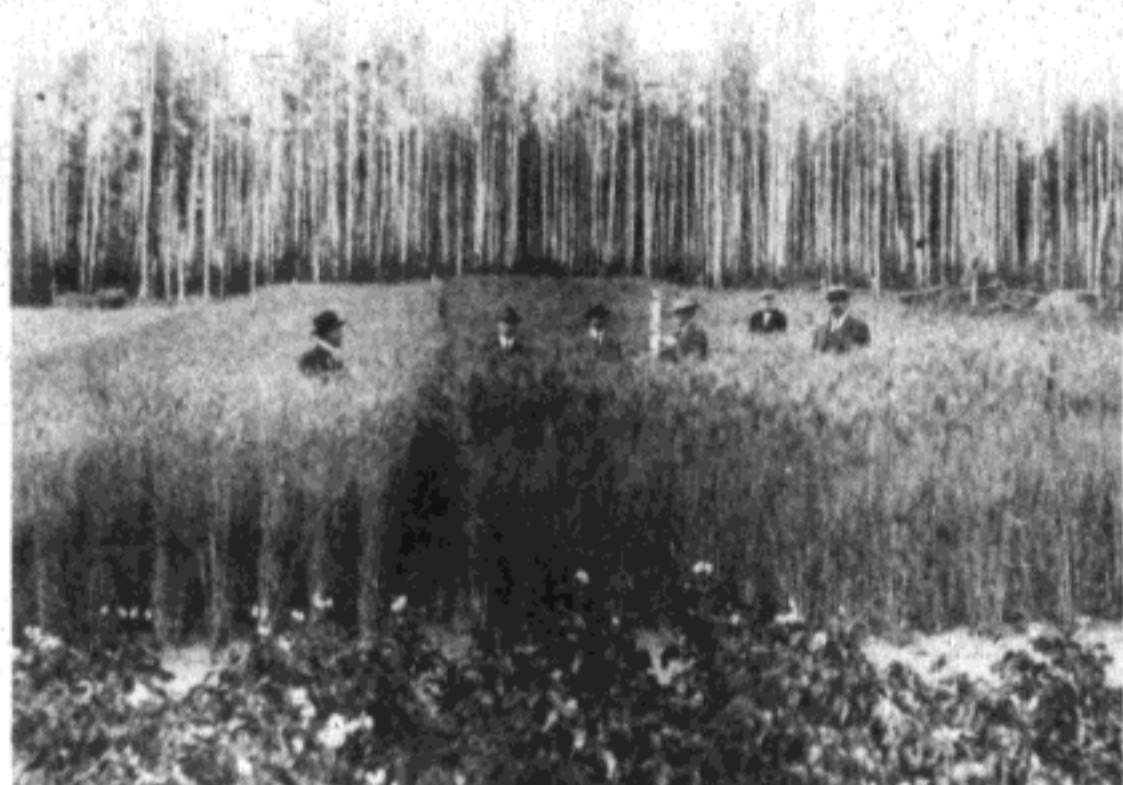


Agricultural Experiment Station



These properly attired gentlemen are standing in a field of oats at the Government Experimental Farm in College. The gentleman fourth from the left is pointing out that the grain has reached a height of 4½ feet. This photo was taken in the 1920's.

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Fairbanks Town & Village Assn. for Development

The Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station recently released their 1976 Annual Report for 'distribution statewide. The report summarizes all the research activity and preliminary results of studies performed by the Station in 1976.

Public concern about high food prices in Alaska and potential world food shortage has focussed attention on the need to increase the production of food and wood products in Alaska, according to the Annual Report.

Researchers at the Station have said that improved crop varieties and management practices have direct application in the reduction of production costs and in the expansion of agricultural production on new lands.

Variety trials of feed grain barley at Fairbanks and Delta Junction carried out by AES researchers in 1976 resulted in yields of 70 bushels per acre for the variety of highest yield. Evaluations of malting barley at these locations identified varieties with yields of 75-85 bushels per acre. Fertilizer research with barley at Fairbanks indicated yields through the use of nitrogen fertilizer in the form of urea or ammonium nitrate.

Successful grain adaptation tests were completed on remote sites near Eagle, Trapper's Creek, Anvik, Red Devil and Chalkyitsik. Tests at remote sites are particularly important, the report states, in evaluating potential food production on vast areas of dormant agricultural land in Alaska.

In addition, studies of soils from a number of locations in Alaska resulted in improved laboratory methods for measuring plant nutrient and lime requirements. These methods, according to AES researcher, are essential in

measuring the needs for fertilizer and lime under Alaskan conditions.

Additional information on the grain trials can be obtained by contacting Dr. Frank Wooding, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Variety testing vegetables at Fairbanks and Palmer resulted in improvements in yield, quality and dependability for cabbage, snapbeans, broccoli, cauliflower, sweetcorn, squash, cucumbers, and lettuce.

The results from these vegetables variety tests form the basis for variety recommendations for home gardeners as well as commercial growers in Alaska.

Research on soil warming for horticultural crops was designed in Fairbanks to stimulate the use of surplus heat from power plants to increase soil temperatures. The success of this experiment was evidenced by ripe mature and marketable watermelon, muskmelon, peppers, squash, and cucumbers.

AES is also involved in animal husbandry research that includes single-trait selection in breeding dairy cattle, utilizing crab meal as a supplement to animal nutrition, and the study of pathological changes associated with a congenital defect known as crooked calf syndrome.

To obtain a copy of the 1976 AES Annual Report write to the AES Director Irving Resource Building, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

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