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September 1946 ANNUAL FARM BUSINESS REPORT E. C. 854

Twenty Farms in the Loess Plains Area of Nebraska in

Clay Hamilton

Nuckolls Polk

Thayer York

Saline Jefferson

Counties

1945

This report has been prepared by members of the Department of Rural Economics and the Agricultural Extension Service to enable each farmer cooperator to compare his business with farm businesses in the same general area of the state. Consideration is given to several important factors which affect returns to the operator. By studying facts presented in this bulletin and comparing his accomplishments with those of other farms of the same general type, the operator may be able to change his farming operations to increase his earnings.

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Table 1. Monthly and Annual Precipitation at Aurora, Hebron and Osceola.

Month	Aurora Precipitation Inches	Aurora Departure from Normal Inches	Hebron Precipitation Inches	Hebron Departure from Normal Inches	Osceola Precipitation Inches	Osceola Departure from Normal Inches
1945						
January	0.41	-0.08	0.54	-0.10	0.52	-0.11
February	0.53	-0.33	1.39	+0.54	0.84	-0.04
March	1.11	-0.03	0.52	-0.75	1.06	-0.21
April	4.14	+1.62	5.58	+3.02	3.31	+0.98
May	4.09	+0.11	7.05	+2.88	6.70	+3.05
June	6.65	+2.53	3.91	-0.74	4.55	+0.53
July	3.02	-0.15	2.74	-0.59	5.64	+2.22
August	1.37	-2.19	3.16	-0.05	1.48	-1.78
September	3.76	+0.81	2.65	-0.13	4.61	+1.74
October	0.01	-1.80	0.75	-1.01	0.00	-1.71
November	0.00	-0.97	0.18	-0.97	Trace	-1.02
December	1.23	+0.49	1.18	+0.43	1.92	+1.25
1945 Total	26.32	+0.01	29.65	+2.53	30.63	+4.90
1944 Total	32.12	+5.81	36.86	+9.74	36.38	+10.35
1943 Total	29.91	-4.91	22.26	-5.07	20.16	-6.40
Normal precipitation	26.31		27.12		25.73	

The monthly and annual precipitation for Aurora, Hebron and York are given in Table 1. Moisture was abundant during early season delaying planting in many cases. However during July and August moisture was insufficient to the extent of causing damage to the corn crop.

Table 2. Summary of land use on 20 farms in the Loess Plains Area of Nebraska, 1945.

Item	your farm	Averages for: 20 farms
Corn		85
Oats		30
Wheat		52
Other Grains		8
Alfalfa		10
Other hay and forage		7
Wild hay		5
Temporary Pasture		7
Tilled fallow		8
Other crop acres		10
Total Cropland		222
Permanent Pasture		67
Farmstead and other land		18
Total land in farm		307
Per Cent in each use		
Corn		27.6
Oats		9.8
Wheat		16.8
Other Grain		2.8
Alfalfa		3.3
Other hay and forage		2.2
Wild hay		1.7
Temporary Pasture		2.2
Tilled fallow		2.5
Other crop acres		3.4
Total Cropland		72.3
Permanent Pasture		21.9
Farmstead and other land		5.8
Total land in farm		100.0

Farm receipts on the 20 farms in this study averaged $6,943. There was a wide transaction in both receipts and expenses on these farms.

Table 3. Summary of Livestock Organization on 20 farms in the Loess Plain Area of Nebraska 1945.

Kind of Livestock	Average Numbers of Livestock			
	your farm	Beginning of year	your farm	End of the year
Horses		4		3
Milk cows		5		5
Beef cows		2		2
Feeder cattle		3		4
Other cattle		11		11
Total cattle		21		22
Brood Sows		4		3
Other Hogs		14		22
Sheep		2		2
Poultry (hens)		175		197

The general organization of the farms in this area are shown in tables 2 and 3. In table 2 is shown the land use and the percentage of the farm in each use. Table 3 gives the number and classes of livestock kept on the farms.

Table 4. Summary of the years business on 20 farms in the Loess Plains Area of Nebraska, 1945.

