



Annual Report, 1974 - 75

THE AGRONOMY SEED FARM

Twenty-five Years of Service to Seed Producers and Farmers

D.C. Ebeltoft, J.F. Carter and L.A. Spilde

The Agronomy Seed Farm Council held its annual meeting on July 25, 1975, and after the meeting commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Agronomy Seed Farm. An estimated 500 attended the event. A brief history and the program content follow.

25th ANNIVERSARY

July 25, 1975

1950 Agronomy Seed Farm 1975

Origin and History

1-3 p.m. Agronomy Seed Farm Council Annual Business Meeting

3-4 p.m. 25th Anniversary Program — A.G. Hazen, Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, NDSU, Presiding

Agronomy Seed Farm History — J.F. Carter

Introduction of individuals who contributed much in time and labor in establishing the Agronomy Seed Farm — Director Hazen

Introduction of Guests — Director Hazen

Agronomy Seed Farm 1975 — L.A. Spilde, Superintendent

Closing remarks — L.D. Loftsgard, President, North Dakota State University

4-6 p.m. Tour of the Agronomy Seed Farm and Dalrymple Experimental Plot, followed by Dutch treat barbeque

Brief History

The Agronomy Seed Farm was made possible through the interests and efforts of the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association and other friends of the Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University. Beginning with the crop season of 1950, this site has served continuously as a place to increase and maintain pure seed of important crop varieties.

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association meeting in Bismarck January 27, 1948, approved the idea of a seed increase farm and also agreed to sponsor solicitation of necessary funding. Donations totaling more than \$110,000 in cash from farmers, businessmen, and others, plus \$9,000 in equipment from machinery companies enabled the purchase of 435.5 acres in 1950, 155 acres in 1951, and also provided the operating costs in 1950 when the first crop was planted and harvested. Since that time, the Agronomy Seed

Ebeltoft is professor and leader of Seedstocks Project; Dr. Carter is professor and chairman, Department of Agronomy; Spilde is superintendent of the Agronomy Seed Farm, Casselton, ND.

Farm has been self-supporting, including physical plant improvements and all operating costs.

More than 3,500 North Dakota farmers and farm supported businesses contributed to this project, and among them were 534 who each contributed \$100 or more. In producing and distributing seed, the Agronomy Seed Farm serves as a lasting tribute to those who have given so generously of their time and money.

An Agronomy Seed Farm Council, including 12 farmers who are experienced in growing certified seed and representing different geographic sections of the state, provides guidance and suggestions for the general farm plans, building and equipment improvements, and related policy matters. Also serving on the Council because of their positions are a "local" farmer, the president of the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association, the North Dakota State Seed Commissioner, the North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture, a representative of the North Dakota Agricultural Association, and from NDSU the chairman and the extension agronomist of the Department of Agronomy.

The Agronomy Seed Farm is a tribute to the vision of those who conceived the idea and secured the funds to purchase the land which became the Seed Farm. Good management of this gift has provided many benefits to the agriculture and to all of North Dakota.

From 1950 through 1974, which constitutes 25 years of production, approximately 298,000 bushels of small grains, 230,000 pounds of grass and legume seeds and 52,000 pounds of sunflower seeds have been produced and sold as Foundation or Registered seed. These seeds usually have represented the varieties most recently released. However, popular older varieties released by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station are maintained and increased so long as there is sufficient demand.

Annual Production Report, 1974-1975

The report prepared in July of each year includes the production from the preceding season. This report covers the 1974 seed crop.

Foundation and Registered seed of "older" varieties (usually one year or more after release) is made available each fall until December 15, first to producers of Certified seeds, then to any producer. This policy is an attempt to ensure that sufficient Foundation and Registered seed is available to producers of Registered and Certified seeds, and that after December 15 other growers wanting such high quality seed can secure it. Distribution of a newly-released variety is made through the Seedstocks Project from the Agronomy Seed Farm and/or from the various Branch Experiment Stations in accordance with the seed increase policies of the Agricultural

Experiment Station. Seed produced for sale as Foundation grade from the 1974 spring plantings is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Seed production at the Agronomy Seed Farm, 1974 crop year.

