



Crops Exhibits FOR SHOW OR PLEASURE

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NOTHING is more gratifying to a crops grower than to prepare, show and save an exhibit of his crop. This exhibit must show the crop at its best. A well-prepared exhibit is one you will be proud to show your friends and to enter at your local fair, crops show or county achievement day.

READ THE PREMIUM LIST

When preparing an exhibit, be sure to read the premium list and know the size required. Requirements may vary, but the generally accepted entry sizes at North Dakota shows are as follows:

Threshed seeds

Small grains, soybeans, peas, beans, sunflowers, shelled corn, annual forage crops and seeds of similar size - 4 quarts (1 gallon)

Small seeded legumes, grasses, flax, millet and seeds of similar size - 2 quarts.

Ear corn - 10 ears

Market ear corn - 1 bushel basket

Sheaves

Small grains, flax - 2½ to 3 inches in diameter half way between heads and butts.

Forage crops - soybeans - 3 to 3½ inches in diameter about 4 inches above the butt.

Corn or sorghum stalks - 6 or 10 stalks per bundle.

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544.3 Hay - 20 lbs. tied bunch or bale.

N9
H&X
320 Silage - 1 or 2 quart plastic bag.

THRESHED GRAIN EXHIBITS

Select good, plump, bright, well-matured grain by selecting a special portion of a field that can be threshed by itself, or save a sack or two from a good portion of the field taken directly from the combine as it is being threshed.

Start with several times the amount of seed you need for your final exhibit. If a gallon is required for showing, start with 1 or 2 bushels. Clean the entire lot severely on a farm fanning mill with carefully selected sieves that will remove foreign material, weed seeds and small-sized kernels. Save only the large, well developed seeds. Be sure to use plenty of wind to remove chaff, inert material and lightweight seed. Then, check with your local elevator for hand sieves of varying sizes which will help you in further sizing and cleaning your seed. Commercial seed cleaners may also have specialized equipment such as gravity mills that will help in preparing your exhibit. Do everything you can with cleaning and sizing equipment.

Hand picking of the final exhibit is practiced by professional exhibitors in larger shows including state crop shows. Hand picking to "dress up" the exhibit for final showing consists of going through the exhibit carefully to remove diseased or off-colored kernels, seeds of other crops, and other material not removed in cleaning. It is not picking out good seeds. A good show sample should have the following characteristics:

1. Your seed must be entirely free from weed seeds, dirt and chaff and should be pure as to variety.
2. The sample should be bright, plump and free from discoloration, which indicates disease or immaturity.

3. The seed should be uniform in size, shape and color.
4. High test weight is important. Do everything you can to increase the test weight.

When completed, store the exhibit in a clean sack and set in a clean, dark place away from insects and rodents. Some people like to put the sack in a covered metal container.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC GRAIN CROPS

Wheat and Durum - Color, size and uniformity are very important. Usually the larger the kernels the better. Select a deep shade of red in hard red spring wheat and a deep shade of amber in durum. Remove stained, black tip, pink, chalky and off-type kernels.

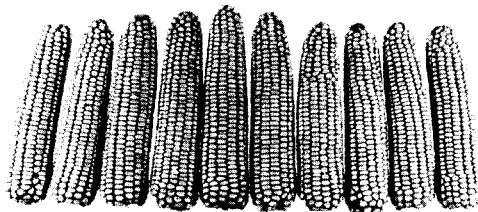
Barley - Brightness of color is desired and over ripening in the field may bring about weathering. Remove off-colored kernels showing disease. Avoid skinned or broken kernels.

Oats - Remove hulled oats, pin oats and double kernels.

Flax - Remove dark, off-colored kernels, weathered and broken kernels. Seeds should be plump, free of cracks and uniform in size.

EAR CORN EXHIBITS

Exhibit ears should be hand picked in the field to avoid damage. Select one ear that is the ideal ear type for your particular variety or hybrid and then find more ears just like it. All ears in a show sample should look alike. Ideal ears of corn are fully mature with all ears the same color, size, shape, length and number of rows. Avoid extra long, extra large or extra short ears. A good ear is nearly cylindrical, tapering slightly from butt to tip with the rows of kernels straight, compact and showing good depth of grain. The number of rows should not vary by more than two rows between ears.



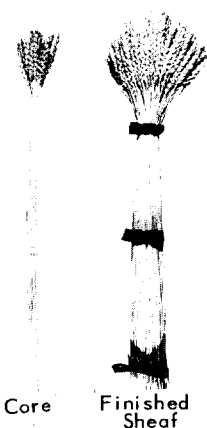
All cobs must be the same color. If the variety is white cob be sure all the cobs are white, or all red for a red variety. Be sure the butts and tips are well filled and that no kernels are damaged or miss-

ing. Avoid discolored butts. Break shanks off cleanly - don't cut them off. Clean off all the silks and wrap each ear individually in paper to avoid damage while bringing your exhibit to the show. Bring two or three spare ears for replacement in case of damage.

