

# Kansas State Agricultural College.

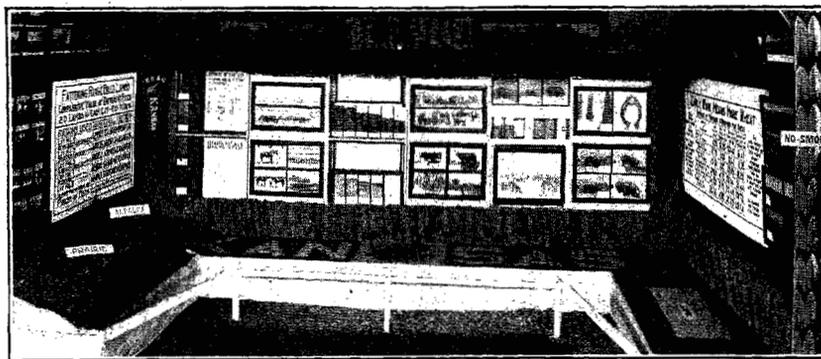
## AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

CIRCULAR No. 36. 1914

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY.

### PREPARATION OF EXHIBITS FOR FAIRS AND CONTESTS.

G. E. THOMPSON.



AN ATTRACTIVE EXHIBIT.

Material prepared for exhibition purposes should be of the current season's growth unless otherwise stated in the exhibition rules. Each sample shown should have a card attached giving the common name of the grain and the state and county in which the exhibit material was grown. Seed exhibited in bags should have cards giving this information placed within as well as without the bags.

#### GRAIN—WHEAT, RYE, OATS, BARLEY, ETC.

All grain should be true to the variety name under which shown. The samples should be uniform throughout. No sample should consist of less than one peck, and they should be larger if so called for by the local rules. All grain should be well ripened and should have an appearance of strong vitality.

A test of the sample should equal or exceed the legal weight of the grain shown. The sample exhibited should be free from smut or disease of any kind and should not be bleached. All samples should be well graded, that is, contain grains of equal size and of good, uniform, natural color. It should be pure, that is, free from all other grain, weed seeds, chaff, and dirt. Oats should not be dipped. All exhibits should be placed in neat-appearing sacks or containers.

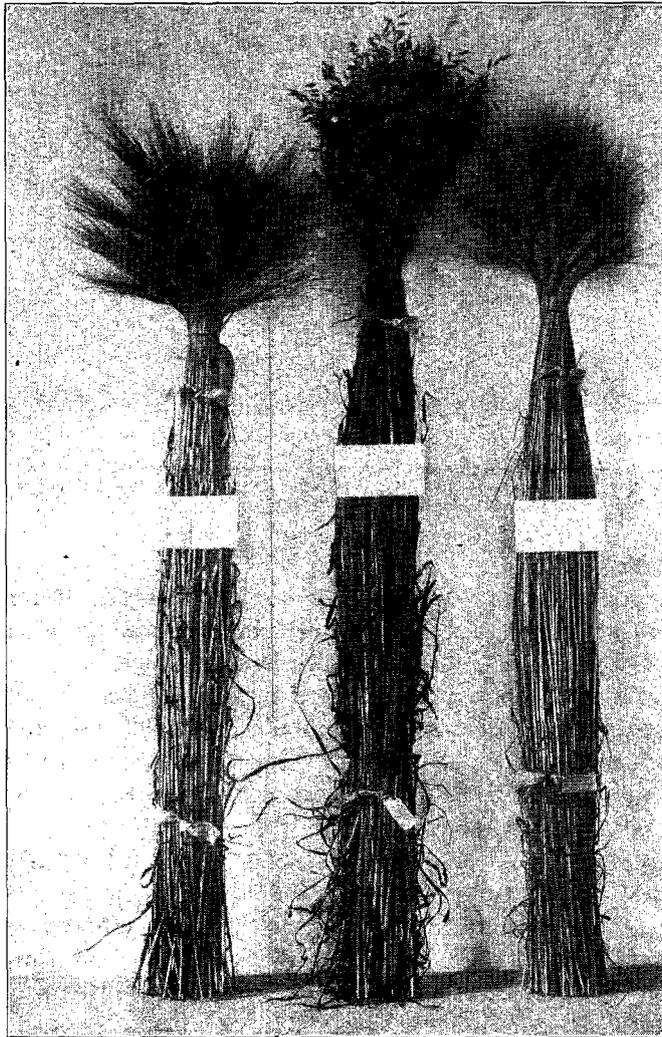
#### SHEAVES OF GRAIN.

