early oats are desired. Benton has not shown a better ability to yield than Clinton, in fact may not yield quite as well[1]. Bonda, like Benton, grows up tall and produces a large plump berry of excellent weight. Bonda is slightly later in ripening, but its yields under our conditions have usually not measured up with other new varieties. Mindo will usually yield better than Bonda and compares with Vicland in length of straw and time of maturity.

These varieties all afford more protection against serious oats diseases. However, they should not be expected to excel in yield in years and under conditions where this protection is not needed.

[1]Bond cross No. 3648, recently named Cherokee and recommended for Kansas, is another selection from the cross which produced Clinton and Benton. This selection has the disease resistance of Clinton and Benton but has shorter straw, ripens earlier and should hardly be expected to yield any better.

MONTCALM BARLEY

By

A. J. Lejeune, Ass't Agronomist

To those who are interested in growing Montcalm barley the following characteristics of this variety should be recognized.

Montcalm is a blue kernel, six-rowed, smooth awned barley, which pearls blue and so may be, when graded, unfairly classified as non-mellow, taking it out of the malting grades. Color of pearled barley, however, is not a true indication of mellowness. A blue barley, like O.A.C. 21, is recognized as having certain desirable malting properties.

In Canada, Montcalm is accepted as a malting barley. Results from small scale malting tests made at the Malting Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, have been promising, but no large scale tests have yet been conducted.

Montcalm has been grown in trials at the North Dakota Experiment Station in the last three years. At Fargo, Montcalm has outyielded both Wis. 38 and "L" (or Kindred). In the northeastern and north central sections it has outyielded "L" but yielded slightly less or about the same as Wis. 38. In the absence of serious disease and under favorable moisture conditions Wis. 38 is still likely to be the top-yielding malting variety. In the south central and western counties Montcalm has not given consistently good yields. This is probably due to a lack of resistance to drought and high temperatures.

Montcalm is a medium late maturing variety being slightly earlier than Wis. 38 and later than "L". It has a stronger straw than "L" and slightly stronger than Wis. 38, and especially a stronger neck. At Fargo in 1947, Montcalm shattered some. This shattering may have been due to the very dry conditions during the harvest period, causing the heads to be brittle.

Like most barleys, Montcalm is susceptible to stem rust. Kindred, however, is resistant. Montcalm is moderately susceptible to loose smut, root rots, and leaf spot. Root rots and leaf spot were the chief causes of the poor yields in Wis. 38 in the years 1943 and 1944.

Montcalm offers some promise as a malting type of barley and has shown capacity to yield well in comparison with other recognized malting varieties, especially in the eastern sections of the State tho yielding less favorably in more western counties. Montcalm, however, is a blue aleurone barley and as such may be at a disadvantage on the market where the established preference is for a white barley. A more detailed report on the results of tests with Montcalm and other varieties will be given in the next issue of the Bimonthly.

NORTH DAKOTA FARM PRICES

By
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North Dakota farm products continue to break all time high price records. This term is becoming repetitious, but is nevertheless true. The report of North Dakota farm prices for September 15, 1947 contained seven commodities whose farm prices were higher than any previous farm prices reported. These seven commodities were corn, with a record price of $2.29 per bushel; barley, with a record price of $1.94 per bushel; beef cattle, with an all time high of $20.00 per cwt.; veal calves, with an all time high of $22.50 per cwt.; hogs, with an all time high of $26.00 per cwt. Retail milk, at 15.7c per quart, was also an all time record; as were milk cows at $154.00 per head.

The North Dakota farm prices reported for October 15, 1947 show that the North Dakota farm price for all wheat for the first time since the first world war broke an all time record price with the price at $2.83 per bushel. Hogs at $26.50 per cwt. were 50c higher than the all time record of a month earlier. The farm price of retail milk reached 16c per quart for the first time. The farm price of milk cows had climbed from the record price of a month earlier to $164.00 per head. The November 15, 1947 farm price report reveals that North Dakota farm products were still continuing to break all time records. The North Dakota farm prices for all wheat was $2.88 per bushel which exceeded the all time record price of a month earlier. Barley, at $2.03 per bushel, exceeded the all time record established just two months earlier. Milk cows continued the upward climb, reaching $168.00 per head for an all time record exceeding, by $4.00 per head, the record of a month earlier.

The general upward trend of North Dakota farm prices is clearly shown by the all commodity farm index for North Dakota. On September 15, 1947 the index was 322. On October 15 it had reached 336, an all time record. But this was exceeded on November 15 when it reached 339. The North Dakota index for grains was at an all time peak on October 15 at 346. But this was exceeded November 15 when the grain index was 352. The North Dakota index for meat animals on September 15, 1947 was 413, which is the highest of record. **Continued on page 69.**