When arranging your exhibit of 10 ears for show, start with the largest and the longest ears in the middle and taper your exhibit at both ends with the shorter and smaller ears.

A bushel of ear corn is best displayed in a wooden fruit basket.

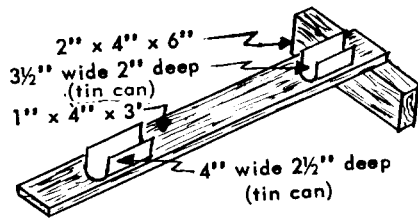
SMALL GRAIN SHEAF EXHIBITS



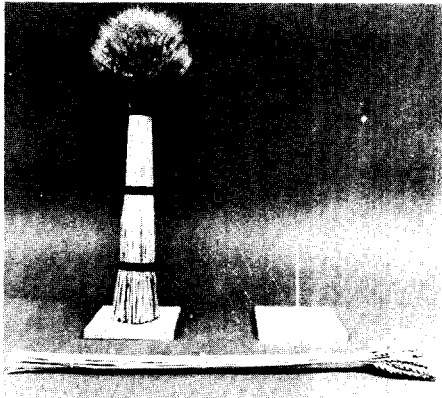
One of the most interesting, attractive and lasting crop exhibits is a well-prepared sheaf of grain. To make attractive sheaves, select the plants in the field from well matured standing grain. Select plants with large, well-filled heads and clean bright stems. Cut the stems full length.

Spread out the grain in an airy room away from direct sunlight until it is cured. When ready to build the sheaf, place a damp cloth over the heads and upper stems to toughen them for the sheaf building process. Start by stripping all leaves from the stems to make a neat appearing sheaf. If your grain is immature at show time, the leaves should still be stripped, if the grain is headed. If the grain is not headed, don't strip the leaves. To start the sheaf, select 30 to 40 stems and tie them together in 3 or 4 places to form a central core for the sheaf. Other stems are then placed around the core with each succeeding head slightly lower to make a large attractive, rounded bundle of heads. Tie the sheaf firmly with a string in 3 or 4 places, depending on the length of sheaf. After tying, use the core to help shape the crown and then cut the sheaf off even at the butt. To dress up the sheaf cover the string with colored ribbon about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide and tie in a neat bow, or use colored scotch-tape. When finished, hang the sheaf head down until packed for the show.

Sheaf Builder - A sheaf builder such as pictured is easy to make and helps to fashion the sheaf, especially when you are working alone. Two sheaf builders are needed - one for each half of sheaf. Put the two halves together with the core in the middle. Two persons working together can easily build a good sheaf by hand without a sheaf builder.



Sheaf Stand - A well built sheaf will stand by itself but is easily knocked down because it is top heavy. A sheaf stand is built by putting a very large nail or a pointed $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wooden dowel through an 8 x 8 inch board as a base.



Sheaf Stand

airy room away from direct sunlight. The sheaf is then built from the cured hay. Remember to save the leaves.

Forage sheaves are tied once about 4 to 5 inches from the bottom. A colored ribbon tied in a bow to cover the string makes the sheaf attractive.

CORN OR SORGHUM STALKS

Stalk exhibits of corn or sorghum usually are exhibited to show the forage as near to the ideal silage stage as possible. The leaves should be free of disease, insect, wind or hail damage. Ears of corn should be as near the glazing stage as possible, or the heads of sorghum should be in the dough stage.

HAY - DRY

Hay should be cut early for top quality and be leafy (especially legume hay). Select hay with good, green color, and that is soft and pliable and free of foreign material. Hay should have good odor and not be musty, moldy or dusty.

FORAGE SHEAVES

Grass and legume sheaves usually are intended to show the crop at hay stage. This means a sheaf with emphasis on leaves and early stage of maturity for top quality hay. Forage sheaves generally are picked fresh and exhibited green. The sheaf should be free of weeds and other foreign material. It should be free of insect, disease or weather damage and should not be coarse or stemmy.



Grasses and legumes can be picked at the proper hay stage and cured by spreading out to dry in an

SILAGE

Exhibit silage in a plastic bag.

Corn or sorghum silage should have a good grain content, indicating top quality. The color should be a natural or olive green with a pleasant odor indicating no spoilage.

Grass or legume silage should have a high leaf content and usually a light to dark green color. The odor must be clean and pleasant.

A GOOD GUIDE TO PREFERRED CUTTING STAGE FOR HIGH QUALITY HAY OR SILAGE IS CIRCULAR A-303 "FORAGE - HAY, SILAGE AND HAYLAGE."