Sheaves of grain shown for exhibition purposes should be true to the variety under which they are exhibited, and uniform throughout. The heads should be well filled, well formed, and no head with shrunken, shriveled or diseased grain should be allowed to enter the sheaf. The straw should be cut close to the ground in order to show full and actual length. Grains to be used in exhibition sheaves should be cut before they are fully mature. Usually they make the best appearance when cut in the hard dough stage. They should be hung head downward and cured in a dark place where there is free circulation of air. The sheaf shown should be four inches in diameter. It is unnecessary to strip leaves from the stems, although if for decorative purposes this may improve the appearance. Bundles should be firmly but not too tightly bound in two to three places, depending on the length of the material. Ribbon or tape one-half inch wide and of suitable color should be used for binding. In wrapping the bundles for carrying or shipping care should be taken that they are so thoroughly protected that the beards will not be broken or the grain shelled. To prevent shelling, the grain should not be too dry, yet dry enough that it will not mold. Each bundle should be wrapped separately in paper, packed perfectly flat and as tight as possible.

#### CORN.

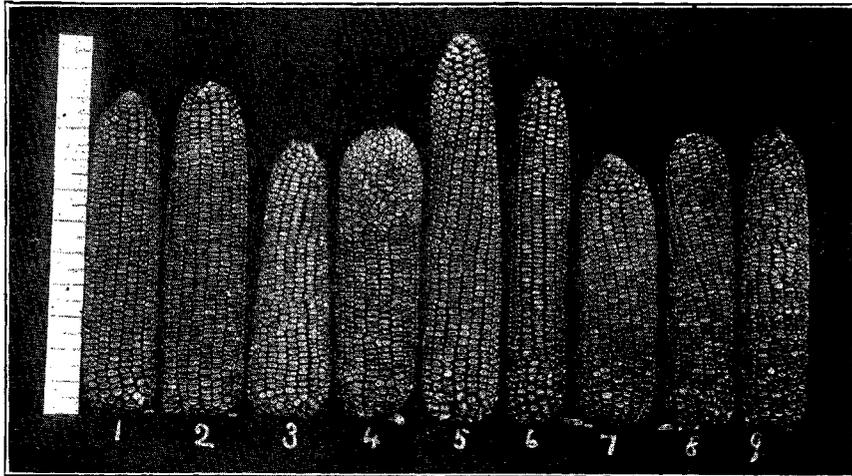
Samples of corn should be prepared under two classes: single-ear entries, and ten-ear samples. Before selecting for any variety, secure the standards of perfection for that particular variety and choose ears that conform to this standard. In selecting a ten-ear sample, make certain that it is uniform throughout and that it contains no mixtures. The ears should be of the same length and size, and should be uniform in color

and shape of kernel. Each ear in the entire sample should be of strong vitality. Do not select ears from which the kernels of the butts or tips have been shelled. Do not remove kernels from any part of the ear as they may be disqualified by the judge if there are kernels missing. *Do not glue in* missing kernels, weight or plug the pith of the cob, or in any way mutilate the sample, as the judge is allowed to throw out any sample that has the "appearance" of having been "worked."



· SMALL GRAINS.—WELL-PREPARED EXHIBITION BUNDLES.

In packing samples of corn for shipment each ear should be wrapped separately in paper, placing excelsior about the butt and tip of each ear. The samples may then be placed in a box, placing excelsior around the entire sample. Great care is required in packing ears for shipment or there will be considerable damage to the butts and tips of the ears.



GOOD AND BAD TYPES OF CORN.

Ears 1 and 2 are good; 3 is too tapering; 4 is reverse tapering; 5 is too long; 6 is too small in circumference; 7 is too short and too large; 8 has curved rows; 9 has crooked and indistinct rows, and kernels of irregular size and shape.

