Langdon. With Selkirk and Langdon wheat varieties available and effective chemicals for the control of grasshoppers, the chief worry of farmers now is the disposal of wheat crops produced.

Polk county, since railroad transportation has been available, has been a surplus producer of wheat, oats, barley, rye and flax. Disease resistance in the oat crop for example, the most serious diseases affecting yields have been stem rust, crown rust. Serious diseases affecting yields have been stem rust, crown rust and smut. Oat breeders throughout the upper Mississippi states and Canada have produced superior varieties resistant to the major diseases in the early mid-season and late variety groups. Oat growers in Polk County today have a choice of any one of a number of varieties, all of good bushel weight, varieties on the recommended list from the Oat breeders from different sources are: Minnesota varieties—Andrew and Minhafer; Wisconsin—Branch and Sauk; Canada—Ajax, Garry and Rodney.

Barley has become increasingly important as a grain crop in recent years because of the premium quality of malting varieties grown in the county and the high yielding characteristics of the feed barley varieties. Its value as a feed for fattening livestock took on a new impetus when feed manufacturers began pelleting the ground barley and steam rolling the whole grain. A great deal of research work has been and is being done in the breeding of barley to improve-malting quality, disease resistance to leaf stem and root diseases, bushel weight and stiffer straw. Varieties that are white seeded when pearled are preferred in this country. Some Canadian varieties with blue aleurone (blue barley) such as a new variety Parkland are accepted by some in the malting trade. Acceptable malting varieties in 1958 are Kindred and Traill, two feed barleys recommended include Forrest from Minnesota and Vantage from Canada.

Rye is not widely grown in Polk County. Winter rye is generally grown on the lighter soils of the county where mid-summer dryness would be more serious to the spring planted crops. Other small grains generally give greater cash returns per acre than either fall or spring rye. Hardiness and good weight per bushel are two requirements for a good rye. Recommended varieties in 1958 are: Caribou and Adams.

Flax during pioneer days was generally the first crop grown on new breaking. Because the second and third crops of flax on land yielded in diminishing returns, the early pioneers concluded that flax was "hard on the land". This theory was thoroughly disproved by Professor L. H. Bolley, a plant pathologist from North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station following World War I. He proved that a disease, flax wilt, which lives over in the soil was responsible for the low yields or loss of crop on old flax land. With that information, Professor Bolley and others began selecting resistant plants from infected seed beds and through selections and crosses developed wilt resistant varieties. Since that time flax breeders have achieved resistance to rust