MOST of the seed crop of Kentucky bluegrass from the Kentucky-
Ohio area is produced on a relatively few farms in the central
bluegrass region of Kentucky. Even on these leading seed-producing
farms, however, bluegrass is seldom, if ever, grown primarily for seed.
It is grown rather for pasture and for conditioning land for tobacco,
and the seed is harvested to provide a supplementary income when
the bluegrass field is not needed exclusively for pasture during the
spring. The amount of seed harvested, therefore, varies greatly from
year to year. Four crops of over 900,000 bushels of rough-cured
Kentucky bluegrass seed have been produced in the Kentucky-Ohio
area since 1925 and five crops of 200,000 bushels or less. The average
yield per acre of the former was 13.5 bushels and of the latter 4.7
bushels. Acreages harvested in producing the larger crops ranged from
92,857 to 135,294, and those harvested in producing the smaller
ranged from 15,000 to 43,750. The averages for the two groups were
107,038 and 29,173 acres, respectively. The average seasonal prices
paid to growers for the rough-cured seed were 80 cents and $1.13 per
bushel, respectively, for the larger and smaller crops. In other words,
farmers harvest large acreages when the yield per acre is high; small
acreages when the yield per acre is low, and receive lower prices per
bushel for their large crops than for their small crops.

At the time seed stripping begins, farmers have a reasonably ac-
ccurate opinion of both the price which the seed will bring and the
average yield per acre that may be expected. Since it is clear from
the information just presented that price per bushel has little or no
influence in determining the size of the seed crop produced, it may be
concluded that when yield per acre is good a large acreage is har-
vested and when low a small acreage is harvested.

The percentage of marketable seed in the rough-cured seed (Fig. 1),
commonly designated as "clean-out" percentage, is a good measure of
the quality of rough-cured seed. The best quality seed has a "clean-
out" of 60 to 65% and low quality seed 40% or less. Thus defined,
quality of rough-cured seed has varied widely, especially during the
last 5 years when the extremes have been 55% and 22%.

The quality of rough-cured seed seems to be closely correlated with
yield per acre. Four crops producing an average yield of 11.4 bushels
per acre had an average clean-out of 55%, and three crops producing
an average of 4.7 bushels per acre cleaned out 40.8%. In a statistical
analysis of the acre yield and clean-out of nine crops for which data