

The cabinet was designed to accommodate any number of loaves that can be baked in one day in this laboratory by either the three hour or the four hour fermentation periods. This cabinet should last indefinitely, as there are no parts to wear out other than the electrical units, which can be easily and quickly replaced at very little cost.

The construction of this unit resulted in a saving to the Experiment Station equal to approximately one half the price quoted by two manufacturers for their fermentation cabinets. An estimate was also received from one manufacturer for a fully completed fermentation cabinet made according to our plans and specifications. This quotation was 400 per cent more than the cost of construction.

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FLAX IN TEXAS

Flax is grown in 18 states. Texas ranked 5th in 1949 with a production of 1,974,000 bushels and an average yield of 6 bushels per acre. Estimated plantings for 1950 harvest are placed at 230,000 acres, a reduction of about 36 per cent over 1950 plantings.

Texas has its own "Texas Flax Improvement Association" with headquarters at Kenedy, Texas. Its manager is A. C. Dillman, formerly a flax specialist in the Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, USDA. This association issues a series of publications, the latest of which are its Bulletin No. 9 "Flax—A Winter Crop for South Texas" and its mimeographed Bulletin No. 11, a general bulletin on the critical condition of the flax crop in South Texas brought on by the drought, the price outlook, warnings against the dangers of livestock in grazing flax, planting and harvesting information, etc.

Bulletin No. 9, written by A. C. Dillman, notes that "The two important varieties grown in South Texas are B5128 and Golden". Both of these varieties were introduced to the flax growers of the United States by H. L. Bolley, retired botanist and plant pathologist of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Flax is grown as a winter crop in South Texas. Dillman says, "It has the great advantage of growing in the cooler winter months when it makes the best use of rainfall and soil moisture." He estimates that under South Texas conditions flax will produce about one bushel of seed for each inch of rainfall during the growing season. (HLW)

HOPPED UP BRITISH COWS

The British are trying recently synthesized 1-thyroxine to boost milk production in cows, using 25-milligram tablets mixed with oatmeal twice daily for 21 days with the animals in declining lactation. The dose increased milk yields considerably within two weeks. Thyroxine is said to be superior to iodocasein in avoiding the need for bioassay and the risk of iodism; the cows also eat it more readily in tablet form.