

40 Years Of Breeding Is Back Of Wheat Carl Nordhousen Developed

Back in 1935 North Dakota went through one of its worst rust infestations. What appeared to be a bumper crop turned out to be barely worth the threshing; plump kernels shriveled to a shadow of their expected size.

But up near Leeds a farmer was not experiencing this crop tragedy—for it was a tragedy, a blight on folks and their hopes as well as on their biggest cash crop.

A strain of wheat this farmer had developed through 40 years of breeding and experimentation stood staunch against the inroads of rust.

Last year in the four primary spring wheat states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana—some 5,000,000 acres of that same wheat—Nordhousen wheat, was harvested.

Carl Nordhousen, 66-year-old Benson county farmer, was the originator of that wheat, and to date it has withstood the ravages of rust. It has become a North Dakota byword when rust resistant wheat is discussed.

Nordhousen did not hit upon this strain of wheat by accident.

Behind it are years of careful experimentation.

"Any wheat to be successful in North Dakota—or anywh— must have a sturdy root system and a strong leaf development," Nordhousen says.

He relates how he selected specimens with excellent root development by excavating them and patiently washing them away with water so comparative studies could be made of the development; of careful field examinations during rust year



CARL NORDHOUSEN

select those individual plants which showed no signs of black stem rust development.

Nordhousen says he has had both good, and not so good, reactions from millers as to the milling qualities of his wheat—but there have been more favorable than unfavorable comments.

Nordhousen has been a North

He specializes in certified seed.

A son, Orris, operates an implement house, grain elevator, hardware and lumber store at Leeds.

Another son, Truman is associated with his father on the farm. The trio has a flourishing seed and feed business. Orris, too, has 1,600 acres under cultivation.

Besides Carl Nordhousen there are three brothers and two sisters, Gust at Leeds, Adolph at Montevideo, Minn., Gilman at 910 Twelfth st N, Fargo, Mrs. Josephine Jones at 1111 Ninth av N, and Mrs. Ebba Coughlin in Canada.

Right now Carl Nordhousen is in Akron, Ohio. There he expects to interest the Firestone Rubber company in a rubber slat device for binder reels.

It has been Nordhousen's experience with rapidly drawn power machinery, that the wooden lathed reels knock off many heads of wheat. With the less resistant rubber flapped slats there will be a smaller loss from this cause, Nordhousen says.

It is his claim that cost of the new device, applicable to any standard binder, will be met in the savings of a

MARRIED RECENTLY AT WALUM CHURCH