Crop	Variety	1974 Production (Bu)
Hard Red		
Winter Wheat	Bronze	240 lb.
Hard Red		
Spring Wheat	Ellar	1,217 lb.
	Olaf	1,514 lb.
	Waldron	525 lb.
Durum	Botno	629 lb.
	Crosby	1,151 lb.
Barley	Beacon	1,771 lb.
	Larker	1,198 lb.
Oats	Garry	13 lb.
	Goodland	37 lb.
	Rodney	14 lb.
Flax	C.I. 2776 (Culbert)	308 lb.
	Linott	17 lb.
Millet	Cerise	273 lb.
	Snobird	990 lb.
Rye	Puma	654 lb.
Soybeans	Ada	739 lb.
	Evans	1,473 lb.
	Hodgson	425 lb.
Pinto Beans	U. of I. 114	104 lb.
Sunflowers	Sputnik	450 lb.
	Sundak	456 lb.
Crested Wheatgrass	Nordan	131 lb.
Russian Wildrye	Vinall	58 lb.
Green Needlegrass	Lodorm	1,000 lb.

New Varieties

The seed listed in Table 1 involved 12 crops and 25 varieties. Of these varieties five were new in 1974. The new varieties and their origin are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. New varieties made available during 1974

Crop	Variety	Origin
HRS wheat	Ellar	NDAES & ARS
Durum	Botno	NDAES & ARS
Durum	Crosby	NDAES & ARS
Soybeans	Evans	Minnesota
Soybeans	Hodgson	Minnesota

Culbert, a new flax variety, released in March of 1975, was increased at the Agronomy Seed Farm in 1974 as a numbered experimental line.

In addition to the production of new and old varieties, many promising experimental lines are in-

Council Members

Farmer members of the Council are appointed to 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 1975:

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

Terms expiring in 1977:

Victor Legler, Jamestown
Al Kenner, Leeds
Don Brusegard, Gilby
Jerome Holter, Hatton

Terms expiring in 1979:

Gene Watne, Velva
A.H. Berg, Wyndmere
William C. Wittman, Mohall
Joe Weiss, Belfield

Terms expiring in 1981:

To be appointed soon

Commissioner of Agriculture and Labor:

Myron Just, Bismarck

State Seed Commissioner:

Virgil Anderson, Fargo

Extension Agronomist:

Howard Wilkins, Fargo

Representing the North Dakota Crop Improvement Association

Nyle Burchill, Page

A local farmer:

George Howe, Jr., Casselton

Chairman, Department of Agronomy

J.F. Carter, Fargo

creased at the Agronomy Seed Farm. Such lines have been tested enough that they usually become varieties and often are sent to Arizona in the fall for a pre-release increase during the winter months.

Seed Prices

The price of Foundation and Registered seed sold by the Agronomy Seed Farm and Branch Experiment Stations is established by the Seedstocks Project with advice of seed producers, seed trade representatives and representatives from Branch Experiment Stations, Agricultural Associations and NDSU Extension Service. Prices usually are established about November 1, and are kept as reasonable and equitable as possible.

Other Activities

Along with the production of Foundation seed and the increase of new varieties, the superintendent of the Agronomy Seed Farm supervises the production of the Crop Quality Council trials to evaluate wheat quality and provides the management, labor and equipment for seedbed preparation and some harvesting on the Dalrymple Experimental Plot. The Dalrymple Experimental Plot consists of 160 acres adjacent to the Agronomy Seed Farm used for research by the Departments of Agronomy, Soils, Plant Pathology and Horticulture at North Dakota State University. The Seedstocks Project leader, with assistance from North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station personnel, determines what is to be increased each year at the Agronomy Seed Farm. In addition, he also supervises the re-

quests and allocations of experimental land on the Dalrymple Experimental Plot.

Improvements

The continuous-flow dryer and the belt conveyor system were completed during 1974-75. This system along with the six hopper-bottom bins installed previously greatly enhances the storage facilities, and the drying unit allows for longer combining periods during critical weather. Several more acres of land have been leveled and improvements of drainage ways were made. The financial report for the period July 1, 1974 to July 1, 1975 is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. 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, 1974		\$163,498.82
Income from Farm:		
Seed and misc. grain, \$187,310.67		
other miscellaneous <u>457.36</u>		<u>187,768.03</u>
Total		\$351,266.85
Expenditures		
Farm operation	\$115,049.30	
Equipment	21,794.59	
Grain bins <u>19,079.59</u>		<u>155,923.47</u>
All Farm operations		<u>155,923.47</u>
Balance on hand June 30, 1975		\$195,343.38