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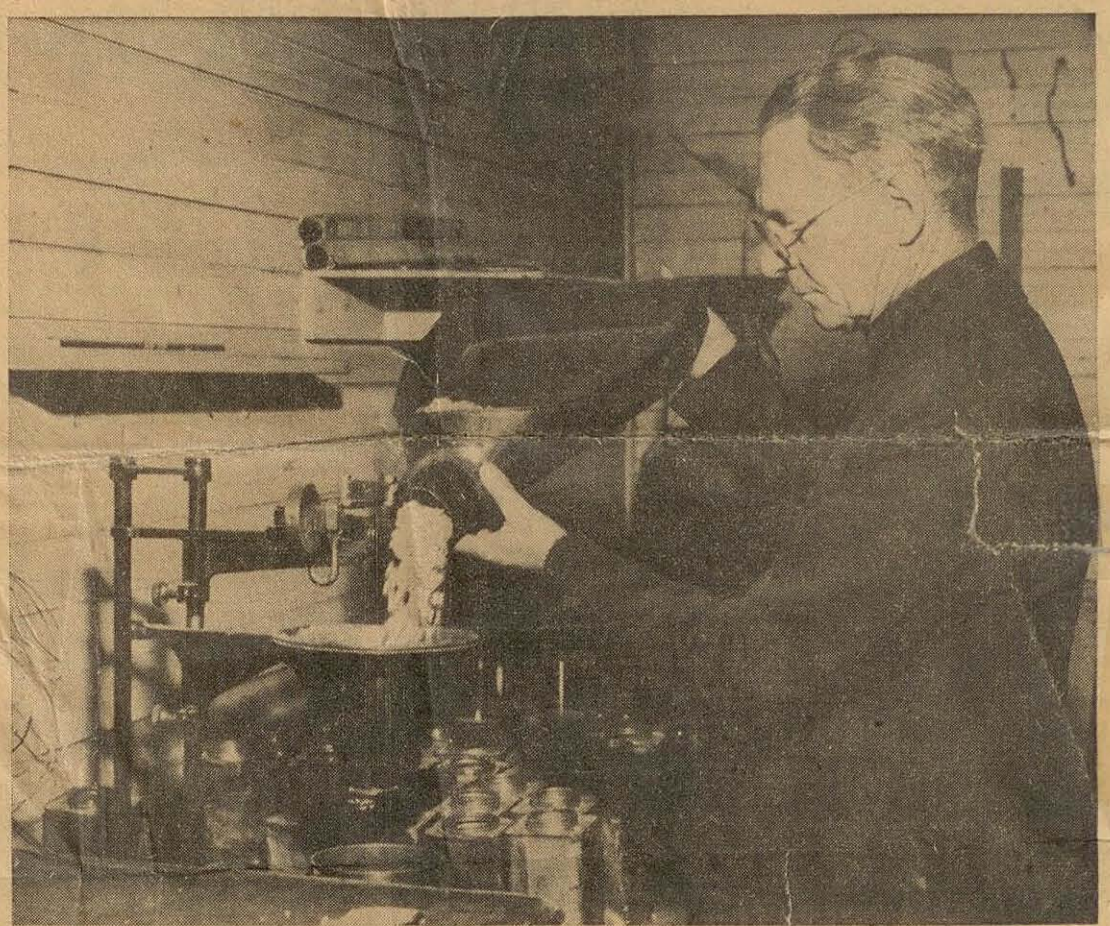
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### Kankakee Grain Inspector

Bob Fegan (above) has been in the grain business for the past 56 years. And he can remember when he graded corn by just poking it with his fingernail. Now he has an array of electric machines,

scales and other equipment to test grain. He and his son, Jack, test approximately 15 million bushels a year. Both men are federal licensed inspectors. (Journal photo)

## Grain Inspector Recalls Old Time Grading Systems

Handling grain is nothing new to Bob Fegan. He's been doing it for 56 years. Fegan, the federal licensed grain inspector for the Kankakee area, can recall the days when grain was graded by poking one's fingernail into a kernel and when soybeans were an unknown product in Illinois.

"The grain inspecting business has really changed since I began back in 1867," he said. "I got my start in Buffalo," he said. "Then I went to Chicago in 1898."

In those days, each state had its own system of grading grain. The grain boards would meet every year and decide what would constitute the various grades. It was all very confusing. Especially when grain was shipped to other states.

"Grade No. 3 corn here might be grade 2 in Missouri. And the system we had for grading corn was really good. About the only tool we had was our fingernail. We'd just poke a fingernail into a kernel to determine how soft it was," Fegan said.

Up until 1916, the only requirement for No. 1 corn was that it be sound and sweet. No. 2 corn was sound and sweet but not as good as No. 1. No. 3 was also sound and sweet but not as good as No. 2.

No. 4 corn could be slightly musty. What we call sample grade corn now was termed "no grade" in those days. This was corn that was heating, musty and sour.

In 1916, the United States government set up a standard corn grading system. Such a system was long needed since more and more corn was being shipped from state to state and every state was using a different grading system.

When the federal corn grades were

issued, the states not only got a standard system, but the human element of error was eliminated.

Today there are five corn grades plus sample grade. To fit in any of those grades the corn has to meet certain specifications. There is a minimum test weight per bushel and a maximum limit on moisture, cracked corn and foreign material and damaged kernels.

Fegan was working in Decatur when the soybeans first were introduced to Illinois. "In those days soybeans were selling at about 80 cents a bushel," he said. "That was 1924 and they were just considered 'cigarette money.' But today, soybeans have developed into a big money crop."

Since his first contact with soybeans in 1924, Fegan has seen millions of bushels. Soybeans and corn make up the vast majority of Fegan's business today. "I test a lot of oats too," he said. "But there isn't much wheat and very little rye in this area."

Working with Fegan is his son, Jack. The two men test approximately 15 million bushels of grain a year. The government now has standards on all grains now except buckwheat.

Penicillin is not effective on all germs that may cause mastitis, says a University of Illinois veterinarian.

## USDA Predicts More Money For Milk

Kankakee area dairy farmers are in for a break according to the United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA economists predict that dairy products may go higher in the next few months.

There is still a good demand on the part of consumers for dairy products, they say, and people still have money to spend for milk, cheese and ice cream. Consumers are drinking more fluid milk than they drank last year, according to USDA figures, even though retail prices of while milk are higher than ever before in many cities.

In spite of the continued high demand, there will be less milk and dairy products to sell in the next few months because less milk is being produced this year than was produced last year.

This lower milk production means that manufacturing companies are getting less milk to fill their needs. For the past few months, supplies of all manufactured dairy products except ice cream, skim milk and a few minor products have been below last year's levels.

### Purchases Cow

Herman Junker, Grant Park, recently acquired a registered Holstein cow from the herd of Mary Jane Erickson, Elwood.