CORN JUDGING. LESSON III.

Color of Grain and Cob.

Having already considered breed characteristics and shape of ear, the next essential to examine is color which we consider under two heads, viz., color of grain and color of cob. Five points are allowed on color of grain and five on color of cob where each is perfect.

Yellow corn should have a red cob and white corn a white cob in pure-bred varieties. Anything to the contrary would show defectiveness in purity of breeding and should be cut severely by the corn judge and rejected as seed by the corn breeder.

The color of the corn varies with the breed, the Reid’s Yellow Dent has a pale yellow color, while the Leaming has a brighter shade of yellow and these shades predominate and are characteristic of the breeds. Other breeds vary slightly in color from a pale yellow to a deep orange, and are only known by a thorough acquaintance with the variety of corn under consideration and are then cut accordingly.

The cob in yellow corn should be a bright cherry red and as the color of cobs vary from this standard, a cut should be made by the scorer. A bright cherry red cob denotes health and vigor in corn and a pale or dark red cob denotes lack of constitution or vitality. The white cobs should be a glistening white, and not a dead pale color. The above points should be considered when scoring corn at fairs or when the corn breeder is carefully selecting seed for the season’s crop.

General questions, however, are often asked as to whether it is preferable to grow white or yellow corn, and which is the richest in the food elements, and which will produce the most grain and forage per acre, etc.

From tests made by careful breeders of corn and experiment stations, it has been found that in general, color makes no difference as far as quality is concerned, and it is merely a matter of taste to the grower as to the color of corn he desires.
White or yellow corn through careful breeding of one variety and neglect of the other would soon show a marked difference in regard to yield and quality in favor of the variety to which attention has been given regardless of color.

Like the breeder of live stock, the corn grower had better select that breed of corn that suits his ideal taste best, keeping in mind that the quantity and quality of marketable corn per acre are the essential characteristics sought for.

CORN JUDGING. LESSON IV.

*Market Condition.*

Ten points are allowed on the score card where market condition is perfect. By market condition we mean that degree of ripeness or maturity that is taken note of from the growers or feeders standpoint. Corn that shows immaturity and a tendency to be loose on the cob with wide space between the kernels should be cut severely on the score card under market condition. Where market condition is perfect or nearly so the kernels are firm on the cob and the ear gives a rasping sound when twisted. The kernels fit closely together lengthwise upon the cob between the rows and crosswise between the kernels of each row. Corn when scored from the feeders standpoint is not cut so severely as from the grower's or seedman's standpoint. When we consider that a bushel of corn plants approximately seven acres and the importance to be attached to uniformity of stand we will fully appreciate the value of considering the market condition from the grower's standpoint in a very critical way.

No one head under which corn is judged is so important to Wisconsin farmers as market condition, and all farmers of the state should not only be able to judge corn from that standpoint, but should understand how to work for the perfection of that characteristic.