

Kansas State Agricultural College

EXPERIMENT STATION,

AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT.

Historical Document
Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station

Distribution of Improved Seed Wheat.

During the past eight years hundreds of samples of wheat, secured from all parts of the world, have been planted and tested by the Experiment Station at Manhattan, Fort Hays, and McPherson. It has been the practice during the past five years, as soon as seed of these varieties were shown to be superior, to distribute it among the farmers in the State.

On account of its general adaptation, hardiness, and good producing qualities, as well as its excellent flour-making and bread-making qualities, the Kharkof variety has been chosen as one of the best varieties for general distribution, and it has been distributed in larger quantities..

The Kharkof wheat was imported from Russia by Prof. M. A. Carleton, Cerealist, U. S. Department of Agriculture. At the Manhattan Station the Kharkof wheat ranks first in average yield for five years, 1904-1908. It is also among the highest producers at the Fort Hays and McPherson Stations. Farmers from all over the State are reporting very favorably on the hardiness and productiveness of this variety. Among more than one hundred reports received from growers who had secured seed from Manhattan, only two reported unfavorably, and one of these was located in South-eastern Kansas, really the soft wheat section of the State.

The Kharkof has also been shown to have excellent milling qualities, ranking with the best samples of other Turkey wheat more recently imported. Large quantities of the seed of this excellent wheat and smaller quantities of seed of other good producing varieties have been distributed to every county in the State.

There were 3995 bushels distributed to 638 farmers in 99 counties from the Manhattan Station alone. The Fort Hays Station has distributed 3980 bushels, mostly Kharkof, to 563 purchasers, mainly the western counties of the State, and the McPherson Station has distributed small quantities

of seed of some of the best producing varieties of hard red winter wheat.

Of the 1200 farmers receiving the seed from the Experiment Station, probably two-thirds have continued the seed distribution work. The Agronomy Department has encouraged this by asking for reports and listing the growers for reference to those who make inquiry. In 1908 some fifty growers were listed as having some 20,000 bushels of this seed wheat for sale. This list was published and widely distributed through the work of the Farmers Institute and the Agronomy Departments of this College. Many growers reported that their wheat had all been spoken for by their neighbours; others stated that they would need all the seed that they had produced for their own use.

Considering the facts stated above, it is believed to be a conservative estimate to assume that at least 160,000 acres of the Kharkof and other improved varieties of wheat are now growing in this State. At the rate of 25 bushels per acre, a 4,000,000-bushel crop of this improved wheat will be harvested next season, or enough seed, if carefully distributed, to plant one-half the total wheat acreage of the State.

Little of this improved wheat has, as yet come to the mills, since it has been used largely for seeding purposes, but by the fall of 1910 it will come to the mills in a large quantity and the problem of seed-wheat improvement in Kansas will have been solved.

The production by breeding and selection of varieties which are much superior even to the best samples which we are now able to grow and distribute is in active progress.

Of the hundreds of varieties of imported wheat tested at the several Experiment Stations of this State, comparatively few have proven superior. The Kharkof wheat grown in the State to-day is better than the original sample, being both purer and of better quality and of greater yielding capacity.

Approved:

E. D. H. WEBSTER,
Director.

MANHATTAN, KAN., January 29, 1909.

A. M. TENEYCK,

Agronomist.