

Biennial Report, 1969-71

THE AGRONOMY SEED FARM

David C. Ebeltoft, Dr. J. F. Carter and Mark Jendro

This biennial report of the operations of the Agronomy Seed Farm also notes the 20th anniversary of the farm.

North Dakota farmers wishing to give aid and support to agricultural research were responsible for the establishment of Agronomy Seed Farm. The following paragraphs written by Dr. T. E. Stoa in 1965 tells in brief, the origin, purpose and how the operations of the farm were to be administered.

"The board of directors of the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association, meeting January 27, 1948, in Bismarck, went on record favoring the idea of a seed increase farm and agreed to sponsor solicitation of the necessary funds. Since this plan was initiated by the farmers, a committee consisting of W. A. Plath, Davenport; Roy Johnson, Casselton; and Otto Klindworth, Carrington, was appointed to visit with officials of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Fargo, advise them of their interest and action, and make certain that the proposed plan had their approval.

At the annual meeting of the Crop Improvement Association in Valley City, March 11 this committee reported on its meeting in Fargo with President John H. Longwell and T. E. Stoa, Chairman, Department of Agronomy, representing Experiment Station Director H. L. Walster. Longwell and Stoa had expressed their pleasure for this evidence of support and assured the committee that a farm devoted to increasing desirable seedstocks could be a big asset to the plant breeding and crop improvement program at North Dakota Agricultural College.

It was generally agreed, too, that a seed farm, to be most valuable, should be located on good productive land and preferably on a somewhat lighter soil than Fargo clay. A lighter soil would be more easily managed, permit better drainage and allow more timely field operations, as well as afford better opportunity

for control of weeds and diseases. The farm should be large enough to be self-supporting, the income from the sale of seed to pay the operating costs."

Dr. Stoa stated in his publication that donations of a little over \$110,000 in cash from farmers, businessmen and others, and \$9,000 in equipment by machine companies totalled \$120,000. This enabled the purchase of 435.5 acres in 1950, 155 acres in 1951, and also allowed for operation and operational costs in 1950. The first crop was harvested in 1950.

Seed farm income was to be used for specific purposes as noted in the following paragraph by Dr. Stoa:

"In line with the wishes of those providing the money for the purchase of the property, the deed from the Foundation further specified that the farm 'be used as an Agronomy Seed Farm, for the increase, development, improvement and production of seed of new and established varieties, all income from the Farm to be kept separate from other funds,' and directed to the 'improvement, development, production and increase of seeds.' It further stipulated that if at some future time 'the grantee should fail, neglect or refuse to use the said property, or the income therefrom, for the purposes specified, the title and ownership shall revert to the grantor (Memorial Foundation), its legal successor or assigns.' These stipulations were readily accepted as consistent with the objectives and purposes desired by those in the Experiment Station charged with the supervision of the farm, and the Board of Higher Education, under whose direction the farm would be operated."

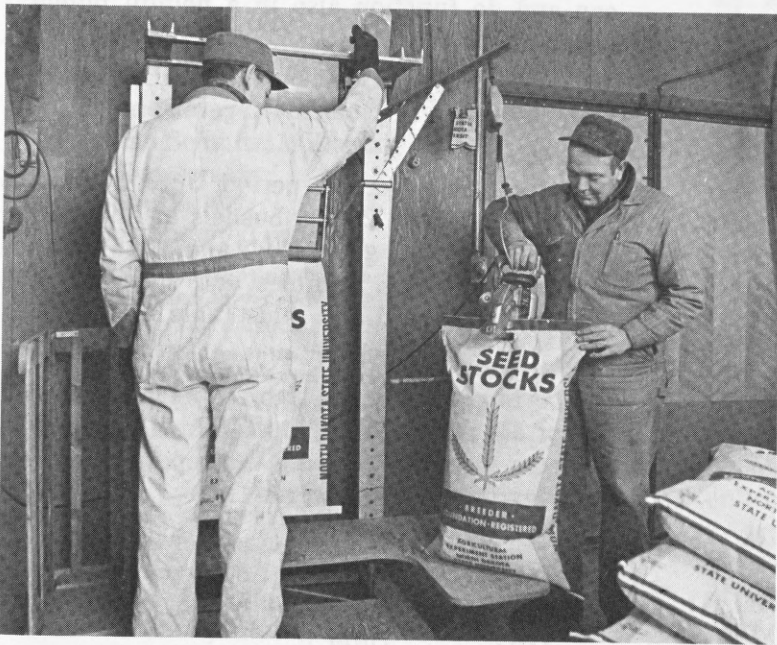
Further paragraphs explain the role and makeup of the Advisory Council.

