

Corn Borers Fewer In 1962

Fewer European corn borers infested major corn-producing areas of the United States in 1962 than in 1961, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

Surveys conducted by entomologists of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and 16 cooperating States in the fall of 1962 showed an

average of 71 borers per 100 corn plants. In 1961, the average was 78 borers per 100 plants.

ARS entomologists attribute this decrease to a combination of the increased use of resistant hybrids of corn, an increase in the number of parasites of the European corn borer, and weather conditions unfavorable to the borers' survival and development.

These surveys are made each fall to estimate the average number of live corn borer larvae bedded away in dead cornstalks.

Borer numbers decreased sharply in Eastern States surveyed. The average in these States—Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania—was 55 borers per 100 stalks in 1962. The average in 1961 was 183.

However, borers increased in the North-Central States, the average number rising from 51 in 1961 to 80 per 100 stalks in 1962. Nebraska had the biggest increase, going from 56 borers per 100 plants in 1961 to 201 in 1962. Illinois and South Dakota also had increases over 1961.

● County FFA

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seed grains from 53 counties since 1958 and found that about 60 percent were "loaded with weed seed".

"I would hazard a guess that this county would be better than that, but we thought the same thing about Centre County since the university is there, but it was just as bad as most and worse than some of the other counties", Bryner said. Our survey showed some startling facts, he said. Approximately 60 per cent of the seed oats planted in one good agriculture county was unfit for planting because of weed content.

To those who thought the survey painted the picture too black, Bryner explained that the sample might be biased, but if so, it would be biased toward the better farms. Most of the samples came from what were considered the better farms by county agricultural agents and vocational agriculture students. The situation is probably worse than the survey indicates, he explained.

CERTIFIED SEED

Certified seed had the highest average quality, but even here some samples were unfit for planting. Next in quality rating were the non-certified seed purchased from dealers.

The poorest quality seed in every survey conducted was that purchased from a neighbor. Bryner said apparently farmers did a pretty good job of cleaning their own seed or having it cleaned at a mill, but many of them purchased a crop of weeds from their neighbors. According to the survey in one county, 26 per cent of the oats grown were planted without cleaning. Farmers planting farm-grown seed of his own or neighbors should clean it or have it cleaned thoroughly—even to the extent of cleaning twice. It is all right to plant home grown seeds, but you don't want to plant home grown weeds, he said.

The boys will be asked to bring in a full quart of seed oats or a heaping cupful of clover or timothy seed for the analysis. The farmer will receive a report on the amount of pure seed, crop seed, inert matter, weed seed, and the bushel weight of the sample. In addition the report will include the percent of germination and hard seed. The weed seed count will be broken down into kinds, number per pound, noxious weeds found and prohibited weed seed found.

Bryner asked that the samples be sent in by the middle of February so that analysis could be made before oats planting season.

Any farmer in the county wishing to participate in the survey may do so by contacting any students of vocational agriculture, their teachers or the county agent's office.

"The purpose of the survey is not to sell certified seed," Bryner said, "but to try to get farmers to use high quality seed whether it is purchased or home grown."



TAKING ON THE APPEARANCE OF A SMALL village or an army camp, the "egg factory" of Eggs, Incorporated at Rheems, is scheduled for completion sometime this summer. Three of the 12,000 layer houses are filled with birds and the fourth unit is almost complete. Construction of the egg processing building in the left foreground is going on at present. Bulk feed bins at the side of each building gives the complex a distinctive look. All the buildings are windowless with light and ventilation being supplied electrically. L. F. Photo.

● Eggs Incorporated

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year round basis. The pullets will be placed in the cages at approximately 12 weeks and will remain there for 15 months of lay.

A seventh building in the complex, which is taking on the appearance of a small village, will house processing equipment including refrigera-

tion, washing, candling, grading, and cartonning facilities. At present the eggs are gathered twice daily and washed in a temporary set-up. They are picked up daily by a processor. When the plant is in full operation, the eggs will go directly to large retail outlets.

We have one man to each house of 12,000 now, because there are a lot of little details to be worked out, Wenger said but when all the houses are full one man, and a lady assistant to help gather the eggs, will take care of two houses.

Eggs will be gathered twice a day on filler flats and put on skids which will be taken directly to the processing unit. The eggs will be processed im-

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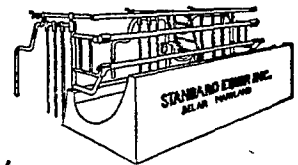
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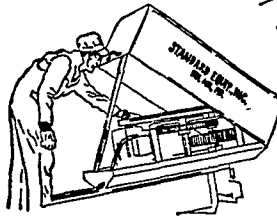
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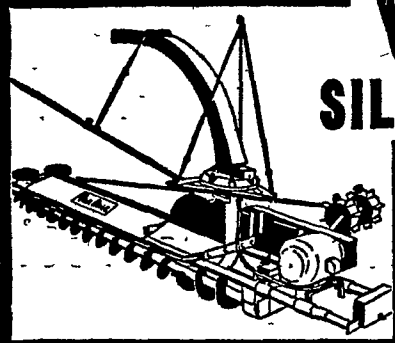
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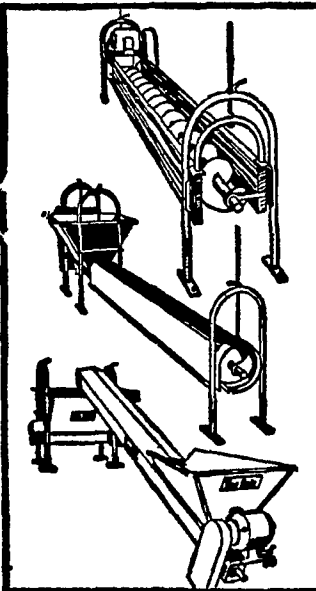
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