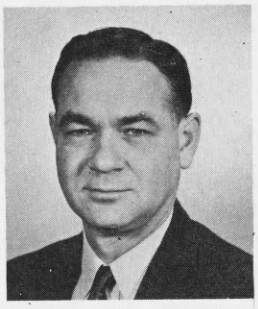
From the DIRECTOR



A. G. HAZEN

As we conclude another bountiful harvest season, it seems appropriate to review the humble beginnings from which our present day agriculture has sprung.

Our forefathers found in what became our United States a land sparsely settled by the American Indians who hunted, fished and farmed. The Indians had already developed several crops that are still highly important in our agriculture, including corn, kidney and lima beans, squashes, pumpkins, tomatoes, tobacco and short-staple cotton.

The early settlers also found living conditions difficult. They faced starvation until they adopted the crops and tillage methods of the Indians, which differed from practices in Europe. For example, New England Indians taught the Pilgrims to throw a fish or two into each hill of corn. The Indians may not have known that the decaying fish released nitrogen, but they did know that was the way to make corn grow!

Following the American Revolution, primarily caused by the English government's attempts to control agricultural trade and to restrict westward movements, the agriculture of our United States began an unprecedented period of improvement. We can very correctly call it a **quiet** agricultural revolution.

This agricultural revolution has resulted from widespread progress in mechanization, greater use of soil nutrients, adoption of cover crops and other conservation practices, use of improved varieties, wider use of irrigation, balanced feeding of livestock and poultry, and more effective control of insects and disease. This quiet revolution is a tribute to the farmer. He has used the ideas of inventors, scientists and statesmen, coupled with a good measure of his own individual intuition and ingenuity. In short, he has put these things to good use for himself and all mankind.

Achievements of American farmers have been possible largely because of basically favorable soils and climate, the union of farm crops and skills from all parts of the world, a unique system of research and education, determination in the face of

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In This Issue

On The Cover: Arlan Holkesvig, foreman at the Agricultural Experiment Station's Agronomy Seed Farm, sends another bag of seed to the top of a growing stack. Seed is processed at the farm during the fall and winter months, and is stored in rafter-high stacks until growers pick it up in the spring. These stacks are just the beginning of this fall's processing season, and this warehouse will be filled wall-to-wall before processing ends.

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come is entirely from seed sales, as no appropriated funds are received.

Future Plans and Council Members

An additional warehouse and drying facilities are needed and it is planned to have these facilities available by the fall of 1970.

On July 16, 1969 the Agronomy Seed Farm Council met for its regular biennial meeting. Farmer members of this council are appointed for six-year terms by the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. They receive no compensation for this service. 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., Fort Rice

Representing the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association

Jerome Holter, Hatton

Representing North Dakota Seed Trade Association

Willard Krueger, West Fargo

Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor

Arne Dahl, Bismarck

State Seed Commissioner

Everett Tool, Fargo

Extension Agronomist

Lars Jensen, Fargo

A local farmer

George Howe, Jr., Casselton

Chairman, Department of Agronomy

J. F. Carter, Fargo

Farm Employment in North Dakota

(Continued from Page 7)

tained by dividing the index of total volume, 170.9, by the index of the number of farm workers, 50.4, and multiplying the result by 100. That is, the sales volume per worker in 1968 was 339 per cent of that in 1950-52, which was more than a three-fold increase.

Table 3. Indexes of value, prices received and volume of marketings of farm products, and volume per farm worker.

	Indexes, 1950-52 = 100				
	Number of	Value of	Prices	Volume	
Year	Workers	Marketings	Received	Total	Per Worker
1950-52	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1953	95.2	88.1	93.5	94.2	98.9
1954	93.6	87.9	90.1	97.6	104.3
1955	88.0	96.1	87.5	109.8	124.8
1956	84.8	105.8	86.3	122.6	144.6
1957	80.0	103.8	84.0	123.6	154.5
1958	80.0	118.0	87.1	135.5	169.4
1959	75.2	108.4	84.4	128.4	170.7
1960	73.6	98.4	83.3	118.1	160.5
1961	69.6	95.3	86.7	110.0	158.0
1962	70.4	112.3	91.6	122.6	174.1
1963	66.4	125.2	86.3	145.1	218.5
1964	62.4	103.6	77.2	134.2	215.1
1965	60.0	127.8	78.7	162.3	270.5
1966	56.8	137.2	82.9	165.5	291.4
1967	52.0	135.7	81.7	166.1	319.4
1968	50.4	135.9	79.5	170.9	339.1

From The Director

(Continued from Page 2)

adversity, and the foresight and leadership of outstanding individuals who devoted their talents and lives to improving agriculture.

More than a hundred years ago our statesmen in the Congress laid the legislative groundwork for a continuing system of cooperative federal-state agricultural research and education which has survived many difficult times and has often been criticized by uninformed citizens. It is imperative for those who know of the use and benefits of agricultural research and education to be stalwart in their concern that the system which has assisted both the producer and the consumer so well be allowed to continue fulfilling that function.

American agriculture, the beneficiary of the land-grant system, has contributed mightily to the full growth of our economy and the development of mankind, and continues to do so. Now, fewer farmers are able to provide more people with the food and fiber they need at a lower cost in relation to their total income than has ever been possible.

Such a system warrants our united support.