"To further recognize the many donors, their interest in better seed production and the purposes of the Seed Farm, it was proposed that a committee, representing the certified seed producers and seed distributors, be ap-

Ebeltoft is associate professor, and Dr. Carter is professor and chairman, Department of Agronomy; Jendro is superintendent, Agronomy Seed Farm, Casselton.



The Agronomy Seed Farm, near Casselton, in business for 20 years.



Arlan Holkesvig, Seed Farm foreman, staples a bag of seed stock as his assistant, Lloyd Peck, handles the controls.

pointed to serve as an advisory council to the Seed Farm. Such council members, appointed by the Experiment Station director, would not be active in the management of the farm, but would offer suggestions with respect to general farm plans, seed stocks needing repurification, amounts, prices, etc. An advisory council was not a new idea. Earlier in the fund drive Director Walster had suggested such an advisory group as was in practice at the Minot station. Also, the Department of Agronomy had for many years invited and used the counsel of certified seed producers and seed distributors in its increases and seed release program. Un-

der the new policy, which was formalized when approved by the Board of Higher Education, the council is made up of 12 farmers who grow certified seed and who represent different sections of the state. They serve for staggered 6-year terms. An experienced farmer from the Casselton area, serving without term appointment, also is a council member. Serving on the council by virtue of their official positions, are the President of the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association, the Extension Service agronomist, the North Dakota state seed commissioner, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor, and a representative of the North

Dakota Seed Trade Association. The chairman of the Department of Agronomy is the designated chairman of the Advisory Council and is responsible for supervising the Agronomy Seed Farm.

Table 1. Sale of Foundation and Registered seed by the Agronomy Seed Farm, Casselton, North Dakota, July 1, 1969 to June 30, 1971.

Crop	Variety	1969-1970	1970-1971
Spring Wheat	Waldron	720 Bu.	
	Polk	318 Bu.	
	Pembina	40 Bu.	
	Neepawa	861 Bu.	
	An experimental*	16 Bu.	
Winter Wheat	Hume	78 Bu.	16 Bu.
	Winoka	150 Bu.	371 Bu.
	Froid	106 Bu.	
Durum	Leeds	511 Bu.	633 Bu.
	Hercules	877 Bu.	1000 Bu.
	Lakota		82 Bu.
Barley	Larker	1852 Bu.	309 Bu.
	Dickson	440 Bu.	432 Bu.
	Primus	433 Bu.	
	Paragon	10 Bu.	39 Bu.
	Traill	2 Bu.	
	Nordic	58 Bu.	5089 Bu.
	Exp.*	208 Bu.	
	Exp.*	150 Bu.	
	Exp.*		20 Bu.
Flax	Linott	416 Bu.	40 Bu.
	Summit	13 Bu.	
	Norstar	12 Bu.	
	Nored	340 Bu.	40 Bu.
Oats	Wyndmere		30 Bu.
	Dawn	225 Bu.	123 Bu.
	Kota	249 Bu.	
	Otter	362 Bu.	
	Froker	270 Bu.	319 Bu.
	Garland	100 Bu.	
	Holden	198 Bu.	
	Kelsey	60 Bu.	21 Bu.
	Cayuse	888 Bu.	45 Bu.
	Nodaway 70		945 Bu.
	Soybeans	Anoka	20 Bu.
Wirth		20 Bu.	
Traverse		16 Bu.	32 Bu.
Norman		51 Bu.	138 Bu.
Morsoy			48 Bu.
Triticale	Rosner	14 Bu.	
Pinto Beans	U of I No. 114		8640 lbs.
Sunflowers	Peredovik	2350 lbs.	2498 lbs.
	Arrowhead	682 lbs.	1364 lbs.
	Mingren		1000 lbs.
Millet	Turghai	8000 lbs.	
	Panhandle	10,220 lbs.	
Grass Seed	Nordan Crested Wheatgrass		1000 lbs.
Legume	Birdsfoot		
	Trefoil	497 lbs.	

*produced but not sold

Council meetings usually are held in alternate years at NDSU or at the Seed Farm to allow for farm inspection. At these meetings, members review progress reports and consider plans for the future. From time to time progress reports also are published in the Experiment Station's Farm Research bulletin, with copies sent to all who contributed to the fund drive. There is no fixed date for the meetings but the chairman tries to select a time convenient to most members, who serve without pay. The advice of council members on matters of some urgency also may be sought by mail. This advisory group has proved to be very helpful. The appointed members not only serve the Agronomy Seed Farm in an advisory capacity, but take the opportunity to inform themselves and others on current problems. The members can and do function also in a helpful public relations capacity.