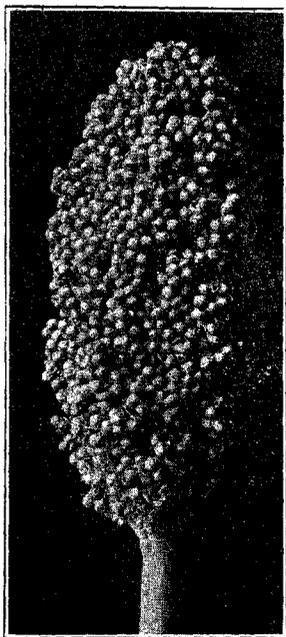
### SORGHUMS.

Sorghum heads are usually shown in samples of ten heads for each variety. In selecting sorghum heads make sure that they are true to the variety name under which shown. Select for uniformity and avoid hybrid heads. If the variety is of the grain type, select a head which is compact, well filled from butt to tip, and which does not tend to shatter easily. Select heads which have been well cured but which have not been bleached by weather conditions.

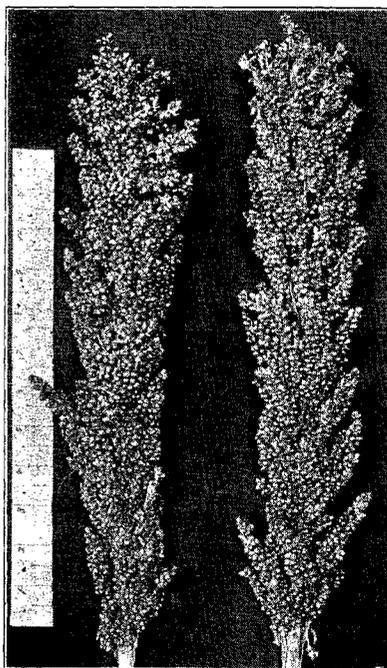
Samples of this kind had best be selected in the fall as soon as they are mature, and hung to cure in a dark, dry place where there is ventilation. In packing for shipment each individual head should be wrapped separately and the sample packed in such a manner that the heads and stems will not be broken during shipment.

## SORGHUM BUNDLES FOR FORAGE.

In showing sorghum bundles for exhibition purposes, the bundles should be eight inches in diameter. All stalks should be as leafy as possible for the variety shown. They should be of bright green color, free from leaf spot, rust or molds. No leaves should be stripped from the stalks. The stalks should be cut near the ground in order to show the actual height of the plant. In preparing bundles of this nature the grower should select them at the time which he considers best for cutting for forage purposes. Usually this is in the soft dough stage.



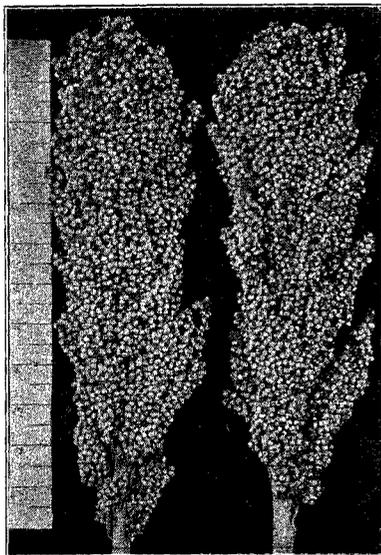
WELL-SHAPED HEAD OF MILO.



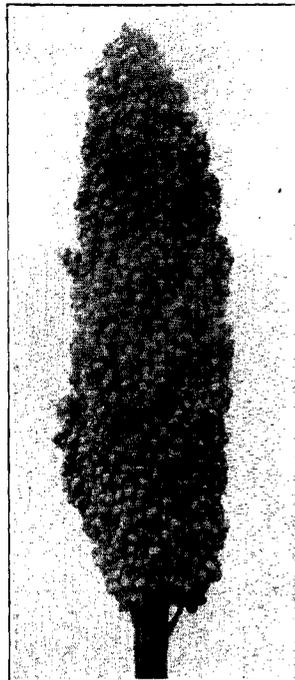
TYPICAL HEADS OF RED KAFIR.

