Seed Grain Improvement- Miscellaneous Project.

The first step in improvement of the Seed Grain of Kewaunee county was to organize the seed grain growers into a body or group through which they could sell their surplus seeds and experiment with such seeds as they might see necessary.

A group of about 25 men were called in and organized themselves into a seed grain growers association last Dec. 1926. These men had previously been growing pure bred and pedigreed seeds and their 1926 crop had all been inspected through the county agents office and the Wisconsin Experiment Association, Madison. Most of the grain consisted of Progress Wheat, Oats, Barley and Rye.

This Kewaunee county seed grain growers association spent a portion of their funds in advertising and each sent a sample of their seeds to the state laboratory at Madison for purity analysis and germination tests. With these tests on their grains and seeds these men were able to sell seeds anywhere in the country. A fair price was established and the seed listed for sale.

More than 100 inquiries came in to the county agents office for Progress wheat and other grains. Seeds were shipped to all nearby states and into many Wisconsin counties. Some wheat and barley was shipped into Maine and Vermont at good prices. The number of growers increased so that today there are approximately 50 growers of pedigreed seeds in Wisconsin.

This work required only a few personal visits with the growers and inspection when the grains were in full head. Many growers asked for counsel about varieties and yields etc. for this particular section. During the summer the growers planned on making exhibits at the county fair and there was an unusually large display of home grown seeds. These seed grain growers have taken much interest in producing seeds from smut and other diseases which would render them undesirable for other farmers to purchase. Many calls came in for assistance in treating wheat for bunt with the copper carbonate dust treatment and also for the formaldehyde treatment on oats and barley.

Many samples of seeds were exhibited at the Algoma Community Fair held Oct. 15/27. The winners from this contest were shown at the State Grain Show held at Antigo. Many of the men won places and some won 1st and 2nd places. Many of the better samples are being shown Nov. 26-Dec. 3/27 at the International Show at Chicago.

Seed grain sales have been a big help to the growers in Kewaunee County. The sum total of sales reaches more than $5000.00 and most of this money came from outside of the county limits. This return came to the growers with very little effort on their part and the possibilities of this phase of the work has only been scratched. One grower received a cash return of more than $1000.00 for his 1926 crop of grains.