Item	Averages for:	
	Your Farm	20 Farms
Receipts and Net Inventory increases		
Cattle		$725
Hogs		902
Sheep		18
Poultry		242
Feed, grain and supplies		$2,939
Egg Sales		479
Dairy Sales		522
Labor off farm		54
Miscellaneous Receipts		78
Total Receipts and Net Increases		$5,959

Table 4. (continued from page 4)

Item	Your Farm	Averages for: 20 farms
Expenses and Net Inventory Decreases		
Improvements		$189
Horses		32
Cattle		37
Hogs		4
Poultry		1
Machinery and Equipment		820
Feed, grain and supplies		64
Supplies		53
Livestock and Veterinary Expense		26
Crop Expense		134
Hired Labor		273
Taxes		262
Miscellaneous Expense		51
Total Expense and Net Decreases		$1,946
Returns to capital and operators family		$4,013
Value of unpaid labor		1,814
Net income from investment and management		2,199
Average investment		$26,165
Rate earned on investment		8.4%
Return to capital and operators labor and management		$3,651
5% interest on average investment		1,308
Labor and Management Wage		2,343

Table 5. Some factors that affected the farm business on 20 farms in the Loess Plains Area of Nebraska, 1945.

Item	Your Farm	Averages for: 20 farms
Rate earned on investment		8.4%
Labor income		$2,343
Size of Business		
Acres in farm		307
Acres of cropland		222
Man Equivalent		1.4%
Productive Man Work Units		312
Productive Livestock Units		26.1%
Volume of Production		
Bushels of corn		2,256
Bushels of oats		746
Bushels of wheat		886
Tons of alfalfa		20
Pounds of hog produced		6,739
Number of cattle sold		8
Total dairy sales		522
Dozens of eggs sold		1,550
Rates of production		
Yields of corn		26.6
Yields of oats		24.5
Yields of wheat		17.1
Yield of alfalfa		1.9
Crop Index		100
Dairy Sales Per Cow		$105
Pigs weaned per litter		5.5
Dozen eggs sold per hen		10.8
Efficiency		
Work Units per worker		223
Returns for $100 feed fed		$150
Labor		
Power and machinery cost per work unit		$10.04
Returns per work unit		12.86
Income per $100 Expenses		$386
Balance		
Per Cent of work on livestock		49.9
Per Cent of work on crops		50.1
Livestock units per 100 acres of cropland and pasture.		7.1

VARIATIONS IN LABOR INCOME

The average labor income for all the farms in this group was $2,343 for 1945. The individual may have a higher or lower labor income than the average. The operator can make changes in the organization which may increase the net returns. Important factors influencing the labor income are size of business, volume of production, rates of production and efficiency in the use of labor, feed and equipment.

SIZE OF BUSINESS

If it is desirable to increase the size of the business, the operator can do this by doing more days work in productive labor, adding more land or livestock or using more intensive practices will increase the amount of work.

Table 6. Relation of the size of business or the number of work units to the labor income on farms with records in the Loess Plains Area of Nebraska 1945.

Productive Man Work Units		
Range	Averages	Average Labor Income
Over 352	390	$3,680
272 - 352	318	2,523
Below 272	251	1,540

CROP YIELDS

Productivity of the soil and climatic conditions largely determine crop yields, yet the farm operator can influence them to a large extent through seed selection and cultural practices. High yields tend to lower the cost per unit produced. However, high yields cease to be profitable when the cost of producing them outruns the revenue received from the increase.

EFFICIENCY ON THE USE OF FEED

Feed costs are the major item of expense in the production of livestock and livestock products. Consequently farmers should plan the economical ration for feeding; that is, the ration that will make the most gain relative to the cost of the feed.

Table 7. Relation between labor, power, and machinery cost per productive man work unit and labor income on 20 farms in the Loess Plains Area of Nebraska, 1945.

Labor Power and Machinery Cost Crop Acre		Number of farms	Average labor
Range	Average		
Over $15.50	$19.27	7	$1884
$12.80 - $15.50	14.22	6	2913
Below $12.80	9.89	7	2921

Other important factors also affect net returns. Some of these are proper balance between crop and livestock, between labor required and labor available, between feed available and feed required, and between the power available, between feed available and feed required, and between the power available and that required for the peak load. All must be given careful consideration in planning the operations of the unit.

Few operators are high in all measures of efficiency. The more factors in which an operator is above average the greater will be the net return. A careful study of these factors may indicate some changes to be made in the farm organization to increase that net income.