

INTRODUCTION

The completion of work for 1952 marks the completion of 46 years of continuous investigations in agronomy at the Dickinson Experiment Station. Work in 1952 included: rotation and tillage trials; fertilizer trials on wheat, oats and corn; variety trials of 23 hard red spring wheats, 2 durum wheats, 18 oat varieties, 14 barley varieties, 15 flax varieties and 26 varieties and strains of corn; and small scale nursery trials of new strains and selections of winter wheat, spring wheat, oats, barley and flax.

Above average precipitation in September and October of 1951 plus slightly above normal snowfall in January, February and March of 1952 provided enough moisture for good germination and early crop growth. April of 1952 was the first April in 60 years to have no measurable precipitation, and this, followed by only .42" in May, a month with a 60 year normal of 2.24", damaged crops considerably. June rainfall of 3.80", coming at well spaced intervals and in sufficient quantities to penetrate the soil to some depths revived the crops, and improved the outlook for some crops. The dry weather of April and May had damaged the growth of hay and pasture grasses however, and hay prospects were poor. Rainfall for July was slightly below par, and only two rains, one of .74" and one of .37" were effective. Grain matured early and harvest was well under way by the end of July. Excellent August precipitation and delay of the first killing frosts aided in producing a fairly good corn crop which helped to relieve the feed shortage. Grain yields were only fair with wheat on fallow averaging slightly over 10.0 bushels per acre, oats on fallow yielding 25 to 35 b.p.a. and barley on fallow producing 25 to 30 b.p.a.

Soil moisture is depleted and crops in 1953 will need early spring rains for good germination.

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