and other diseases. A more recent virus disease, aster yellows, caused a high percentage of loss to the flax crop in 1958.

Corn, a seed crop grown by the American Indians probably several centuries before the coming of the white man to North America, did not become a dependable seed crop in Polk County until comparatively recent times. Minnesota farmers did not look with too much favor on the dependable flint corn varieties developed from the Indian types of flint corn even though yields of forty to sixty bushels could be obtained. Dent corns were preferred by most farmers because of the higher tonnage of corn silage produced per acre. Only in odd years of late falls was ear corn dry enough to store safely in cribs. From 1910 to the middle thirties only a few early varieties of dent corns were recommended for Polk County. The list included Minnesota No. 23, an early white cap dent, Russler's White Dent, Northwestern Dent (N.W. Exp. strain), Minnesota No. 13, Minnesota No. 13 Haney Strain yellow dents. In Flint corns the varieties most commonly grown were Pearl, Dakota White, Gehu-yellow, Smut-nose and Mercer. A number of late varieties were grown for fodder and silage. While a number of farmers in the county husked out some of the early varieties each year, yet the production of ear corn up to the time early hybrid varieties were introduced in the late thirties, was on a "catch as catch can" basis, two or three years out of five. The major use for corn in Polk County has been for silage, fodder or hogging off. Farmers have found that the new hybrid varieties which reach a fair state of maturity make silage of higher feed value than the tall late growing silage corns. Census figures in 1949 showed that 65 per cent of the corn crop in the county was used for silage, fodder or hogging off; the 1954 figures showed an increased percentage of 72 per cent. Since the introduction of commercial grain dryers and the corn-husking-shelling combine the trend of producing dry shelled corn in showing a marked increase. The introduction of early hardy hybrid corns and the use of adequate amounts of commercial fertilizer together with chemical aids in weed control have put the acre cash value of the corn crop on a parity with other farm crops in the valley.

Soybeans have been in variety test trials at the Northwest Experiment Station more than thirty years. Even the early varieties such as Wisconsin Blacks could not be depended on for seed crops more than two to three years out of five. The Agronomists recommended them to farmers with livestock so the crop could be salvaged for hay if the season was unfavorable for seed. During the past fifteen years, plant breeders have produced early dependable varieties and the commercial acreage of soybeans has been pushing steadily northward in the Red River Valley. Isolated growers in the county were growing a total of some 100 acres per year until 1942 when 1100 acres were grown. The acreage dropped back too from 100 to 300 acres until 1954 when new interest in the crop was aroused by the construction of a