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## **Report of the Wisconsin Experiment Association : 1929-1934. Harvesting reed canary grass seed.**

Wisconsin Agricultural Experimental Association

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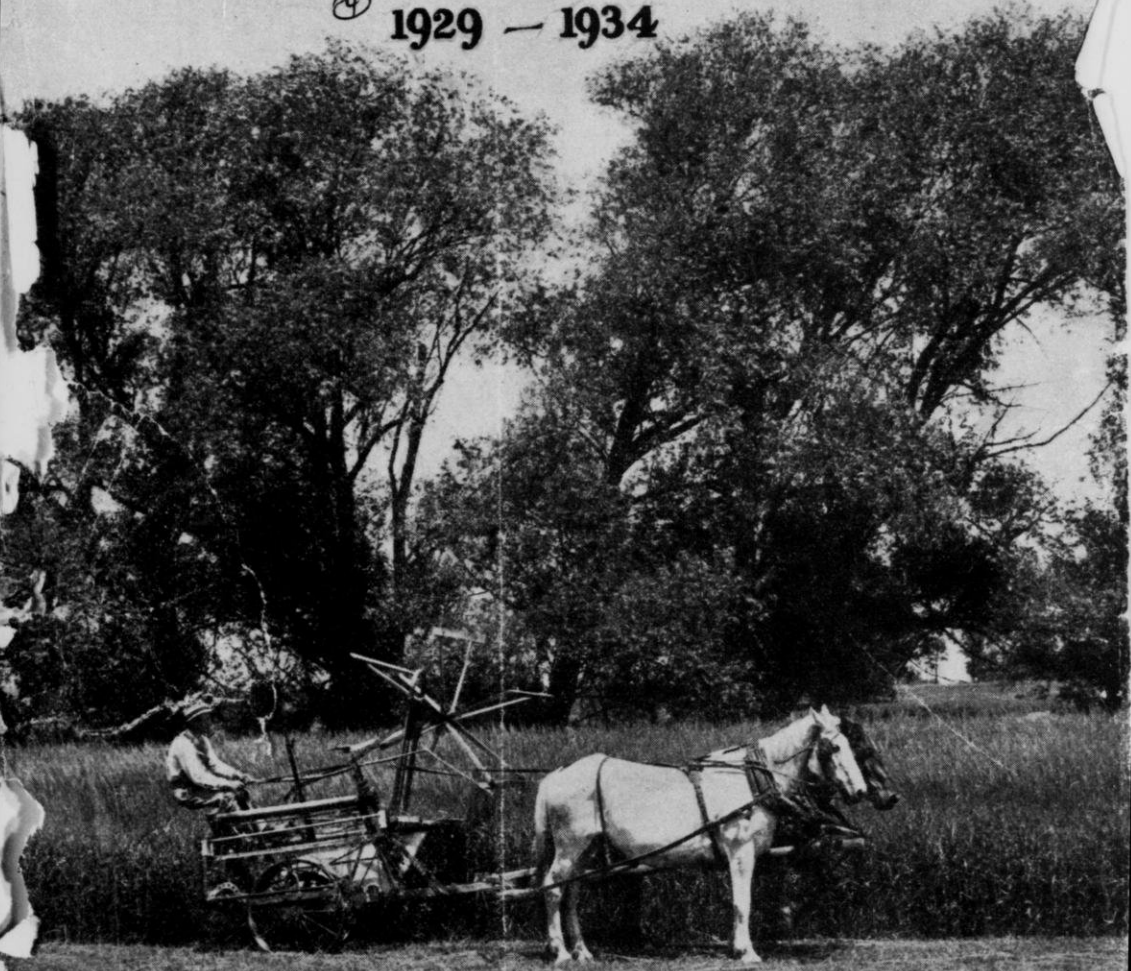
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③ *Report of the*

④ **WISCONSIN**  
STEENBOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**EXPERIMENT ASSOCIATION**

④ 1929 — 1934



*Harvesting Reed Canary Grass Seed*

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1929-1934

R. A. Moore

### *Members of the Wisconsin Experiment Association:*

In reporting on the past six years of Experiment Association work I should like to remind you that the Association was organized February 22, 1901, so is now in its 34th year of activity. It has been a great privilege for your secretary to help shape the destinies of the organization through this long period. During this period of 34 years it has been a pleasure and an inspiration to see the organization grow from 187 charter members to its present status, and carry on the great work of growing and disseminating the pure bred seeds which has played such an important part in Wisconsin agriculture.

