

profits from resales averaged 47 percent.

Land Market Since the Termination of the War

The termination of the war appears to have had little moderating effect upon the land market.

There has been an increase in the volume of sales and an increase in the price. The percentage of cash sales is decreasing. Close to one-tenth of all sales are resales indicating some speculative activity.

Host and Distribution Notes on Wheat Stem Sawfly

By
R. L. Post¹

The life history, hosts and distribution of the wheat stem sawfly² have been discussed in a previous issue of the Bimonthly Bulletin³.

A recent incomplete survey by the station has extended the eastern distribution of this pest to Nelson County. One infested wheat stem was found at Whitman and one wheat and four infested quack grass stems were discovered 25 miles east of Devils Lake. The infested stems were hard wheats in durum fields as there were high percentages of admixture. All varieties of hard red spring commercially grown were found rather heavily infested in the areas of general infestation. Further southeastern distribution of the wheat stem sawfly was not recorded. Examination of wheat fields and roadside grasses failed to reveal its presence in Barnes, Sargent, and Richland counties.

In late July, most extensive studies were made in the North Central Experiment Station cereal variety plots at Minot.

At the North Central Experiment Station in a field of hard wheat, 40% of the stems were infested in the 50 foot margin of the field. Fourteen per cent of the stems were found to be infested more than 100 feet inside the field. Twenty-four stems of volunteer hard red spring wheat were found throughout a field of oats on spring plowed wheat stubble. Seventy-one per cent of these wheat stems were infested with sawfly larvae. Infestation in hard red spring wheats was generally heavy except in Rescue which was only lightly infested; durum⁴ were only lightly infested.

On the western border of Bottineau County nearly 100% infestations of the hard wheat stems throughout the fields were recorded.

A survey of many durum wheat fields east of the Turtle Mountains in the northern tier of counties did not extend the distribution area of the sawfly.

Grasses were examined along the roadside adjacent to infested wheat fields and it was found that slender wheat, brome, western wheat, and quack were generally attacked.

There is no significant reduction of yield in infested stems. The loss caused by this insect is due to the sawfly larvae weakening the stems which cause the heads to fail to the ground prior to or during harvesting. Wind is the greatest agency in knocking the heads down. Excessive loss can be avoided by harvesting infested fields "on the green side," which will prevent extensive breaking and lodging.

A general discussion of the wheat stem sawfly is found in N. Dak. Extension Circular A-94.

¹Associate Entomologist Agr. Exp. Sta. & State Seed Dept.

²*Cephus cinctus* Norton.

³Munro, J. A. Wheat Stem Sawfly and Harvest Loss, N. D. Agri. Exp. Sta. Bimonthly Bulletin, Vol. 2 No. 4 (March-April, 1945) pp. 12-16.