

sota, have made the county unit system optional with each county. One county in Minnesota and three in Oregon have adopted it.

Adoption of the county unit as the standard system of school organization accomplishes the desired change at the same time in all counties of the State. But it is difficult to secure passage of such an act without doing a great deal of informational work about it throughout the State. The optional enabling act, on the other hand, is easier to adopt, since it does not force any county to accept something it does not want. Furthermore, the optional plan conforms to the policy estab-

lished by the North Dakota Legislature in related matter of local governmental organization; namely, providing alternatives and permitting the local people to make their own choice of the type of governmental organization they wish to adopt.

For these reasons, it would seem advisable that the county unit be advanced as an optional rather than as a compulsory plan. The procedure for exercising the county's option under an enabling act should be simple and democratic, with safeguards to insure that the will of the majority of voters in the county prevails.

FLAX FACTS

Estimated production in flaxseed in North Dakota was placed at 8,192,000 bushels from 1,024,000 acres, or 8 bushels per acre, according to the September 1 Crop Report of the Office of the Agricultural Statistician, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The 1944 North Dakota production is only about half of what it was in 1943, when we harvested 15,042,000 bushels from 2,007,000 acres, yielding 7.5 bushels to the acre. The 1933-1942 average annual production was only 3,078,000 bushels from an average acreage of only 546,000 acres, yielding on the average only 5 bushels to the acre.

The 1944 United States production of flaxseed is placed at 25,878,000 bushels on 3,079,000 acres, yielding 8.4 bushels per acre. North Dakota accounted for 31.6 percent of the national production in 1944, 28.9 percent in 1943, and only 17.9 percent as an annual average of the period 1933-1942. North Dakota sharply reduced its acreage of flaxseed in 1944 to practically half its 1943 acreage, but it increased its yield.

The monthly publication "The Fats and Oils Situation" of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, August, 1944, contains the following statement about the recent increase in ceiling price for flaxseed:

"The maximum price for flaxseed at Minneapolis and other Northwestern terminal basing points was increased on August 14 to \$3.10 per bushel, 5 cents over the former ceiling. This action was taken in Amendment 5 to Maximum Price Regulation 397. The other basing points affected were Duluth and Red Wing, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Chicago, Illinois; and Portland, Oregon. Maximum prices at basing points in Kansas, Texas, and California were not changed. These maximums had enabled some mills to bid successfully for flaxseed beyond their normal areas of supply. Prices at Minneapolis increased on August 14 to the full extent permitted by the new ceiling.

"Reason for the higher ceiling price was the increase in parity bushel. The season average price in 1943-44 was \$2.83 per bushel. price for flaxseed from \$2.75 per bushel on June 15, 1943, to \$2.87 per bushel on June 15, 1944. The United States average price received by farmers for flaxseed on June 15, 1944, was \$2.85 per bushel. The bulk of the flaxseed grown in the United States is in the Northwestern area and will be sold in the markets where the ceiling prices were raised."—[H.L.W.]

Attempts to secure satisfactory stands of blue grama and side-oats grama by late spring seeding at Fargo in the spring of 1942 resulted in failure, according to T. E. Stoa, agronomist.—[H.L.W.]

In a 13-year trial at Fargo, 1930-1943 (omitting 1931), T. E. Stoa, agronomist, reports that from a comparable series of plots seeded in 1929, the average annual yields of a brome-alfalfa mixture has been 2.28 tons per acre (little alfalfa present in recent years), 2.20 tons per acre of bromegrass seeded alone, and 1.83 tons per acre of alfalfa seeded alone; 1.98 tons per acre of crested wheatgrass and 1.19 tons per acre of reed canarygrass. These are probably the longest continuous tests of crested wheatgrass and reed canarygrass under Red River Valley conditions. The old alfalfa field is beginning to get thinner, yet it produced 1.85 tons per acre in 1943, outyielding all the grasses that year.—[H.L.W.]