The work of the Association has been enlarged from time to time as new opportunities for service opened up. At first it was thought that the organization would merely grow and disseminate the seeds which were bred at the Experiment Station farm. However, the Association has taken on a much wider work and has been helpful to the college of Agriculture and the Experiment Station in doing many things that they could not attempt to do on their own farm.

At first the membership of the organization consisted only of short course and long course students and graduates of the University. Later the constitution was revised so that now any farmer who can qualify by training and experience as an expert seed grower can unite with the Association. The desire has been to have an able membership who could fulfil the responsibility involved in supplying other farmers with pedigreed seeds of the highest quality.

### **For Better Farm Living**

The chief motive of the organization has always been to promote a better life on the farm by bringing about increased profits from crop production. By encouraging the use of improved varieties and supplying high grade pure bred seeds the Association has helped raise the margin of farm profit so as to enable the young man to take care of his farm better, to put up better buildings, have more conveniences, and bring up his family under better conditions than has been done by previous generations. The aim has been to make the farm home the best place on earth in which to live. In this I think the Experiment Association has accomplished results that are far reaching.

The association provides special opportunities for the young men who get advanced training in seed production. They capitalize on their special ability and skill by selling part of their corn, grain,

and other crops at seed prices, which gives them a considerable margin of profit above the price for feed crops. This encourages the boys and young men on the farms to continue their education by taking the agricultural work in the high schools and attending the short course at the university, by providing opportunities for profitable use of the training received. The hundreds of progressive members located

all over the state in every county have had a great influence as leaders in demonstrating to their neighbors that it pays to adopt the newer methods of agriculture. The great work they have carried on cannot be measured in dollars and cents, as it is far reaching and will be felt for many years to come.

# LET'S GROW PURE BRED CROPS

**Bred by the State Experiment Stations**

**Produced Especially for  
Wisconsin Conditions**

**Varieties Adapted to Different  
Soils and Climates**

**Higher Yields and Reduced  
Production Costs**

**Good Wisconsin Grown Seeds  
Available for All**

FOR DESCRIPTION OF VARIETIES AND SEED SOURCES WRITE THE

**WISCONSIN EXPERIMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

**MADISON, WISCONSIN**

**Pure Bred Crop Poster.**

## Seed Centers Established

The farm of each Experiment Association seed grower is a seed center which serves his particular locality. This convenience in getting pure bred seeds near at home helps neighboring farmers by doing away with delays and transportation costs. The easy accessibility of good seed has been a great factor in promoting the adoption of the improved varieties by a majority of Wis-

consin farmers. Experiment Association seed centers are established in all parts of the state, and many counties have thirty or forty growers.

In some sections especially favorable for seed production growers have been so successful that they have established reputations far beyond their neighborhood boundaries and ship quantities of seeds into other states and countries. In some counties the industry has grown to such proportions that county pure bred seed growers associations have been formed to enable growers to cooperate effectively to handle a large volume of business.

The seed dealers of the state are cooperating very closely with the Experiment Association and many of them make a speciality of selling largely the pedigreed seeds that have been grown by members of the organization. Through this cooperation the proportion of pure bred seed planted in the state each year is greatly increased.

This is a brief summary of the Experiment Association's work. A more detailed account on some of the more important activities is given later in this report. However one subject dear to my heart I should like to mention in closing:



## Beautifying the Farm Home

Nothing appears so cheerless in our state as homes which have been won from the mighty forests without a single shade tree. I feel that in our farmers' meetings voices should be raised emphasizing the importance of having the home partially surrounded by native trees. Many people set out fruit trees but these do not take the place of trees which especially provide comfort and beauty, and those that are a reminder of the wonderful forests that once occupied the place where the farm now stands. The hard maple when taken quite young will soon develop into an exceedingly fine tree. The wonderful linden tree which grows abundantly in our forests makes an exceedingly fine tree and is a rapid grower. The Conservation Commission will send evergreens at a small cost to persons interested in setting them out. By studying bulletins from the United States Department of Agriculture and from the State College of Agriculture upon the subject, any one can in a short time learn to secure trees from the forests and set them out so that in a few years the farm home will be greatly beautified. I feel that the members of the Association should put forth their utmost endeavor to beautify and make more comfortable their surroundings, as nothing speaks better for our state than to be known as the "state of fine farm homes".



