

From the Director

A. G. HAZEN



The biennial report for the Agronomy Seed Farm in this issue marks the 22nd year of operation devoted to "the increase, development, improvement, and production of seed of new and established varieties" in keeping with the original concept of the farm. This farm, together with the Dalrymple Experimental Plot, a gift of an adjacent quarter section of land to the Agricultural Experiment Station by the late John S. Dalrymple in 1963, has provided the nucleus for a highly successful seed increase program.

The success of the program has been in providing more bushels of new varieties of foundation and registered grade seed to cooperating seed producers through the local county agricultural associations. The state of North Dakota, through the collective efforts of the Agricultural Experiment Station seed stocks project, the Cooperative Extension Service and the North Dakota State Crop Improvement Association, stands unique among the small grain-producing states in its ability to quickly place comparatively large quantities of high-quality seed into the hands of the most small grain producers.

For example, at the present time over 650,000 bushels of Ward durum, 400,000 bushels of Beacon barley, and 275,000 bushels of Olaf HRS wheat are available to prospective growers by contacting their local county agent or branch station. These varieties are available at a uniformly reasonable price from contract growers in each county. Until the contracts are terminated in early 1974, the quantity of seed available to a particular grower is limited to provide a better opportunity for every interested producer to obtain this high-quality seed.

The Agricultural Experiment Station, the Cooperative Extension Service, the North Dakota State Crop Improvement Association, and the local county agricultural associations continually strive to be of greater assistance to our small grain producers in this vital capacity.

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On The Cover: Superintendent LeRoy Spilde of the Agronomy Seed Farm inspects one of the new seed increase barley varieties available for farmers to plant next spring.

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