
Science at Work

HYBRID corn produced 600,000 more bushels in 1942 than open pollinated corn would have produced on the same acreage with the same amount of labor. This extra production made possible 41 more pounds of pork for every citizen of the United States the past year.

In a war in which every pork chop equals a bullet, these figures from the U. S. Department of Agriculture well prove the worth of Dr. O. J. Eigsti's experiments in hybrid corn growing in Oklahoma.

Dr. Eigsti, associate professor of botany at the University, is a native of the corn belt country where over 75 percent of the acreage is planted to hybrids each year. Iowa has 98 percent. When he came to O. U. in 1938, Dr. Eigsti was struck by the lack of use of hybrid corn by Oklahoma farmers.

The following summer he conferred with Dr. J. R. Holbert of the Funk Brothers Seed Company, creators of Funks G-Hybrids, and began active research on the possibilities of hybrid corn in Oklahoma.

Hybrid corn is specialized corn bred to make maximum yields under the soil and climatic conditions existing at a given location. A half dozen or more new strains developed through long years of endeavor are needed for a land with such a great range of soil and climate as Oklahoma's.

In 1941, the tests showed definite possibilities of some hybrids for the areas concerned. This was the first step in developing new hybrids for Oklahoma.

More test plots were made in 1942 over a wider area. Some of the strains tested previously were discarded and some new ones were included in the survey. Hybrid corn was found to be superior in the majority of cases.

The hybrids tested in 1943 with the aid of grants from the University Research Institute were subjected to Oklahoma farmers' two worst enemies, cyclonic storms and drouth, and hence furnished Dr. Eigsti an excellent opportunity to discover their worth for this section of the country.

During a terrific storm localized at Norman on July 7, 80 percent of the stalks were blown down. These that fall under storm are eliminated from the breeding program. The long drouth which persisted in late summer cut a swath in the remaining. However, the hybrids which withstood this display of Oklahoma's weather will produce better and stronger corn in the future.

Even under the conditions of 1943, R. L. Jamison who farms east of Haskell, harvested a yield which averaged 66 bushels of hybrid corn per acre. He reported that the open pollinated varieties grown in the neighborhood ranged from 0 to 35.

Dr. Eigsti pointed out that such excellent results would not be obtained from the same hybrid in all parts of Oklahoma

on every farm. Mr. Jamison farms bottom land which has a good supply of subsoil moisture necessary for good corn yields when there is very little rain after corn is about one foot high. Most of the tests conducted have been on land especially suited to corn; the sandy loam soils of riper bottom areas in Eastern Oklahoma. As hybrids become more in demand for Oklahoma use, additional research will be done on upland soil where to date there has not been as much increase of yield of hybrids over the native varieties.

Another farmer, L. W. Jackson, planted both hybrid corn and the open pollinated type in his field located in the Eagle Lake bottom of the Red River valley. This is south of Durant. One hybrid averaged 97 bushels per acre and another 95. The open pollinated corn produced 80.

In a location west of Pauls Valley on excellent soil, one hybrid yielded over 95 bushels per acre under what can truly be called drouth conditions. The corn did



For several years, O. J. Eigsti, University plant scientist, has engaged in experiments with corn hybrids which will be of great importance to Oklahoma farmers. Following his recent return to the campus from the corn belt, Dr. Eigsti (left) was interviewed by Elizabeth Lees, Sooner Magazine staff writer, on the results of his experiments.

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT
RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this
issue is available at
call number LH 1 .06S6
in Bizzell Memorial
Library.

not have rain after June 6. However, the subsoil moisture on the location was plentiful. Dr. Eigsti said that hybrid corn is able to take advantage of this moisture by a root system which enables such plants to utilize the subsoil moisture when the weather is dry and hot.

The higher cost of hybrid corn is necessitated by the additional labor required to develop the hybrid. The breeder must detassel the corn by hand in order to prevent indiscriminate pollination and to keep the strain pure. However, the vigor and uniformity shown by hybrid corn enables most farmers to harvest yields that repay them many times for the slight increase. It has been estimated by farm crop specialists that an increase of 12½ bushels per acre of corn doubles the profit per acre in spite of slightly increased costs for seed.

Farmers desiring information about sources of hybrid corn seed suitable for planting in Oklahoma are invited to correspond with Dr. Eigsti for further details.

▲ ▲ ▲

With the Armed Forces

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

Ensign Tommy S. Myers, '37-'39, Wichita Falls, Texas, was assigned to duty at the Naval Air Station, Floyd Bennett Field, New York City.

Julian W. Field, '42-'43, Oklahoma City, hospital apprentice first class, was on duty at the Naval Hospital, Long Island, New York.

