

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL

DIVISION OF AGRONOMY AND PLANT GENETICS

January 14, 1933

Dr. R. A. Fisher,  
Rothamsted Experimental Station  
Harpenden, Herts., England.

Dear Dr. Fisher:

I am enclosing a manuscript on the calculation of F<sub>3</sub> linkages. I seem to have been so busy that I couldn't get it written until recently. I've had it read by all my friends here but none of them are competent to really criticize it. I wonder if you would be so kind as to look it over and give me your frank opinion. Quite a number of formulae are presented and I'd feel much more secure if you would look it over for inaccuracies or misstatements. I plan to send it to *Genetics*.

The depression is as severe as ever. The farmers probably are suffering the most. Corn is selling for about ten cents a bushel in southern Minnesota. At present prices for coal corn is worth 18 to 20 cents a bushel for fuel. Many farmers are burning corn and some small business concerns as well. At present, farm prices have turned upward just a trifle.

Tax reduction is the chief subject of conversation in the Congressional and legislative halls this winter. Budgets are being greatly reduced. At present Federal employees are working under the payless furlough plan — one month's furlough without pay. Pres. Hoover wants to reduce salaries another

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15% with a \$1,000 exemption. This Congress probably will do nothing about that, however. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been subjected to a great deal of criticism because of its enormous budget. It is not generally recognized that of the \$306,000,000 budget of the Dept of Agriculture 70% goes for public roads. The milling trade more or less objects to any new variety of wheat put out by the U.S. Dept of Agr. or state experiment stations. The millers hate to adjust their practices to the requirements of a new variety.

Our state legislature is meeting now and will take up the regular budget next week, of which the University budget is a part. In a few days the University will know how much money has been recommended for it by the State budget Committee. The legislature then will decide how much it is to get. Press reports indicate a slash in the Univ. budget. The Board of Regents of the University then decide how the University's budget is to be spent. The enrollment in the University this winter is 5% under last year. The enrollment is about 10,500.

Some of the reactions to the depression are amusing. Usually, at the University dances, the men pay the admission fee and the ladies are admitted free. I see that for the dance next week the fee for the men has been reduced to 20 cents and the ladies will pay 9 cents to make up the difference. This measure is intended to "lure the males from their hiding places in the library,

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fraternity smoking rooms and campus rendezvous" where the depression has apparently sent them scurrying on days that there are University dances.

There seems to be a great deal of influenza in the city this winter. The severity of the attack almost rivals that seen during the war. Apparently the influenza "bug" is of an extremely virulent form this year. Myrtle & I have escaped so far. I am not very susceptible to such things. My last cold was two years ago.

The temperature has been extremely variable this winter. One afternoon it was  $43^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at 2:00 P.M. The next morning it was  $-3^{\circ}\text{F}$ . This morning it was  $-11^{\circ}\text{F}$ . One can walk about six blocks with ears uncovered at  $-10^{\circ}$  ( $42$  degrees  $\text{F}$ ) without danger of freezing them provided the wind isn't too strong. Whenever the temperature falls below zero it isn't pleasant to be outside very long unless specifically dressed for it.

We've had a number of letters from members of the Rothamsted staff this winter, bringing us the latest news regarding our host of friends there. I simply must plan to re-visit England again and I hope before I am too old, fat and bald to enjoy it. With best regards to you and your family, I am

Sincerely yours,  
J. R. Farmer