For Letter Heads and  
Advertising Circulars.

### PURE BRED SEEDS MADE AVAILABLE BY EXPERIMENT ASSOCIATION GROWERS

E. D. Holden, Assistant Secretary

The primary purpose for which the Wisconsin Experiment Association was founded and the outstanding service which it is rendering is to make available to the farmers of the state seeds of the improved crop varieties produced by the Experiment Station. Experiment Association seed growers obtain pure bred foundation seed direct from the Station, and from this they grow their seed crop, giving attention to all those factors which have to do with producing a high quality product.

The growers offer this seed for sale directly to farmers or in many instances they supply it wholesale to seed houses. The Association



Experiment Association Seed List.

each winter publishes a Seed List giving the offerings of its members.

The demand for this service in pure bred seeds has increased steadily since the early years of the Association, and the number of growers who have found this work profitable has likewise increased. In recent years about 500 growers have been offering in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million bushels of seed corn, grains, soybeans, field peas, clover, timothy, alfalfa, and other seeds.

### Registered and Certified Seed

To enable buyers to obtain seeds of definite purity and quality, the Experiment Association has established three classes of seed, "Registered", "Certified", and "Inspected", which must pass certain inspection requirements.

Registered seed is of high quality and highest possible purity and is especially recommended for those who wish to grow the improved varieties for seed production.

Certified seed is of high quality and purity and carries all the advantages of the improved varieties in uniformity and high yield for general purposes. Registered and certified seed grains and corn are of varieties originated by or approved by the Wisconsin Experiment Station. The grains are inspected in the field and laboratory for purity, quality and germination, and the corn is given curing house and laboratory inspection for curing conditions, type, quality, moisture and germination.

Inspected seed has not had field or curing house inspection, but must pass the laboratory inspection requirements for certified seed.

### Seed Production a Year-Round Job

A year of planning and painstaking effort is repre-

Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association  
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

This is to certify that the following seed

5500	Golden Breeze	50
(lb)	(Variety)	(Cwt)
John Doe	Badger	(Grower)

Registered

Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association

Date: November 1, 1925

R.A. Moore (Secretary)

Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association

This is to certify that the following seeds, grown by

John Doe	Badger	50
(Name)	(Variety)	(Cwt)
John Doe	Golden Breeze	50
John Doe	Golden Breeze	50
John Doe	Golden Breeze	50
John Doe	Golden Breeze	50

Certified

Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association

Date: November 1, 1925

R.A. Moore (Secretary)

Certificates Furnished Growers.

sented by the list of pure bred seed grains of the Wisconsin Experiment Association. It represents the cooperation of the Experiment Station and several hundred specially trained Association seed growers.

The production of pure bred seeds starts in late winter with the cleaning and grading, and testing of the seed which is to plant the seed fields. In many cases the grower gets fresh foundation stock from the Experiment Station to be sure of having the latest and purest strain to be had.

The preparation of the land and planting occupy the spring months, and in the early summer there is cultivation of corn to remove the competition of weeds and enable the crop to produce a high percentage of fine seed ears.

In late June and early July the fields of small grains are visited by an inspector to insure against mixture, noxious weeds, and seed borne diseases.

Harvest and threshing bring difficult problems to the growers in devising ways to prevent mixing of kinds and varieties of grain. The seed producer must keep his grains pure and free from mixture.

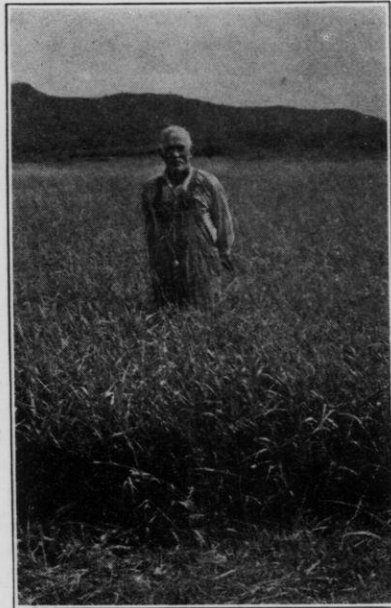
Early fall finds the grower in the corn field selecting the good seed ears before frost, and putting these to cure in special curing rooms.

