NOTES

A NURSERY THRESHER FOR SORGHUM HEADS

A NURSERY thresher particularly adapted to threshing individual heads of sorghum has been constructed at the U. S. Dry Land Field Station, Lawton, Okla. Two views of it are shown in Fig. 1. Approximately 2,000 individual heads have been threshed successfully in the past two seasons. Two men can thresh, clean, bag, and label 500 individual heads in 8 hours. The thresher also has been used for nursery rows of wheat and bulk lots of sorghum. It is relatively inexpensive and so simple that any good mechanic can build it.

The thresher is of a box type, designed for self-cleaning, by eliminating projections where grain might lodge and by providing for all material to drop into the grain drawer. The inside is lined with tin that forms a funnel leading to a grain drawer at the bottom. The bottom of the funnel, 6 x 8 inches, is large enough to avoid clogging. The grain drawer is 12 x 8 inches and 4 inches deep.

The thresher frame and base are built of 2 x 4 inch lumber. The sides of the box are 1 x 3 inch tongue and groove boards. The outside dimensions of the frame are 21 inches x 17 inches, and 19 inches high. The feeding chute extends above the top of the box 1½ inches at the front and 2½ inches at the rear. It sits at approximately a 45-degree angle to permit easy insertion of the heads. A hinged lid on the top of the chute with a small notch in the front for the sorghum stem is closed to prevent loss of grain while the head is being threshed.

The cylinder was made from a block of oak 10 inches long that was bored lengthwise and a 7/8-inch steel shaft inserted and secured. The oak cylinder was then turned on a lathe to a diameter of 4 inches. A large metal washer was fastened with screws to each end of the cylinder to prevent splitting of the wood.