

GRAIN DEMONSTRATIONS IN CROOK COUNTY.

In our reconnaissance of agricultural crops in Crook county during the season of 1914, we found various varieties of wheat, oats and barley grown by the farmers in all sections. Not only was there a large number of varieties of each grain crop grown but in many instances we found that unknown varieties and mixtures of varieties were planted. Upon an investigation of experiments at Eastern Oregon Experiment Stations and upon a study of most successful varieties within the county we concluded that it would prove profitable to the farmers of this section to select one to three varieties of each crop, secure the best seed of these varieties and thus prevent mixtures and "running out" of seed materially. The following varieties of each crop were selected and recommended to the farmers: Early Baart and Marquis wheats for spring planting and Kharkof wheat for fall planting; Banner oats for irrigated or sub-irrigated land and Sixty-day oats for dry land; Wisconsin No. 9 barley for irrigated land and Hanchen or Swanneck barley for dry land. Besides these varieties, seed of which was obtained from outside sources, Blue Stem wheat for spring sowing and Turkey Red wheat for fall sowing were already found in some localities and were recommended. This was also true of Shadeland Challenge oats and Oderbrucker barley. Because of the newness of the Agriculturist's work in the county and the large territory to be covered, we were not as successful as we had hoped to be in establishing demonstration plots with these grains. Through our efforts, however, there was shipped into Crook county this year 16 tons of Early Baart wheat, 4 tons of Marquis wheat, 20 tons of Kharkof wheat and 10 tons of Banner oats. Some difficulty was encountered in procuring this seed because of the necessity of purchasing it in larger quantities in order to obtain it at reasonable prices. The Bend Flour Mill Co., of Bend, Oregon, became interested in our effort, partly because they were endeavoring to introduce the same seeds into the territory through which they worked. Through cooperation with this company we were able to locate and purchase the above amounts of seed. The Flour Mill Co., purchasing the seed in carload lots and selling to the farmers at a very small margin of profit.

The results obtained from the planting of these seeds varied greatly, most especially with the wheats. Report blanks were sent to all purchasers of these seeds. Only 24 filled out and returned them. The growth and yields of these crops was watched carefully by the County Agriculturist personally where ever possible for him to visit the fields. Results obtained with each crop during the season of 1915 were as follows:

Early Baart Wheat.

Twelve farmers reported results in writing: A. S. Fogg near Hampton, says: "Crop was killed by Jack rabbits before fully maturing. Think it is the best wheat yet tried in this section. I am of the opinion that this variety can be profitably grown here, if planted about May 15th on well prepared ground." J. O. Youngstrom near Culver in Jefferson county, says: "I consider this variety of wheat a little better than any other variety of spring wheat for this locality." E. A. Bussett, near Powell Butte, says: "I think the Early Baart wheat is the best spring wheat we have ever had in this country." Of the remaining 9 who reported, 3 reported a very satisfactory crop; 3 reported failures of frosts or rabbits and 3 prefer other varieties than the

Early Baart. Through personal visits to fields of this wheat, although we found some failures, we are led to conclude that the yield of grain from the Early Baart variety of wheat will exceed the yield from most other spring varieties. Positive conclusions are, however, impossible through one season's use of a variety.

Marquis Wheat.

Only 4 written reports were received from farmers growing this variety. N. W. Knickerbocker near Gist, states as follows: "I grew both the Marquis and Early Baart wheats and believe that I prefer the Marquis wheat for spring sowing as it seems to make a more vigorous growth than the Early Baart wheat under the same conditions." C. J. Mock near Tumalo, states: "This wheat was thinned by spring frosts and only part of it was irrigated. I think it a good wheat for this locality, but would recommend sowing larger amount of seed per acre, on account of the frost thinning wheat in the spring here." The 2 other men reporting, consider other varieties better than the Marquis. Personal visits to fields of this variety of wheat prove it to be at least equal, and in several instances, superior to the Blue Stem wheat. The Marquis being a beardless variety is preferable over the Early Baart where the crop is to be used for hay, but experience this year seems to show that the Blue Stem variety will make more hay than either of the other two mentioned.

Banner Oats.

Nine farmers reported on this crop in writing. W. F. Mason near Prineville, states: "I think these oats are what we want for this section of the country." Lewis Ellingson near Bend, states: "Needing hay, I cut it when the grain was in the milk. If it had stood until it matured, it appears to me that it would have been first class." W. D. Clark near Tumalo, states: "Considering the dry season, it made a remarkable growth, doing much better than other varieties I have tried. I harvested 45 bushels per acre." Of the others reporting, all state that the Banner Oats yielded as well as other varieties. Upon personal visits to fields I found this variety as good or better than other varieties planted with the Shadeland Challenge variety giving practically the same yields and satisfaction.

Sixty-Day Oats.