In late fall and early winter the corn is inspected on the ear to determine trueness to type and soundness of curing, and samples of small grains are submitted to the Association headquarters at the college to be tested for purity and germination.

The association officials are busy at this time going over the inspection reports and reports of seed for sale, and combining these into the copy for the annual Seed List.

Winter and early spring is a time of activity for both the Association growers and officers. Thousands of seed lists are sent to prospective purchasers of pure bred seed, and hundreds of letters of inquiry are answered and inquirers put in touch with growers.

The growers are busy cleaning and grading the seeds and sacking them for shipment, and filling orders.



First Crop Reed Canary Grass.



By the time the season's sales are cleaned up it is again time for the grower to begin planning his work for the next season of seed production.

Through the medium of the Wisconsin Experiment Association the pure bred grains produced by the State Experiment Station are multiplied many thousand fold by its growers and are available to all who wish to grow the best that scientific breeding and testing can produce.

## NEW SEED PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENTS

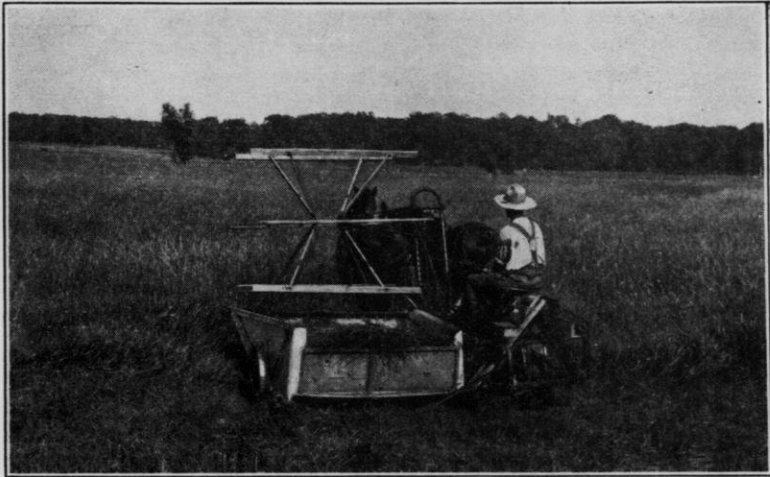
The opening up of new possibilities in seed production is an important feature of Experiment Association work. The past five years have brought forth two new developments which are becoming very profitable for our growers and are rendering an important service to the state. These are reed canary grass and alfalfa seed production.

Reed canary grass is a perennial low land pasture and hay grass of high feeding value. Its outstanding advantage is that it grows well and produces large yields on wet lands which usually grow only weeds or marsh grasses of low value.

This crop is rapidly coming into favor and the demand for seed is so great that the total supply available in the country is practically sold out each year at a comparatively high price. The seed supply is quite limited as there are at present only three localities in the United States where seed is produced in quantity. These seed producing centers are located in Oregon, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.



**Loading Reed Canary Grass Hay.**



**Harvesting Reed Canary Grass Seed With a Home Made Header.**

Fortunately seed can be harvested from canary grass fields without interfering with hay production, or hay and pasture, the same season. This makes it possible for growers who go into the crop primarily for forage purposes to take up seed production as a profitable side line. In this way the rapid increase in acreage is making seed more plentiful.

The peculiar seeding habits of reed canary grass necessitate unusual harvesting methods. The seeds begin to ripen in late June. They start at the top of the head and ripen progressively downward. They fall off the heads easily after they are ripe, so must be harvested without delay, and must be handled so as to avoid excessive loss from shattering.

The seed crop is harvested by cutting off the heads. These are usually dried a few days on the barn floor or on canvas in the sun before being beaten out with a fork or flail; larger quantities are separated with a threshing machine.

On small fields the heads are cut off by hand and put into bags, which is a rather slow process, but practicable for small areas. For larger acreages machines are used. The most common type is a header made from an old binder by stripping it of all unnecessary parts, building a large hopper on the platform and mounting the sickle bar on the front of the hopper, just high enough to clip off the heads. The machine is drawn by horses like an ordinary binder, and as it moves through the grass it cuts off the heads which are carried into the hopper by the reel.