Current members are listed at the end of this report.

Production

During the reporting period, July 1, 1969 to July 1, 1971, nearly 20,000 bushels of Foundation and Registered small grain seeds and 36,251 pounds of Foundation grass, legumes and specialty crop seeds were produced and sold (Table 1).

New Varieties

The foregoing list in Table 1 includes 44 varieties of 13 crops. In addition, four experimental lines were increased. During the reporting period, 13 new varieties grown were:

Wheat	Winoka - a winter wheat
Durum	Hercules
Barley	Nordic
Oats	Otter
	Froker
	Cayuse
	Nodaway 70
Flax	Norstar
Soybeans	Anoka
	Wirth
	Norman
	Morsoy
	Vansoy

Nordic, a white aleurone barley, was released January 20, 1971, by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Improvements

Some field equipment was purchased but main expenditure was for a much needed storage facility.

An additional scale and overhead bins are planned for the near future.

The financial report for the period July 1, 1969 through June 30, 1971 is shown in Table 2. The income is entirely from seed sales and some hail loss payments. No appropriated funds are received.

The Agronomy Seed Farm Council met on July 21, 1971, for its regular biennial meeting. Council members are as follows:

Terms expiring in 1971.

Leon Peters, Jamestown
 , Jerome Nesvig, Buxton
 Jack Wilkinson, Montpelier
 Daryl Anderson, Reeder

Terms expiring in 1973.

Ed Manthei, Leonard
 A. H. Berg, Wyndmere
 William C. Witteman, Mohall
 Joe Weiss, Belfield

Terms expiring in 1975.

Warren Rockenbach, Fort Clark
 Arnold Skarsgard, Makoti
 Herman Schmitz, Williston
 Lyle Dawson, Jr.,

Terms expiring in 1977.

To be appointed soon.

**Representing the North Dakota
 Crop Improvement Association**
 Richard Konzak, Devils Lake

**Representing North Dakota
 Agricultural Association**
 William J. Leary, Moorhead
Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor
 Arne Dahl, Bismarck
State Seed Commissioner
 Everett Tool, Fargo
Extension Agronomist
 Howard D. Wilkins, Fargo
A local farmer
 George Howe, Jr., Casselton
Chairman, Department of Agronomy
 J. F. Carter, Fargo

FROM THE DIRECTOR —

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of the Agricultural Experiment Station and were constant supporters of the agricultural research program. John S. Dalrymple bequeathed a tract of land to be used for experimental purposes and with the request that it be known as the Dalrymple Experimental Plot.

For a number of reasons it took several years to fully comply with the provisions of the bequest, but in April, 1963, the Agricultural Experiment Station assumed ownership of a parcel of land containing 160 acres and located adjacent to the Agronomy Seed Farm. This land is designated as the Dalrymple Experimental Plot. Formal dedication ceremonies were held July 8, 1968, at which time Mr. and Mrs. John S. Dalrymple, Jr., were present to participate in the program. This 160 acres of land has been developed into excellent research plots and is currently utilized for research by the Agronomy, Entomology, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, and Soils departments. Superintendent Jendro has assisted in the development and maintenance of this land.

We were saddened to learn of the recent death on November 7 of John S. Dalrymple, Jr., owner and manager of the Dalrymple farms since his father's death in 1958. Mrs. Dalrymple has designated the Agricultural Experiment Station to receive memorials for her husband, and these memorials will be utilized in support of the continuing agricultural research program at the Dalrymple Experimental Plot. We offer condolence to Mr. Dalrymple's survivors together with this expression of appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the members of the Dalrymple family who have been instrumental in providing the Dalrymple Experimental Plot and assisting in its financial support.

Table 2. Agronomy Seed Farm account as provided by office of the Director, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

Balance on hand July 1, 1969	\$ 52,688.06	Balance on hand July 1, 1970	\$ 70,716.13
Income from farm:		Income from farm:	
Seed and Misc. grain	\$49,979.79	Seed and misc. grain	\$51,982.99
Other miscellaneous	11,481.48	Other miscellaneous	5,096.02
	61,461.27		\$ 57,079.01
Total	\$114,149.33	Total	\$127,795.14
Expenditures		Expenditures	
Farm operations	\$41,516.60	Farm operations	\$51,853.45
Machinery and equipment	1,916.60	Machinery and equipment	955.62
Storage building	—0—	Storage building	24,093.20
All farm operations	43,433.20		\$ 76,902.27
Excess income over expenditures	\$ 70,716.13	Balance, July 1, 1971	\$ 50,892.87