

## *Cattle and Horses and Turkey Red Wheat*

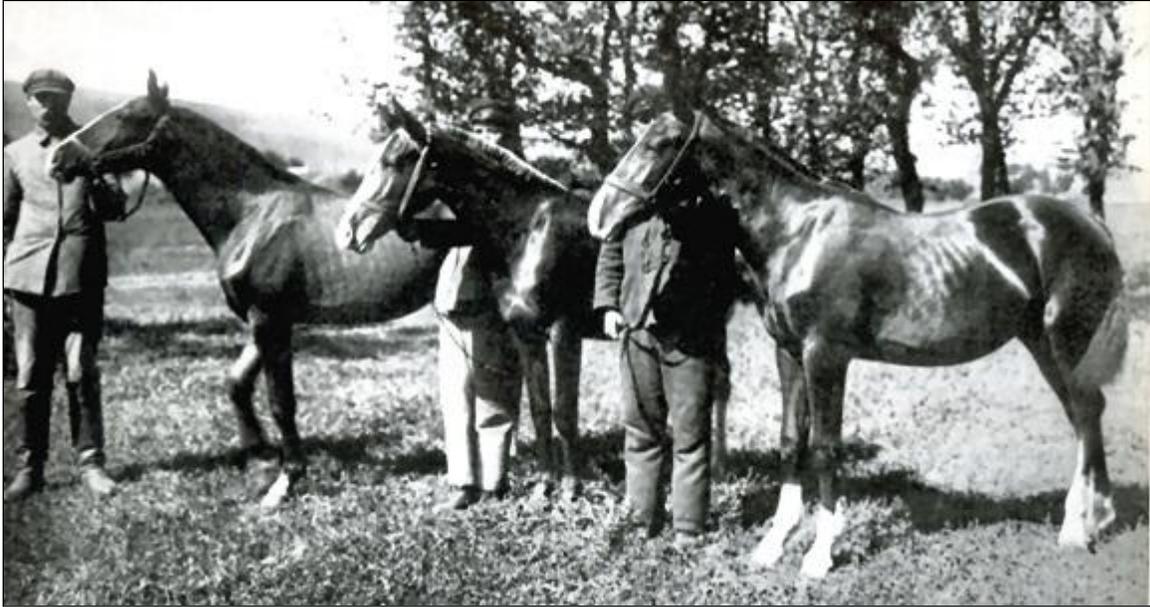
Turkey red wheat is a winter wheat variety that was selected by German Russian farmers when they inhabited the vast steep land of South Russia. They had tried the wheat varieties that were commonly used in their homeland on the Schwabian Alb of Wurttemberg and they also tried the Russian native wheat but were not satisfied with the yields. It was also determined that spring wheat should not be used except when a poor stand of the fall planted winter wheat had to be replanted in the spring.

It is not known where they located the Turkey red variety, but its name implies a Turkish origin. The country of Turkey was not that far distant, lying on the South Shore of the Black Sea, but it seems more plausible that the Turks brought in their red winter wheat when they controlled Bessarabia.

The German Russians also excelled at animal breeding. Their cross breeding program brought about the German Red cow which was a dual purpose cow in that it was a good beef producer as well as a high milk producer. The German red cow is yet today the major cattle breed in Russia. Our people also had a horse breeding program that resulted in a lighter weight workhorse that could pull a wheat wagon one gait faster than the Russian draft horse.



*Red Cattle at Hoffnungstal*



### Prize Hoffnungstal colts

When our German Russian people came to the United States they brought some Turkey red seed with them. This single wheat variety along with help from the industrious German people soon turned the vast prairie land of the Midwest into the breadbasket of the nation.

At the German Settlement in Kit Carson Co., Colorado the early settlers found that when the prairie land was broke out it was several years before weeds got a start. One day an English famer south of the Settlement noticed an unusual weed growing in his field, a weed that he had never seen before. He described it as being thick and bushy and somewhat attractive. At harvest time he drove his binder around the weed and left it standing. What a German famer later told him was the weed was undoubtedly a Russian thistle brought in with some Turkey red wheat seed from Russia. Now most of the farmland in the western United States and Canada has this troublesome Russian tumbling tumbleweed.

Another troublesome pest that did not exist when the settlers first came to this prairie land was the common house fly. When the fly did show up some years later, the settlers then had to take extra precautions in their care of fresh meat.



Binding a field of wheat in the German Settlement in Kit Carson County, Colo.