One Hundred Benton Farmers Will Co-operate In Seed Test

TO SUPPLY CORN FOR COUNTY-WIDE GERMINATION TRIALS

Five Men In Each Township Will Send 200 Kernels To Benton Farm Bureau Office; Heezen Tells How To Make "Rag Doll."

REALIZING the importance of the early report on the germination of seed corn, the Benton county farm bureau is planning an extensive [illegible]. Five farmers in each of the twenty townships in Benton county have been asked to send to the farm bureau office 200 kernels of corn taken from 100 ears of their seed corn. These samples will be given the rag doll test and the results made known early in February.

Each farmer cooperating on the project has been asked to furnish information showing how he has handled his seed corn, the variety, the date of shelling, storage and disposition during the cold months and other necessary information.

Moisture tests on the corn harvested on the Benton county corn yield test plots last fall were as high as 35 per cent. Much of the corn harvested last fall contained 25 per cent moisture or more. With this excessive moisture and subzero weather in December, seed corn stored in a corn crib, granary or other outdoor building will need to be carefully tested before being planted. All seed corn should be given an individual ear test before being planted. County Agent C. J. Heezen has a

$100 a Day

"Farmers can easily make $100 a day testing their seed corn if they expect to plant thirty acres of corn. An individual ear test will enable them to increase the yield of ten bushels an acre," Mr. Heezen says. The work of testing ten bushels of seed corn need not take more than three or four days. Figure what 100 bushels of corn is worth. It is probable that in many cases this spring the difference between a test or a guess as to germination and all individual ear test will be a difference between a crop and a [illegible]

"The most efficient test for seed corn is the rag doll test. To make a rag doll take a bleached muslin or tea towel sheet. Tear it in strips nine to twelve inches wide and eight feet long. Take a time with a heavy lead pencil or colored wagon lumber wire through the center of the cloth and mark cross lines three inches apart. This will make a doll large enough to test fifty ears of corn.

"In starting the test the ears to be tested should be placed on a rack or piled in rows with a heading regarding each row of corn so each ear can be located when the test is read. If wire seed corn hangers are being used, the ears can be left in the hangers and numbered from right to left starting at top or bottom.

Six Kernels From Each Ear

"After being marked the ear should be soaked in water and laid out on a table. Select six kernels from each ear beginning at the butt of the ear and rotating it so as to select them from different parts of the ear. Place the kernels in the squares on the cloth. Every tenth square should be numbered with pen. When all the squares are filled [illegible] the cloth [illegible] the kernels [illegible] The whole starts to the damp cloth.

"[illegible] a roll of cardboard or paper [illegible] so as to allow for ventilation. It is a wise precaution [illegible] the kernels so that in reading the test no mistakes will be made as to weak and strong kernels.

"After the rag dolls are rolled up they can be placed somewhere [illegible] with a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]