

Sorghum better than mush

Cereal lovers face change

By MARTHA HOLLIDA
In the near future Americans may have a new flavor for their breakfast meal thanks to Texas A&M University researchers.

Researchers have found that sorghum, like other cereal grains, responds to many types of processing. For example, sorghum grains can be processed into cereal flakes by removing the outer covering, puffing and spraying them with sugar. They

may also be made into chips similar to corn chips.

"We've made all sorts of food products such as breads, cookies, breakfast foods, snacks, tortillas and exotic food products like tucos, a West African porridge," said Dr. Lloyd Rooney, associate professor of soil and crop sciences.

Some varieties of sorghum give food products a greenish-black color, but research is being con-

ducted to obtain light colored products, said Rooney.

"In general, one wants sorghum kernels that have a white color and can be easily processed into flour or grits to use in making the various products," he said.

Sorghum is grown in the subtropical areas of the world and is thought to have originated in India or Africa. Some varieties are named by the natives of these countries for the characteristics they exhibit.

One variety in Ethiopia is named "honey that melts in my mouth", because of its unique flavor.

About 20,000 varieties of sorghum are grown in the world, but presently only a few varieties are grown in the United States.

"Sorghum probably came to this country through the slave ships. It adapts to hot dry areas where corn will not grow and where soil conditions are poor," said Rooney.

Sorghum is the third leading cereal crop in the United States, following corn and wheat. Seven hundred and fifty million bushels are grown annually in the United States and 40 percent of that is produced in Texas.

"Though we have surpluses of corn and wheat in the U.S. at the present time, there will be a need for sorghums with improved food characteristics in the future as soon as a grain shortage occurs some-

where in the world," said Rooney. He added that in 1973 food companies became interested in sorghum food products due to the grain shortage.

"Here in the cereal quality lab we're interested in finding out why certain sorghums have better food qualities so we can incorporate these desirable characteristics for use in U.S. sorghum crops," he said.

Nutritionally, sorghum is probably the poorest of all cereals. It is very low in lysine, which is the most lacking amino acid in cereals, said Rooney.

"The experiment station is interested in improving the use of sorghum for food, feed and industrial products," said Rooney.

Sorghum research began at Texas A&M in 1905 and numerous sorghum varieties and hybrids have been developed since.

Steel workers picket in Texas for higher wages

United Press International
VIDOR, Texas — Steel union members Monday picketed a Georgetown Stoll plant owned by the Korf Industry Group. The union also picketed two Georgetown plants in South Carolina.

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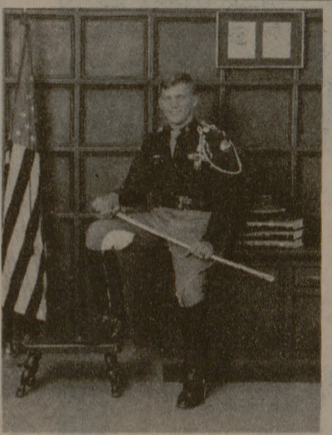
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