

Release--Immediate

NEBRASKA PLANTED WHEAT ACREAGE BY VARIETIES

Nebraska wheat growers planted a major portion of the 1955 acreage to varieties that have strong gluten characteristics, desired by millers, and which have kept Nebraska known as one of the quality wheat producing states, according to a release made today by the State-Federal Division of Agricultural Statistics.

Hard red winter varieties accounted for approximately 99.4 percent of the total planted, while only 0.6 percent was planted to hard red spring and other varieties. Cheyenne, Pawnee, and Nebred, ranking in the order named, accounted for approximately 92 percent of the total wheat acreage. Cheyenne, reported for the first time in the 1934 survey, took over first place for all varieties in 1955, having 34.7 percent of the total planted acreage. Pawnee, a cross between Kawvale and Tenmarq, ranked second with 29.8 percent. The latter wheat was distributed in Nebraska in the fall of 1942 and its acceptance by growers was almost phenomenal. By 1949 it was the most widely grown variety in the United States and has held first place in Nebraska until last year. Nebred, a Nebraska developed variety, was distributed in 1938 and has shown increasing popularity with growers. It now ranks third with 27.1 percent. Turkey, one of the earliest varieties grown in Nebraska, is now planted on only 3.3 percent of the state's acreage, but in 1939 it accounted for 58 percent of the total acreage. Other varieties generally have less than 1 percent of the total acreage. There was only a small acreage of wheat that is classified as undesirable, from the standpoint of milling, grown in Nebraska in 1955.

Cheyenne and Nebred varieties are grown principally in the southwestern and western parts of the state. However, Nebred is increasing in popularity in the central area. Pawnee, while planted occasionally in some counties north of the Platte River, is generally the major variety in the south central and eastern parts of the state. This variety matures a little earlier than others and generally has escaped major damage from black stem rust.

A comparison of the yield per harvested acre, by varieties, reveals that Cheyenne averaged 26.4 bushels, slightly above the 25.8 average for Pawnee. It is difficult to make a fair comparison on these varieties since they are produced in different areas. Last year conditions were very favorable for wheat in the western area, and record yields were obtained in many instances, while in the south central area where Pawnee is produced, there were some low yields because of the dry conditions that prevailed in the late spring months. Nebred, with a yield of 23.5 bushels per acre, while lower than the yield for Cheyenne, nevertheless yielded on a comparable basis in the western area, but the over-all yield was lowered because of the poor yields obtained in the central part of the state where again drouth was a factor. Nebraska-60 variety, with a 30.0 bushel yield, would indicate greater yielding possibilities than other varieties. However, the location of the acreage produced and the small acreage grown in the western area held this yield to a higher level than might normally be expected.

Hard red spring wheat acreage has been declining for a number of years. Rushmore variety, a comparative newcomer, has taken over from Mida, and Thatcher is falling far behind on the acreage planted. Yields per harvested acre of spring wheat are generally much lower than those for winter wheat, and the crop is grown mostly in the northwestern part of the state.

**WHEAT: DISTRIBUTION BY VARIETIES**

Class and Variety	Seeded Acreage Percentage					1955 Crop		Yield: Harv.:	Production Bushels
	1939:	1944:	1949:	1954:	1955:	Acres Planted	Acres Harvested		
<b>Hard red winter</b>									
Pawnee	--	.3	33.4	35.7	29.8	1,036,680	962,909	25.8	24,886,480
Cheyenne	14.8	22.7	25.2	27.4	34.7	1,207,375	1,062,090	26.4	28,014,680
Nebred	.2	15.3	26.1	26.6	27.1	942,640	851,040	23.5	20,003,740
Turkey	58.0	43.4	7.8	2.7	3.3	114,540	103,477	19.3	1,996,990
Wichita	--	--	.2	1.5	.9	32,000	29,242	19.3	565,720
Sioux	--	--	--	1.1	.5	18,315	15,796	22.2	350,570
Comanche	--	--	.2	.6	.3	9,980	9,191	23.2	212,850
Nebr. 60	10.1	4.8	.7	.5	.3	9,040	8,136	30.0	244,080
Tenmarq	.2	2.8	1.4	.5	.3	11,220	10,523	24.2	254,750
Blackhull	6.2	4.8	1.7	.2	.4	12,265	11,349	19.2	217,880
Other	4.7	2.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	62,945	57,247	22.3	1,277,260
<b>Hard red spring and other</b>									
Thatcher	.3	.9	.3	--	--	1,258	1,131	7.9	8,980
Supreme	--	.1	--	--	--	1,086	989	10.9	10,770
Mida	--	--	.7	.7	.2	8,192	7,405	11.7	86,780
Rushmore	--	--	--	.2	.3	8,787	8,105	11.8	95,740
All other	5.5	2.3	.6	.5	.1	2,677	2,370	11.7	27,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,479,000</b>	<b>3,141,000</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>78,255,000</b>

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