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September 1946

E. C. 840-44
1943-1944

CORN PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS
Nebraska

1944

Seven Counties

Boone	Harlan
Fillmore	Phelps
Furnas	Saunders

Washington

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This report has been prepared by members of the Department of Rural Economics and the Agricultural Extension Service with the aid of cooperating county extension agents and farmers.

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

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1944 CORN PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

One hundred and ten Corn Cost records were secured from farmers in seven Nebraska Counties for the 1944 crop year. The purpose of these records is to determine the cost of growing and harvesting corn, by the various methods used, in different parts of the state. Field records were obtained from farmers in Boone, Fillmore, Furnas, Harlan, Phelps, Saunders and Washington Counties for 1944. The Department of Rural Economics and the Extension Service, of the University of Nebraska, have been conducting Corn Cost studies continuously for eighteen years.

The Corn Cost studies show the average time required to grow and harvest an acre of corn, the cost per acre and per bushel. The cost of tractor power used, is taken from Nebraska bulletin 366, "The Cost of Operating Tractors in Nebraska," and the cost of machinery used, is taken from Nebraska bulletin 324, "The Cost of Operating Farm Machinery in Nebraska." Unpaid family labor was charged at 60 cents per hour and board for hired labor at $1.00 a day, in 1944. Production costs, determined, are those that required to put the corn in the crib.

27956jg-10/46

Table 1. Cost of producing corn, on 12 Boone County Nebraska farms, 1944
Harvested by Hand.

Item	Your farm	Average of 12 farms
Number of farms		12
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
For growing		
Man		2.97
Horse		4 2.03
Tractor		2.68
For Husking		
Man		3.88
Horse		7.35
Tractor		---
Total		
Man		6.85
Horse		8.12
Tractor		2.68
Cost per acre		
Man Labor		$ 6.21
Power		2.54
Equipment		.91
Miscellaneous		.86
Total cost per acre		$10.52
Number of acres		53.1
Yield per acre: Bushels		
Total yield		36.6
Tenants share		22.1
Cost per bushel		$.48

*The first figure in the column is the number of farms using horses--the second is the average of these farms.

**Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

27956jg-10/46

Table 2. Cost of producing contoured corn on 7 Boone County Nebraska farms 1944.

Item	Your farm	Average of 7 farms
Number of farms		7
Labor and power hours per acre		
For growing		
Man		1.47
Horse		1- 1.40
Tractor		1.35
For husking		
Man		1.60
Horse		5- 3.16
Tractor		2- 1.15
Total		
Man		3.07
Horse		5- 3.44
Tractor		1.68
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$ 4.87
Power		2.52
Equipment		1.48
Miscellaneous		.88
Total cost per acre		$ 9.75
Number of acres		52.0
Yield per acre: Bushels		
Total yield		39.3
Tenants share		20.4
Cost per bushel		$.48

A prefix number indicates the number of farms included in the average figure.

Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

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Table 3. Cost of producing non-contoured corn on 8 Boone County farms 1944.

Item	Your Farm	Average of 8 farms
Number of farms		8
Labor and power hours per acre		
For growing		
Man		1.99
Horses	3-	1.21
Tractor		1.82
For husking		
Man		2.28
Horse	7-	4.65
Tractor	1-	.48
Total		
Man		.27
Horse	7-	5.17
Tractor		1.88
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$6.05
Power		2.70
Equipment		1.13
Miscellaneous		.89
Total cost per acre		$10.77
Numbers of acres		63.0
Yield per acre: Bushels		
Total yield		38.4
Tenants share		23.2
Cost per bushel		.46

A prefix number indicates the number of farms included in the average figure.

Bushels costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

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Table 4. Cost of producing corn on 10 Fillmore County Nebraska farms 1944, Harvested by Hand.

Item	Your farm	Average of 10 farms
Number of farms		10
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To husking		
Man		3.22
Horse		4.25
Tractor	8-	2.16
For husking		
Man		4.52
Horse		8.15
Tractor		---
Total		
Man		7.74
Horse		12.40
Tractor	8-	2.16
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$6.15
Power		3.22
Equipment		1.11
Miscellaneous		.83
Total cost per acre		$11.31
Number of acres		73.3
Yield per acre: Bushels		
Total yield		35.3
Tenants share		23.6
Cost per bushel		.48

*The first figure in the column is the number of farms using tractors, the second figure is the average of these farms.

**Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

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Table 5. Cost of producing corn on 15 Fillmore County Nebraska farms, 1944
Harvested by Mechanical Pickers

Item	Your farm	Average of 15 farms
Number of farms		15
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To Husking		
Man		2.46
Horse	5-	5.81
Tractor		1.99
For Husking		
Man		1.73
Horse	4-	2.55
Tractor		1.01
Total		
Man		4.19
Horse	8-	1.37
Tractor		3.00
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$3.05
Power		2.53
Equipment		2.47
Miscellaneous		.95
Total cost per acre		9.00
Number of acres		110.5
Yield per acre: Bushels		44.7
Total yield		44.7
Tenants share		30.5
Cost per bushel		.29

*The first number in the column is the number of farms using horses, the second number is the average of these farms.

**Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

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Table 6. Cost of producing corn on 8 farms in Harlan and Furnas County Nebraska 1944, Harvested by Hand.

Item	Your farm	Average of 8 farms
Number of farms		8
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
For growing		
Man		1.97
Horse	5-	.76
Tractor		1.49
For husking		
Man		4.98
Horse		9.78
Tractor		---
Total		
Man		6.86
Horse		10.19
Tractor		1.49
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$5.93
Power		2.11
Equipment		.88
Miscellaneous		.49
Total cost per acre		$9.41
Number of acres		95.9
Yield per acre		
Total yield		38.5
Tenants share		25.4
Cost per bushel		.37

*The first figure in the column is the number of farms using horses, the second figure is the average of these farms.

**Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

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Table 7. Cost of producing corn on 10 Furnas and Harlan County Nebraska farms 1944, Harvested by Mechanical Picker.

Item	Your farm	Average of 8 farms
Number of farms		10
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
For growing		
Man		1.98
Horse	1-	1.12
Tractor		1.72
For husking		
Man		2.14
Horse		--
Tractor		1.67
Total		
Man		4.12
Horse	1-	1.12
Tractor		3.39
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$2.90
Power		2.27
Equipment		2.31
Miscellaneous		.53
Total cost per acre		$8.01
Number of acres		105.2
Yield per acre		
Total yield		39.9
Tenants share		26.8
Cost per bushel		.30

*The first figure in the column is the number of farms on which horses were used, the second figure is the average of these farms.

**Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

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Table 8. Cost of producing contoured corn on 8 Furnas and Harlan County Nebraska farms, 1944.

Item	Your farm	Average of 8 farms
Number of farms		8
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To husking		
Man		1.66
Horse		5- .63
Tractor		1.43
For husking		
Man		4.01
Horse		6- 9.38
Tractor		2- 1.85
Total		
Man		5.67
Horse		6- 9.91
Tractor		1.89
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$4.74
Power		2.09
Equipment		1.19
Miscellaneous		.17
Total cost per acre		$8.19
Number of acres		101.1
Yield per acre: bushels		
Total yield		34.6
Tenants share		23.2
Cost per bushel		.35

*A prefix number indicates the number of farms included in the average figure.

**Bushel costs include a land charge; acres costs do not.

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Table 9. Cost of producing non-contoured corn on 9 Furnas and Harlan county Nebraska farms, 1944.

Item	Your farm	Average of 9 farms
Number of farms		9
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To husking		
Man		2.19
Horse		1- 2.00
Tractor		1.89
For husking		
Man		2.55
Horse		1- 8.80
Tractor		8- 1.74
Total		
Man		4.74
Horse		2- 5.40
Tractor		3.43
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$3.22
Power		2.26
Equipment		2.18
Miscellaneous		.67
Total cost per acre		$8.33
Number of acres		105.6
Yield per acre: bushels		
Total yield		41.4
Tenants share		27.8
Cost per bushel		.30

*A prefix number indicates the number of farms included in the average figure.

**Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

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Table 10. Cost of producing corn on 5 Phelps County Nebraska farms in 1944, Harvested by Hand all irrigated.

Item	Your farm	Average of 5 farms
Number of farms		5
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To Husking		
Man		6.43
Horse	1-	10.00
Tractor	4-	3.54
For Husking		
Man		7.48
Horse		12.32
Tractor		--
Total		
Man		13.91
Horse	4-	14.39
Tractor		3.54
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$10.46
Power		3.56
Equipment		1.17
Irrigation***		4.57
Total cost per acre		$19.76
Number of acres		57.8
Yield per acre: Bushels		
Total yield		53.2
Tenants share		36.2
Cost per bushel		.55

First number in column indicates number of farms on which horses or tractors were used; the second number is the average hours per acre the horses or tractor was used on these farms.

Bushel costs include a land charge: Acre costs do not.

*** Irrigation costs include water and equipment.

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Table 11. Cost of producing corn, harvested by mechanical pickers on 18 Phelps County Nebraska farms, 1944, all irrigated.

Item	Your farm	Average of 18 farms
Number of farms		18
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To Husking		
Man		6.55
Horse		1- 1.31
Tractor		3.42
For Husking		
Man		2.30
Horse		3- 2.59
Tractor		1.81
Total		
Man		8.85
Horse		8- 5.41
Tractor		5.23
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$5.46
Power		3.27
Equipment		2.83
Irrigation***		3.84
Total cost per acre		$15.40
Number of acres		69.1
Yield per acre: Bushels		
Total yield		46.2
Tenants share		32.1
Cost per bushel		.48

The first figure in the column is the number of farms on which horses were used, the second figure the average of these farms.

** Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

*** Irrigation costs include water and equipment.

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Table 12. Cost of producing corn on 13 Washington County Nebraska farms in 1944, Harvested by Hand.

Item	Your farm	Average of 13 farms
Number of farms		13
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To Husking		
Man		6.38
Horse	12-	8.17
Tractor	11-	2.88
For Husking		
Man		6.57
Horse		11.96
Tractor	1-	.71
Total		
Man		12.95
Horse		17.99
Tractor	11-	4.60
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$8.60
Power		3.94
Equipment		2.00
Miscellaneous		.98
Total cost per acre		$15.52
Number of acres		45.6
Yield per acre: Bushels		
Total yield		50.8
Tenants share		30.1
Cost per bushels		.51

*The first figure in the column represents the number of farms using horses or tractors, the second figure is the average of these farms.

**Bushel costs include a land charge: Acre costs do not.

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Table 13. Cost of producing corn on 8 Washington County farms in 1944, harvesting by mechanical pickers.

Item	Your farm	Average of 8 farms
Number of farms		8
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To husking		
Man		4.19
Horse	2-	2.56
Tractor		3.37
For husking		
Man		2.26
Horse	3-	2.61
Tractor		1.44
Total		
Man		6.45
Horse	4-	2.92
Tractor		4.81
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$3.95
Power		3.55
Equipment		2.82
Miscellaneous		.93
Total cost per acre		$11.25
Number of acres		50.1
Yield per acre: Bushels		
Total yield		49.4
Tenants share		29.6
Cost per bushel		.38

*The first figure in the column is the number of farms using horses, the second figure is the average of these farms.

**The bushel cost included a land charge, the acre cost does not.

27956jg-10/46

Table 14. Cost of producing corn, on 13 Saunders County Nebraska farms 1944, Harvested by Mechanical Pickers.

Item	Your farm	Average of 13 farms
Number of farms		13
Labor and power per acre: Hours		
To husking		
Man		2.51
Horse	3-	1.09
Tractor		2.33
For husking		
Man		1.63
Horse	4-	1.93
Tractor		1.47
Total		
Man		4.14
Horse	5-	1.65
Tractor		3.80
Cost per acre		
Man labor		$3.01
		2.56
		2.59
		.95
Total cost per acre		$9.11
Number of acres		78.7
Yield per acre		
Total yield		51.9
Tenants share		29.2
Cost per bushel		.31

*The first number in the column is the number of farms using horses, the second number is the average of these farms.

**Bushel costs include a land charge; acre costs do not.

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Table 15. Comparison of Man Hours and Costs in Harvesting Corn by Hand and Machine, 112 Nebraska Farms 1944.

	Hand Harvested	Machine Harvested
Number of Farms	48	64
Average Number of Acre Per Farm	64.4	84.2
Average yield per acre bus.	40.4	45.0
Man Hours to harvest one acre	5.0	1.9
Bushels picked per Man Hour	8.0	23.7
Harvesting cost per acre		
Labor	$4.62	$1.54
Power	1.15	1.10
Equipment	.55	1.88
Total	$6.32	$4.52
Cost per bushel		
Labor	11.4¢	3.4¢
Power	2.8¢	2.4¢
Equipment	1.4¢	4.2¢
Total Cost	15.6¢	10.0¢

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Table 16. Cost per bushel* and per acre to produce corn 1935 to 1944.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	Average
Per Bushel:											
Boone	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$ .60	$ .47	$ .53
Fillmore	1.04			.63	1.33	1.16	.45	.47	.45	.34	.55
Furnas and Harlan									.41	.33	.37
Phelps	1.11			1.01	1.05	.81	.37	.57	.50	.49	.67
Saunders	.57		1.02	.51	.41	.35	.40	.41	.39	.33	.46
Douglas and Washington	.48		.46	.37	.38	.28	.38	.37	.44	.46	.41
Per Acre:											
Boone	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$ 8.17	$10.35	$8.99
Fillmore	3.97	3.25	2.85**	5.75	3.55	3.14	6.23	8.51	9.61	9.71	5.91
Furnas and Harlan									5.54	8.60	6.68
Phelps	2.79	2.07	2.08	2.93	2.84	2.32	5.39	6.49	10.58	16.22	4.11
Saunders	5.44	3.58	4.70	6.63	6.54	7.60	7.75	10.25	11.22	9.35	6.95
Douglas and Washington	7.68	4.56	7.50	8.17	7.78	8.05	9.76	12.47	13.36	13.79	7.57

*Bushel costs include a land cost; acre costs do not.

**No yield acre costs figured only to harvest.

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