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February 1935

Extension Circular 840
1934

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Corn Production Costs Nebraska 1934

13

Seven Counties

Cass **Fillmore**
Douglas **Phelps**
Saunders **Thurston**
Cuming

Nebraska
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
U. of N. Agr'l. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

Acknowledgement is made of the cooperation of the Nebraska corn growers who submitted the records which have made this report possible and of the agricultural agents in the counties concerned who supervised the work in their respective counties.

Assistance in the preparation of this report was given by the Department of Rural Economics and the Agricultural Extension Service of the Nebraska College of Agriculture.

9719s

CORN PRODUCTION COSTS

Nebraska, 1934

Arthur G. George

In cooperation with the Nebraska College of Agriculture and local agricultural agents many farmers in Nebraska kept records in 1934 on the cost of corn production. The project is one that has been conducted for several years. Reports, in circular form, have been published each year giving the results of these investigations. This report for 1934 is a continuation of the annual reports on this project.

Records were obtained in 1934 from 7 counties. The counties and the number or records from each follow:

Cass	10	Fillmore	23
Douglas	11	Phelps	35
Saunders	7	Thurston	7
Cuming	5		

Due to extreme drouth conditions of 1934, practically no corn was produced by the men submitting records. This has made it impossible to show costs per bushel. For this and other reasons the 1934 records will not be comparable with those of preceding years. In working up the corn cost data for this report only those costs thru cultivating have been considered. On this basis the costs per acre only have been computed. Such costs do not include any charge for the use of land but only charges for labor, power, machinery depreciation, and seed. Credits for corn, fodder, silage or pasturage have not been shown. Neither have corn benefit payments from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration been considered in this study.

The scale of charges used was as follows:

Man labor (unpaid and regular hired help)	20¢ per hour
Day labor	Wages actually paid
Board for day labor	75¢ per day
Horse power	9¢ per horse hour
Tractor power	
2-plow size	65¢ per hour
3-plow size	$1.00 per hour
4-plow size	$1.10 per hour
Equipment	
Horse drawn	3½¢ per horse hour
Tractor drawn	
2-plow size	14¢ per hour
3-plow size	21¢ per hour
4-plow size	28¢ per hour
Seed	Costs given by cooperating farmers

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The value of records obtained under such conditions as prevailed in 1934 lies not so much in what they show for that particular year but for their possible use in making an average cost study covering a period of years.

The records are presented for such interest as they may arouse and not because they necessarily show a great deal that might lead to a study of efficiency factors.

A sufficient number of records were obtained from Fillmore and Phelps counties so that average figures for low-cost and high-cost groups are shown as well as average figures for all the records obtained from each of these two counties. By studying these comparisons, it is possible that some points of excellence may be suggested.

Referring to Table 4 (Fillmore county) we note that the average man-labor cost per acre for the 8 high-cost farms was $1.11 and only 53 cents for the 8 low-cost farms. The power cost per acre for the high-cost farms was $2.01 and $1.22 for the low-cost farms. The equipment cost per acre for the high-cost farms was 78 cents and 38 cents for the low-cost farms. The cost per acre for the high cost group was $4.00 and for the low-cost group, $2.22. It is evident that more work was done on the corn ground by the high-cost group than by the low-cost group which might have been justified in higher yields per acre had the season been a favorable one for corn production.

Turning to Table 5 for Phelps county we find a similar condition prevailed. The costs of the high-cost farms for labor, power, and equipment were greater than for the low-cost group. The cost per acre for the former was $2.55 and $1.64 for the latter. Conclusions must not be drawn from the above data that the practices of the low-cost groups in 1934 are necessarily the best practices to follow in subsequent years because the factor of drought entered in and overshadowed all efficiency factors which the growers might have employed.

The figures for each of the counties mentioned are shown in the tables which appear later. The table numbers for the different counties are as follows:

Cass	Table 1	Fillmore	Table 4
Douglas	Table 2	Phelps	Table 5
Saunders	Table 3	Thurston	Table 6
		Cuming	Table 7

Each cooperator who submitted a corn cost record for 1934 will receive a copy of this circular with his own figures typed in the column headed "Your farm" in the table for his county. It is planned to continue this study in 1935 when it is hoped that grain yields will be available so that data comparable with those of other years will be obtained.

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TABLE 1. Cost of producing corn in Cass county, 1934.
(Hours and costs shown only until cultivation ended.
Impossible to compute costs per bushel.)

	Your farm	Average of 10 farms
NUMBER OF FARMS		10
LABOR AND POWER PER ACRE: HOURS		
To husking		
Man		4.87
Horse		15.12
Tractor*		5- 1.17
COST PER ACRE		
Man labor		$.97
Power		1.92
Equipment		.65
Seed		.11
Total cost per acre**		$3.65
NUMBER OF ACRES PLANTED		69.3

*First number in column indicates number of farms on which tractors were used; second number indicates average number of hours per acre tractors were used on these farms.

**Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land. This is the cost up to harvest.

1-17-35
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TABLE 2. Cost of producing corn in Douglas county, 1934.
(Hours and costs shown only until cultivation ended.
Impossible to compute costs per bushel.)

	Your farm	Average of 11 farms
NUMBER OF FARMS		11
LABOR AND POWER PER ACRE: HOURS		
To husking		
Man		6.55
Horse		18.31
Tractor*		8- 1.44
COST PER ACRE		
Man labor		$1.31
Power		2.30
Equipment		.78
Seed		.14
Total cost per acre**		$4.53
NUMBER OF ACRES PLANTED		61.7

*First number in column indicates number of farms on which tractors were used; second number indicates average number of hours per acre tractors were used on these farms.

**Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land. This is the cost up to harvest.

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TABLE 3. Cost of producing corn in Saunders county, 1934. (Hours and costs shown only until cultivation ended. Impossible to compute costs per bushel.)

	Your farm	Average of 7 farms
NUMBER OF FARMS		7
LABOR AND POWER PER ACRE: HOURS		
To husking		
Man		5.36
Horse		15.03
Tractor*		6- 1.13
COST PER ACRE		
Man labor		$1.13
Power		2.09
Equipment		.69
Seed		.12
Total cost per acre**		$4.03
NUMBER OF ACRES PLANTED		63.7

*First number in column indicates number of farms on which tractors were used; second number indicates average number of hours per acre tractors were used on these farms.

**Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land. This is the cost up to harvest.

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TABLE 4. Cost of producing corn in Fillmore county, 1934.
(Hours and costs shown only until cultivation ended. Impossible to compute costs per bushel.)

	Your farm	Average of 23 farms	Average of 8 low-cost farms	Average of 8 high-cost farms
NUMBER OF FARMS		23	8	8
LABOR AND POWER PER ACRE: HOURS				
To husking				
Man		3.76	2.66	5.53
Horse		13.42	7.91	22.32
Tractor*		7- 1.36	5- 1.27	-
COST PER ACRE				
Man labor		$.75	$.53	$1.11
Power		1.53	1.22	2.01
Equipment		.54	.38	.78
Seed		.10	.09	.10
Total cost per acre**		$2.92	$2.22	$4.00
NUMBER OF ACRES PLANTED		68.8	88.6	51.6

*First number in column indicates number of farms on which tractors were used; second number indicates average number of hours per acre tractors were used on these farms.

**Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land. This is the cost up to harvest.

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TABLE 5. Cost of producing corn in Phelps county, 1934.
(Hours and costs shown only until cultivation ended. Impossible to compute costs per bushel.)

	Your farm	Average of 35 farms	Average of 12 low-cost farms	Average of 12 high-cost farms
NUMBER OF FARMS		35	12	12
LABOR AND POWER PER ACRE: HOURS				
To husking				
Man		2.41	1.74	3.37
Horse		7.82	2.68	13.64
Tractor*		15- 1.16	10-1.17	2- .83
COST PER ACRE				
Man labor		$.48	$.35	$.67
Power		1.11	.98	1.32
Equipment		.36	.25	.50
Seed		.06	.06	.06
Total cost per acre**		$2.01	$1.64	$2.55
NUMBER OF ACRES PLANTED		97.8	128.5	83.0

*First number in column indicates number of farms on which tractors were used; second number indicates average number of hours per acre tractors were used on these farms.

**Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land. This is the cost up to harvest.

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TABLE 6. Cost of producing corn in Thurston county, 1934. (Hours and costs shown only until cultivation ended. Impossible to compute costs per bushel.)

	Your farm	Average of 7 farms
NUMBER OF FARMS		7
LABOR AND POWER PER ACRE: HOURS		
To husking		
Man		5.34
Horse		13.41
Tractor*		5- 1.97
COST PER ACRE		
Man labor		$1.07
Power		2.23
Equipment		.69
Seed		.13
Total cost per acre**		$4.12
NUMBER OF ACRES PLANTED		93.3

*First number in column indicates number of farms on which tractors were used; second number indicates average number of hours per acre tractors were used on these farms.

**Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land. This is the cost up to harvest.

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TABLE 7. Cost of producing corn in Cuming county, 1934. (Hours and costs shown only until cultivation ended. Impossible to compute costs per bushel.)

	Your farm	Average of 5 farms
NUMBER OF FARMS		5
LABOR AND POWER PER ACRE: HOURS		
To husking		
Man		6.66
Horse		18.68
Tractor*		3-2.06
COST PER ACRE		
Man labor		$1.33
Power		2.35
Equipment		.79
Seed		.12
Total cost per acre**		$4.59
NUMBER OF ACRES PLANTED		75.8

*First number in column indicates number of farms on which tractors were used; second number indicates average number of hours per acre tractors were used on these farms.

**Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land. This is the cost up to harvest.

1-17-35
MRC 3C