

varieties, including those created by the station and those created elsewhere, has been one of the most important tasks of the station in its program of flax improvement. T. E. Stoa has been in charge of these variety trials since 1916, assisted by his associates on the campus and by branch station superintendents.

Stoa has also contributed improved methods of growing flax. His early experiments on dates of seeding flax, which clearly established that early seeding was necessary to promote effective competition with pigeon grass, has been important, as have his experiments on minimum rate of seeding and on rotations for flax.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of two articles by Dr. Walster. The second, dealing with the diseases of the flax plant and methods taken to combat those diseases, will appear in our next issue.)

NEW STUDY OF EGG BUYING

Egg buyers in stores, creameries and produce houses in North Dakota will be interested in "Egg Supply and Marketing in the North Central Region," a new regional publication based on a study in a dozen north central states. The North Dakota representative in this project was L. W. Schaffner of the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Interesting North Dakota data: Of eggs bought from North Dakota farmers in the spring 72 per cent were purchased ungraded and 28 per cent graded for size and quality; in the fall 76 per cent were bought from farmers ungraded, 26 per cent graded for size and quality.

As these primary dealers in North Dakota sold these eggs, however, 46 to 47 per cent were ungraded, about 45 per cent of them were graded for size and quality, and 16 per cent of spring-purchased eggs were sold as liquid eggs, broken and packed in North Dakota plants.

In the region as a whole 41 per cent of the laying hens were Leghorns, 13 per cent New Hampshires, 11 per cent White Rocks and the rest divided among other breeds and cross breeds. Average size of laying flock is 144 hens—but among the leghorn flocks the average size of flock is 160. North Dakota's flocks are about 40 per cent Leghorn flocks, while in Minnesota Leghorns make up some 75 per cent of the flocks. In South Dakota about 45 per cent of the flocks are Leghorns.

There is much more—all of it intriguing to folks who have laying flocks or who buy eggs. If you wish a free copy of the bulletin write the NDAC Bulletin Room, Fargo, asking for North Central Regional Publication No. 61, "Egg Supply and Marketing in the North Central Region."

We in North Dakota still have a long way to go in this business of improving our dairy practices. Here's a little bit of statistics which is small enough to remember: In the 25 years from 1930 to 1955 the average number of pounds of milk produced per cow increased as follows:

In Michigan, from 5160 to 6510.....	an increase of 1350 pounds.
In Minnesota, from 4980 to 6180.....	an increase of 1200 pounds.
In Wisconsin, from 5680 to 7100.....	an increase of 1420 pounds.
In North Dakota, from 4100 to 4700.....	an increase of 600 pounds.

Not only have we increased production per cow only half as much as any of these other states, but our production is so much lower that increased production—through better sires, through better feeding, through artificial insemination, through generally better dairy management—should be much easier in North Dakota than in these other states whose production is already up to a respectable level. (Data quoted is from USDA reports)