

AGRONOMY



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The Agronomy Department is devoted to work with Field Crops, Soils, and Farm Management. The aim of its endeavors is to carry out investigational and instructional work to a practical application upon the farms of Northwestern Minnesota. To this end, the department is organized, first, for investigational work, second, for instruction, and third, for production and distribution of pure seed grains.

Since the crop and soil problems of this section of the state are very largely regional, investigational work must precede instruction. An adequate equipment, including laboratories, a greenhouse, and about 1500 experimental plots upon the farm afford opportunity for securing reliable information on agronomy problems. The results of actual trials, carefully conducted, are made the basis for all instructional work.

Instructional work is not confined to the winter term of the school. Aside from the class instruction in which students are afforded the facilities of laboratories for work with both their own soils and crops and a wider range of material from the station farm, direct contacts with the farmers are made through the extension service and supervised home projects.

In pure seed production and distribution, it is recognized that particular attention must be given to the problems involved in getting purebred seeds growing upon the farms. The station farm of 580 acres is largely devoted to the production of pure bred seed. A well equipped elevator and seed-house makes possible thorough cleaning and efficient handling. During the past three seasons, 7,600 bushels of purebred seed grain and 300 bushels of seed corn have been distributed among the farmers of this section and 283 growers have cooperated by growing these seeds and selling them to their neighbors.