The first of these machines used in Wisconsin was made at Beaver Dam in 1933, and harvested several thousand pounds of seed that season. In 1934 machines were constructed on several more farms



**The Heads are Taken to a Suitable Place for Curing.**

from plans supplied by the Wisconsin Experiment Association cooperating with the Agricultural Engineering Department of the University.

Reed canary grass promises to be an important crop in Wisconsin and seed production should continue to be profitable for many years.

#### **Wisconsin Grown Alfalfa Seed**

Another important new seed enterprise is the raising of alfalfa seed. Formerly nearly all the seed used in Wisconsin came from the northern great plains and Rocky Mountain states where the dry climate was especially favorable to seed setting. It was generally thought that Wisconsin could not grow alfalfa seed successfully. Experiments begun a few years ago, however, encouraged the belief that seed could be grown in our state. Cooperative trials conducted by Experiment Association alfalfa growers pointed the way to successful methods of large scale seed production.

This project was taken up rapidly by large numbers of alfalfa growers, who found it very profitable. Production in 1932 was estimated at 100,000 bushels. Winterkilling reduced the output in 1933 to about 50,000 and in 1934 to about 30,000 bushels. This production is concentrated in the heavy soil regions of northern and eastern Wisconsin; nevertheless many other growers scattered all over the state are raising seed successfully.

Wisconsin grown alfalfa seed has found favor and is in demand

in the state because the fact that it comes from established fields which have succeeded under our climatic conditions indicates that it is hardy and adapted to our locality.

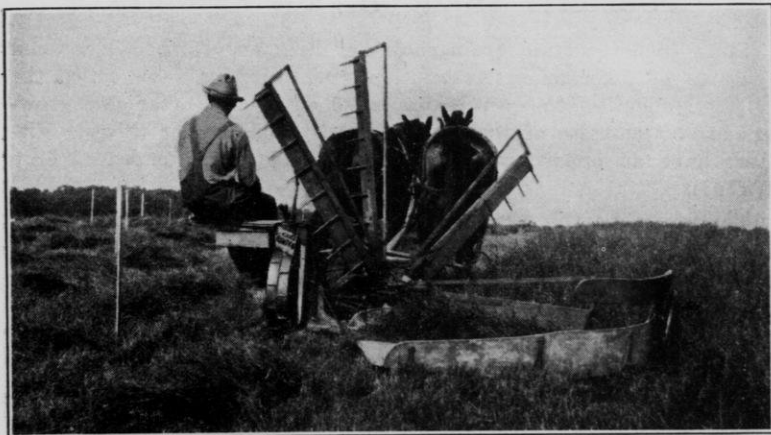
## COOPERATIVE EXPERIMENTAL WORK

As its name indicates, one of the objects for which the Experiment Association was formed was to carry on experiments and investigations. It was felt that the work of the Experiment Station with field crops could be made more conclusive by being checked up with the experiences of many observing growers under the diverse soil and climatic conditions of various sections of the state.

The familiar Wisconsin pure bred varieties of corn, grains and other crops all have been proved worthy by cooperative trials. Since our previous report several strains of hybrid corn developed by the Experiment Station have been given wide spread tests, and the possibilities of small scale farmer production of hybrid seed corn are being tried out by Association members.

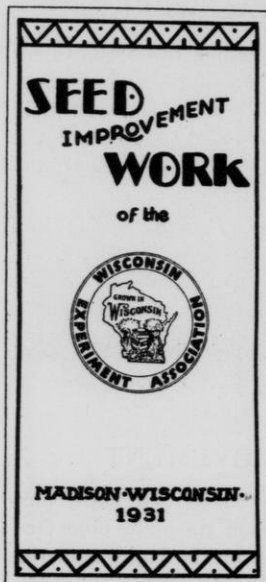
## EDUCATION FOR SEED IMPROVEMENT

The Association's educational work is directed to two main purposes, both of which are necessary to accomplish its main objective. One is convincing farmers of the greater value of the right varieties of farm crops, and the necessity of using good clean seed. The greater yields and superior quality of the Experiment Station bred corn and grains, and the greater resistance to winter killing of the adapted strains of clover and alfalfa are examples.



Harvesting Alfalfa Seed With a Reaper.