Only 100 pounds of this variety of oats was available for demonstration purposes and this amount is all of which we are informed was planted in the county. The seed was given to demonstrators on dry land and visits to these fields show 3 obtaining satisfactory results and better yields than from any other variety. One lost his crop by rabbits; one obtained a poor stand and crop on the "high desert" the crop did not fully mature. Mr. Fogg, one demonstrator on the "high desert" says: "This grain was well filled but not fully matured at time of harvesting, as Jack rabbits had begun to destroy it. I believe this variety can be successfully raised in this section."

Wisconsin Number 9 Barley.

Seed of this variety was furnished to William Henderson near Tumalo by the Agricultural College in 1912. From this seed he has obtained yields of 70 and 80 bushels per acre respectively in 1914-15. In spring of 1915 he sold seed to 3 farmers at 3 cents per pound. These three men this year obtained yields of 60 to 80 bushels per acre. Other barleys on irrigated land this year yielded from 30 to 50 bushels per acre, the Oderbrucker and the White Irish Six Row barleys, being the 2 varieties nearest approaching yields of Wisconsin No. 9.

Hanchen and Swanneck Barleys.

Because of the success obtained through the growing of these 2 varieties of barley at Eastern Oregon Experiment Stations, they were recommended to dry land farmers for trial. Sixty pounds of each variety was obtained for demonstrators. The seed was given to demonstrators on the "high desert" where all of the crops were destroyed except on the farm of A. S. Fogg at Hampton. Both

varieties grew well in this section and were headed nicely when rabbits appeared. Seed was planted May 22. Both Mr. Fogg and myself are of the opinion that had these barleys been planted 2 or 3 weeks earlier, and had not the rabbit pest appeared, a good grain crop would have been obtained from these barleys. Spring Emmer planted at the same time as the barleys gave a better growth early in the season but was destroyed by rabbits before they attacked the other grain crop.

Kharkof Wheat.

Because of the results obtained at the Experiment Stations of Eastern Oregon, and because this wheat was especially recommended by the Agricultural College, it has been recommended to the farmers of this section for fall planting. Good Minnesota seed was obtained and sold to the farmers by the Bend Flour Mill Company for planting in fall of 1915. Results obtained from this variety of wheat will be reported after next seasons harvest and threshing. Helmholtz Bros., living west of Redmond, planted 20 acres of Kharkof wheat in the fall of 1914. The crop obtained this year is considered better than any other wheat they have grown, by these men. The yield was 40 bushels per acre.

Corn Varieties.

No corn, excepting in very small plots was grown in Crook county prior to 1914. In the spring of this year several small plots of corn were planted in many sections but, excepting a very little sweet corn, it was practically all killed by frost north of the Terrebonne district. In this district and around Lower Bridge, some corn was matured this season.

In 1915 several demonstrators undertook the raising of corn and many of them tried more than one variety. Prof. Scudder of the Agricultural College recommended the Minnesota No. 23 for grain and the Minnesota No. 13 for forage in this county and these varieties were recommended to the farmers by the Agriculturist. There being in the northern portion of the county several farmers who had succeeded with a so called "native" variety, they were not discouraged in the planting of this variety but were encouraged to try the pure-bred varieties in comparison with the native grown corn. Also, with their shipment of alfalfa seed in the spring the Dakota Improved Seed Company sent six varieties of corn for trial under Crook county conditions and this seed was given to two demonstrators near Lower Bridge for trial.

The results obtained this year through these trials were as follows: The best grain producing varieties were Disco Amber Flint, Disco Pride, "native" corn and Minnesota No. 23, in the order named, the best fodder

producing varieties were Minnesota No. 13, Northwestern Dent and native corn in the order named. In other districts where these varieties were not planted, a white flint corn distributed by the O. W. R. & N. Co., did very well this year generally. 1915 was a much more favorable year for growing corn than was 1914. These trials will be continued next season.

Results obtained through the use of varieties of crops recommended by the Agriculturist in this county are generally very favorable, and have proved generally slightly superior to most other varieties grown. We are of the opinion that results obtained in 1916-17 will further prove the superiority of all of these varieties for Crook county. Results obtained this year seem to indicate that fall grains are preferable on dry land. Results obtained thus far do not warrant a definite choice between fall or spring grains for irrigated lands. In the spring of 1915, most of the spring grains were planted a little late for the season encountered. The average date of planting was about May 15th. For this season grain planted about May 1st made the best growth and crop. We are not, however, inclined to state definitely that these crops should be planted at this date this season. A definite decision as to the best time of planting in Crook county will require more than one year's experience, and as the seasons vary somewhat, it will probably be impossible to designate any certain day of the month when crops should be planted.

Next week: "Demonstration Farms on the 'High Desert.'" Season 1915.

(Continued next week.)

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