Wendell Tomberlin, '39fa, former University art teacher, on duty at the Naval Air Technical Training Center at Norman, has received the rate of aviation ordnance man second class.

Aviation Cadet Arlie Green, '41-'42, Bartlesville, was transferred for basic flight training at the Naval Air Station at Norman.

Lt. Joe L. Duer, '32med, Woodward, of the Naval Medical Corps, was on duty at the Naval Air Gunnery School at Purcell.

John E. Wey, '41, Oklahoma City, Naval air pilot first class, is attached to a squadron at the Naval Air Station, Tillamook, Oregon.

Ensign C. C. Evans, Jr., '37, Sand Springs, was on duty at the Naval Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina.

Lt. E. N. Davie, '40med, Oklahoma City, has been transferred to duty in the dispensary at the Naval Air Station, Memphis, Tennessee.

Aviation Cadet Raymond S. Knox, '40-'43, Norman, was attending Naval Flight Preparatory School at Austin, Texas.

Ensign Robert R. Evans, '43eng, Norman, was attending Officers Training School of the Construction Engineers Corps at Camp Peary, Virginia.

Medical Graduates

Fifty-one members of the senior class scheduled to receive the M. D. degree on December 23 and their internships are as follows:

George Mullins Adams, U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, California; James Leon Alexander, Jefferson Davis Hospital, Houston, Texas; Thomas Page Anderson, St. Paul's Hospital, Dallas, Texas; Homer Vincent Archer, New Rochelle Hospital, New Rochelle, New York; Eugene Hamlin Arrendell, U. S. Naval Hospital,

Jack Duane Ballard, U. S. Naval Hospital; Joseph Price Bell, University Hospital, Oklahoma City; Charles David Bodine, Mercy Hospital, Chicago; Clifford Alton Brown, St. Anthony Hos-

pital, Oklahoma City; George MacMillan Brown, Jr., U. S. Naval Hospital, Bainbridge, Maryland.

Herschel Gray Carter, U. S. Naval Hospital; Samuel Lewis Cohen, French Hospital, San Francisco; Julian Harold Conn, St. Luke's Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio; Everett Ellis Cooke, Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, New Jersey; Glenn Wendelle Cosby, St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City.

Marvin LeRoy Cullen, Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, New Jersey; Clarence Benton Dawson, Augustana Hospital, Chicago; John Donnell, Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, New Jersey; Louise Kinkead Farr, University Hospital, Oklahoma City; Phillips Raymond Fife, Wesley Hospital, Oklahoma City.

Safety Reuel First, Hillcrest Memorial Hospital, Tulsa; Herman Floyd Flanigin, Jr., University Hospital, Oklahoma City; William Forrest Fluhr, Presbyterian Hospital, Los Angeles, California; Clifford Felix Gastineau, Colorado General Hospital, Denver, Colorado; Rene Gabriel Gerard, St. Paul's Hospital, Dallas, Texas.

Robert Perry Holt, Ancker Hospital, St. Paul, Minnesota; Jack Van Doren Hough, U. S. Naval Hospital, Farragut, Idaho; Dick H. P. Huff, Jefferson Davis Hospital, Houston, Texas; Kenneth B. Kincy, Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, Los Angeles, California; Milton Klebanoff, University Hospital, Oklahoma City.

William Ewart Knight, University Hospital, Oklahoma City; John Aubrey McIntyre, U. S. Naval Hospital, Norman, Oklahoma; Paul David Macroy, Wesley Hospital, Oklahoma City; Armon M. Meis, Mercy Hospital, Denver, Colorado; Donna Lea Hammer Meis, Mercy Hospital, Denver, Colorado.

James Hal Neal, St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth, Minnesota; William Lee Rector, Jr., Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa; Earl Moore Robinson, Wesley Hospital, Oklahoma City; Louis Stong Rockett, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa; Harold Ray Sanders, St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City.

Arthur Waldo Stickle, University Hospital, Oklahoma City; Clinton Riley Strong, U. S. Naval Hospital, Long Beach, California; Fred Wilbur Taylor, U. S. Naval Hospital, Farragut, Idaho; William Best Thompson, New Rochelle Hospital, New Rochelle, New York; Jack Burgess Tolbert, Good Samaritan Hospital, Portland, Oregon.

Henry Constantine Trzaska, St. Mary's Hospital, Chicago; Edwin Charles Turner, Swedish Hospital, Seattle, Washington; Ethan Allen Walker, Jr., U. S. Naval Hospital, Bainbridge, Maryland; Rhonald Alven Whiteneck, University Hospital, Oklahoma City; George Louis Winn, U. S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland; Jones E. Witcher, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

Hal Muldrow, Jr.

'28

Insurance of all Kinds
Bonds

Security Natl. Bank Bldg.

Norman