The second purpose is to help seed growers and merchants produce and market the kind of seeds which farmers should use, and for which a demand has been created. It would do little good to encourage the use of better varieties and better seeds if these could not be obtained. Producing and marketing better seeds would be unprofitable and would not be continued if farmers were not educated to their advantages to the point of creating a demand for them. Both lines of work must be carried on together to keep an even balance and to insure continued progress.



Seed Improvement  
Work Circular.

### Work With the Young People

The Experiment Association cooperates with the agricultural department of the schools and with the 4-H clubs in their crop projects. It helps supply their members with good seed, and lists seed for sale where seed production projects have been carried through. Many successful seed growers got their early start in the training received in the club or school project.

The Association assists in judging exhibits at club round-ups and school fairs, and conducts the state crop judging contests for both 4-H clubs and the high school agricultural departments.

### PUBLICITY THROUGH CROP EXHIBITS

Since 1905 the state grain show has been one of the educational features of Experiment Association work. It might be called the "show window" of the crop improvement enterprise. Our seed growers exhibit samples of their products and compete for prizes. Visitors have an opportunity to see and compare the improved crop varieties.

The grain show is usually held in Madison in connection with the farm and home week program of the college of agriculture. On special occasions, however, when certain localities have wanted to put on intensive crop improvement campaigns, the grain show has been held in these places as part of the program to arouse interest in crop improvement activities.

Since the previous report, the grain show has been held at Beaver Dam November 1929, Madison February 1931, Ripon November 1931, Madison February 1933 and February 1934.



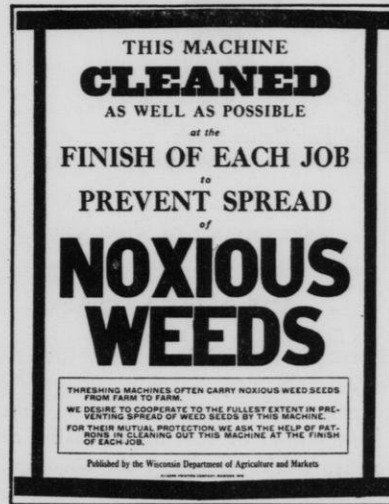
### Encourage Showing at the Fairs

The community and county fairs also offer our growers of pure bred seeds excellent opportunities to show their products and get favorable publicity by their winnings. Growers are encouraged to exhibit at the fairs and so take advantage of these opportunities. This participation helps the fairs in their role as educational forces for crop improvement.

### WISCONSIN AT THE INTERNATIONAL GRAIN AND HAY SHOW

The Experiment Association took a leading part in starting the International Grain and Hay Show, first held in 1919, and every year since has been active in its support. This show brings together thousands of crops exhibits from all parts of the continent and from more distant countries. Thousands of visitors inspect the exhibits and come into contact with the sources of seed of the improved crop varieties. This show has been an important factor in promoting out-of-state seed trade for Wisconsin growers.

Our exhibitors have been very successful in competing for premiums at the International. In 1929, 319 samples shown by 150 exhibitors comprised the Wisconsin showing. The winnings were eighty places and one sweepstakes. In 1930, 194 samples shown by 94 exhibitors won ninety places; in 1931, 221 samples won 106 places and one regional championship; in 1932, 210 samples won 120 places; in 1933 the winnings were two regional championships and 89 other premiums, and 86 premiums were won in 1934.



Threshing Machine Poster.

### SEED COUNCIL OF WISCONSIN

The Experiment Association five years ago cooperated with a number of other agencies interested in crop improvement in organizing the seed council of Wisconsin. This organization aims to bring about the better production, distribution, utilization, and control of seeds through the cooperation of the member agencies. The present mem-

bership of the Seed Council includes, besides the Experiment Association, the State Department of Agriculture, Division of Seed and Weed

Control, Agronomy Department, Extension Service, County Agents' Association, Association of Seed Dealers, Brotherhood of Threshermen, Retail Feed Association, Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, Association of Vocational Agricultural Instructors, and Agricultural Editorial Department.

By serving as a clearing house for information and ideas, and promoting a better understanding and closer relationship between the various agencies, the seed council meetings are greatly strengthening the seed improvement program in the state.

