NOTE

THE KANSAS WHEAT BELT PROGRAM

The agronomy extension program of the wheat belt of Kansas has been conducted as a part of the five-year Kansas wheat belt program (Fig. 1) since 1925. Earlier efforts in agronomy extension work with wheat in this area indicated that an effort to get the farmer to free his wheat fields of rye were fruitless unless the grain buyer made a differentiation against rye-mixed wheat, which many did not do. Cooperation was therefore sought with the marketing specialist to urge buying wheat on a grade basis. Like cooperation was sought with the plant pathologist and marketing specialist as an inducement to reduce the amount of smut. The agronomist and entomologist found it necessary to cooperate on a tillage program which would conserve moisture and at the same time control insects. The result was the five-year Wheat Belt Program which is a coordination of agronomy, disease control, insect control, and marketing programs.

Results have proved the desirability of this move. The amount of good seed wheat that changed hands during the four years prior to the organization of this program was 790,000 bushels, or almost 200,000 bushels per year. During the four years of the Wheat Belt Program now past, the amount of good seed changing hands was 1,931,000 bushels, almost 500,000 bushels each year.

In 1929, 77% of the wheat land was plowed by August first in the area which had been conducting this program for four years, while only 32% of the wheat land outside this area had been plowed by that date.