To cure in the best manner they should be cured in a dark room where there is free circulation of air, and hung from the butts of the stalks so that the stalks will dry straight and the leaves will take such a position that they will form a bundle readily without breaking. When it is possible to do so, the bundles can be cured in better condition and make a more attractive exhibition if the floor beneath is covered with saw-

dust or some similar material and kept slightly dampened. Before placing on exhibition, bundles should be tightly tied in from three to four places, depending on the height of the variety shown.



GOOD HEADS OF BLACKHULLED  
WHITE KAFIR.

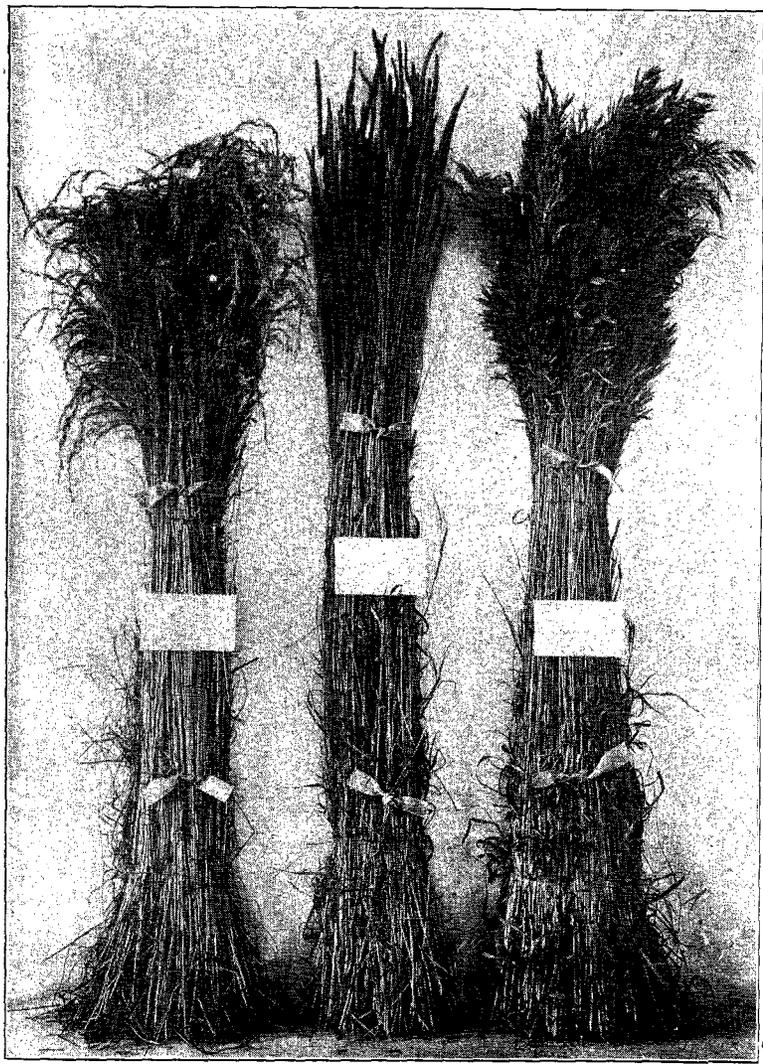


TYPICAL HEAD OF PETERITA.

### GRASSES AND MILLETS.

All other forage exhibits, such as grasses and millets, should be shown in sheaves not less than four or more than six inches in diameter at the middle band. They should be cut at the time when they are the most desirable for feeding purposes. The materials should be cured after the manner described for curing sorghums, that is, curing in a dark place where there is plenty of ventilation. It may be spread out on a rack or table for drying. If the air in the curing room is kept damp the samples will cure with a more natural green color. No leaves should be stripped from any of the stems. Before placing on exhibition the bundles should be neatly tied with a

narrow tape or ribbon, making two or three ties, depending on the length of the material shown. In making up exhibition bundles of grasses, alfalfa, or any forage crop, it is best to show a sample of each cutting obtained during the season; giving the date of cutting. In making up the exhibit for display purposes as well as for prizes, it is always well to secure as many samples as possible of the native grasses in addition to the tame grasses.



EXHIBITION SHEAVES OF GRASSES.  
(Note natural appearance.)