## Advice to Wisconsin Farmers regarding SEEDS



*"For Better Seeds  
on Wisconsin Farms"*

Distributed by Authority of the  
SEED COUNCIL OF WISCONSIN

Seed Advice Circular.

purpose of which is to unite the efforts of the smaller groups to attack effectively national and international crops problems affecting the various states and provinces. The Experiment Association is a charter member of this organization and has been active in helping carry on its work. Some of the accomplishments of the International Association, which affect Wisconsin in common with many other states, are the improving and standardizing of the seed inspection and certification systems of the several state associations; promoting experimental work and legislation looking toward the keeping out of unadapted foreign clover and alfalfa seed; and exerting influence to have adequate measures taken to check the spread of the great enemy of the corn crop, the European corn borer.

## ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE EXPERIMENT ASSOCIATION

The two important features of the annual meeting are the business session at which officers are elected, reports are given on the year's activities, plans are agreed upon for the ensuing year, and other mat-

ters of a business nature are taken up; and the educational sessions which are occupied with discussions on crop improvement topics. The executive committee meets just before the annual meeting to draw up recommendations to present at the business session

It has been customary in recent years to elect officers for a second term, changing every two years. The officers since the last previous report have been as follows:

#### 1929-1930

President	Elmer Biddick, Livingston
Vice President	Monro Brown, Bay City
Treasurer	Otto Wolf, La Crosse
Secretary	R. A. Moore, Madison
Assistant Secretary	E. D. Holden, Madison

#### 1931-1932

President	C. J. Ritland, Chippewa Falls
Vice President	W. F. Katterhenry, Beloit
Treasurer	Fred Black, Holmen
Secretary	R. A. Moore, Madison
Assistant Secretary	E. D. Holden, Madison

#### 1933-1934

President	Emil Jacobsen, Green Bay
Vice President	Leonard Kalt, Glen Haven
Treasurer	Stuart P. Niere, Watertown
Secretary	R. A. Moore, Madison
Assistant Secretary	E. D. Holden, Madison

#### Executive Committee

With the appointment in June, 1934 of L. J. Henry, Kewaunee to succeed J. B. Keenan, the executive committee consists of:

Chas. Ristow, Black River Falls	George Briggs, Madison
F. E. Bell, Columbus	E. J. Delwiche, Green Bay
A. L. Stone, Madison	J. N. Kavanaugh, Green Bay
L. J. Henry, Kewaunee	Henry Michels, Fond du Lac

Honorary members who have been elected since the previous report are: Nov. 1929 Charles L. Hill, Rosendale and L. R. Larson, Beaver Dam; Feb. 1931 F. E. Bell, Columbus and D. S. Bullock, El Bergil Angol, Chili, South America; Nov. 1931 Hon. Henry Graass, Green Bay and John Thompson, Racine.

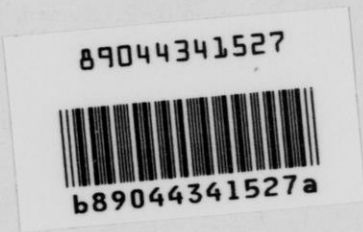
### FINANCIAL REPORT

The Wisconsin Experiment Association since 1903 by legislative enactment has received state aid to enable it to carry out its program of crop improvement work. Under the stress of present financial conditions the Association has cooperated in every possible way to economize, and is operating under a reduced budget. The officers

believe that every dollar expended is being made to do its full duty in maintaining the work at a high level of efficiency and productiveness.

The Association's receipts are deposited in the state treasury and are disbursed on order of the secretary. The state treasurer keeps account of and audits the funds. A brief statement of receipts and disbursements since the previous report follows:

	Receipts July 1-June 30	Disbursements July 1-June 30	Balance June 30
1927-28			848.60
1928-29	848.60		
	1402.75 Fees etc.		
	5000.00 Appropriation	-----\$6593.38	657.97
1929-30	657.97		
	2106.05 Fees etc.		
	5000.00 Appropriation	-----6721.53	1042.49
1930-31	1042.49		
	1804.38 Fees etc.		
	5000.00 Appropriation	-----6865.32	981.55
1931-32	981.55		
	744.70 Fees etc.		
	5000.00 Appropriation	-----6461.87	264.38
1932-33	264.38		
	583.85 Fees etc.		
	4405.00 Appropriation	-----4608.92	644.31
1933-34	644.31		
	513.00 Fees etc.		
	4000.00 Appropriation	-----4371.46	785.85



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