

marketed at various weights up to 260 pounds. The number of hogs marketed above 260 pounds is small and the greater part of these hogs are marketed during spring months when prices were generally higher.

### Summary

1. No single weight group received the highest price throughout the year. The 200 to 220 pound group was the most consistent (fig. 1).
2. The weight at which hogs are marketed is an important factor in the return over feed and production costs.
3. Preliminary data indicate the best weight range to market hogs is 200 to 220 pounds.



## COVER STORY

WILD OATS infestation can be a serious problem. There is no quick or easy way to get rid of them. But it is possible to clean up a field by following good rotation and tillage practices. The most reliable ways for small grain farmers to eliminate the weed are those based on getting the seed to sprout and then to destroy the plants before they reseed. You should know the basic facts about wild oats. It's to your economic advantage to control them. Ask your county extension agent for NDAC Circular A-276, "Controlling Wild Oats."

# TREND

ONE of the dominant characteristics of North Dakota agriculture is continued change. With bigger and more efficient farm machinery, improved plants and animals, and increased use of fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals, farmers produce much more than formerly in each hour of work. With increased prices for materials and equipment adding to their costs, farmers are finding it essential to increase the size of their business to maintain a satisfactory income.

The agricultural census of 1954 indicates some of the adjustments North Dakota farmers are making. Family-sized farms that provided an adequate income only a few years ago are being replaced by larger units. The trend is not as pronounced in North Dakota as it is in such states as Wyoming, and the decrease in number of farms is greater in both South Dakota and Minnesota. However, North Dakota exceeds South Dakota and Minnesota in the percentage increase in the average size of farms. (figure 1)

In North Dakota the number of farms of 1,000 acres and over increased from 8,775 in 1950 to 9,925 in 1954. As a substantial number of large farms become larger, the number of medium and small farms decline. The 500 to 999 acre farms decreased only slightly from 22,086

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