Suggestions to Corn Growers in Boys' Club Contests

VARIETIES TO GROW.

For altitudes of less than thirty-five hundred feet, the varieties recommended are:

- **Rustler's White Dent**—An early white dent variety with uniform ears.
- **Brown County Dent**—A yellow dent variety, which is quite early maturing.
- **Northwestern Dent**—A semi-dent variety, between the flint and dent. The kernels are red, with white caps, and are rather shallow.
- **Minnesota 13**—This is a rather small-eared, yellow dent variety of very good quality. It is somewhat later maturing than the others and should be grown at lower altitudes.

For altitudes above thirty-five hundred feet, the early maturing flint varieties are safest. The two recommended are:

- **Dakota White Flint**—A low-eared variety with a short stalk and early maturing ears.
- **Gehu Flint**—An early maturing yellow flint variety, with ears growing low on the stalk.

The Northwestern Dent variety does fairly well in some sections of the State at rather high altitudes, but is not as certain to mature as the flint varieties above mentioned.

PREPARING THE SEED BED.

Where possible, select an acre of land that has been plowed several times so that it may be worked into fine condition. Where fall plowed land is available it is usually best. This should be
double disked as soon as it is dry enough in the spring, to save the moisture and to warm up the soil by stopping evaporation from the surface. Do not leave the land without cultivation until nearly planting time, as it will dry out and the corn will not come up quickly when planted. If the land has to be spring plowed, have this done as early as possible, to a depth of six inches at least. Follow the plowing with diskimg and harrowing the same day.

Between the first diskmg and planting time, harrow the land occasionally to keep down the weeds and to keep a loose soil mulch on the surface. Be sure to harrow as soon as the soil is dry enough after each rain.

Just before planting time, double disk again unless the soil is very loose. Follow the diskmg with a harrowing to smooth the surface. Then go over with a roller, planker or packer to make the seed bed firm, and follow with a harrow to loosen the top soil so as to prevent the escape of soil moisture.

WHEN AND HOW TO PLANT. 

The corn ought to be planted between May 10th and 20th, in hills, dropping 4 kernels to the hill and putting the hills 42 inches apart each way. This will give 3,556 hills to the acre. The kernels should be planted 2 to 3 inches deep, and the earth pressed over them. It is very important to get the hills planted so they are in straight rows both ways, to make cultivation both ways possible.

Where a check wire planter can be used, the planting may be most easily done. This machine plants two rows at a time and drops the kernels in hills which come in straight rows both ways.

Hand corn planters which do good work may be bought for one dollar. Where they are used, the ground will have to be marked off to get the hills in the right places. A marker may be made by nailing three teeth, made from short pieces of 1x4 inch boards, to a 7 1-3 foot board, somewhat heavier. Put one tooth at each end and one in the middle, and they will then be 42 inches apart. Put a handle onto this, braced like a rake handle, and you have a marker. Mark the ground one way and then go crosswise. Plant corn where the marks cross.

CULTIVATION.

After planting, the ground ought to be harrowed, and if it
rains before the corn is up, it should be harrowed again to loosen up the surface. When the corn is up a few inches, cultivation between the rows, both ways, should commence, and should be given often enough through the season to keep down the weeds and to keep a moisture-holding mulch on the surface. This is very important. The weeds close around the corn hills will have to be hoed out. Keep the corn patch clean and the soil loose all season.

HARVESTING AND SELECTING EARS.

During September, occasionally examine the ears in various parts of the corn patch, and when the kernels are found to be getting firm and dry, carefully select the ripest and best filled ears from every hill. Turn the husks back far enough to show the ear, and if it is well developed, take it along. By September 15th, there ought to be quite a number of rather well matured ears to select.

As the ears are taken from the field, place them in a shed or open building, laying them out so they can dry quickly. Do not throw them in a heap and do not lay one ear on top of another. This will delay drying and may cause the kernels to mold.

For your exhibition sample, choose ten ears that are firm and that look alike. Do not get them too large, as the big ears are apt to be immature. Six to eight inches is long enough for most varieties. See that the tips and butts are well filled and that the rows of kernels are straight. The best filled ears that are picked earliest are the ones to use for next year's planting.

Cut the stalks close to the ground at about the time of the first fall frosts, and stand 36 hills (six hills square) in each shock, tying the top securely with binder twine. When dry, husk and weigh the ears, computing the yield by dividing the weight of the ears from one acre by seventy to get the number of bushels. Seventy pounds of dry ears will generally make 56 pounds or one legal bushel of shelled corn.

REPORT RESULTS TO MISS AUGUSTA EVANS, BOZEMAN, MONT. leader of Boys' and Girls' Clubs, cooperating with Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.