

10-1935

## EC870 Certified Potato Production Costs

Arthur G. George

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>

---

George, Arthur G., "EC870 Certified Potato Production Costs" (1935). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 2320.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/2320>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

AGRI

S  
85  
E7  
#870

October, 1935

LIBRARY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
LINCOLN 1, NEBRASKA

Extension Circular 870  
1932 and 1934

# Certified Potato Production Costs

RECEIVED  
MAR 11 1970  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
LIBRARY

Storage And Marketing Costs  
(Tables Are Appended Showing  
Growing And Harvesting Costs For 1933)

## Nebraska 1932 And 1934

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

E.C. # 870

c.1



#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This report has been made possible through the cooperation of growers of certified seed potatoes in western Nebraska who kept and submitted records on their costs of potato production.

The co-operators were obtained and the record blanks placed through the Nebraska Certified Potato Growers Association. The association has actively cooperated in encouraging the keeping of records and rendered assistance in their collection.

The Extension Service and the Department of Rural Economics of the Nebraska College of Agriculture cooperated in furnishing the necessary blank forms, in assisting in the collection of the records, in analyzing and tabulating the data and in preparing this report.

15748m



# CERTIFIED POTATO PRODUCTION COSTS, NEBRASKA, 1932 and 1934

## STORAGE AND MARKETING COSTS

Arthur G. George

This report supplements the reports previously published giving the costs of growing and harvesting certified potatoes in Nebraska in 1932 and in 1934 and covers the same general area. An insufficient number of reports covering storage and marketing operations were received for the 1933 crop year upon which to base a report so that no data for that year covering this phase of potato operations are given. A few records were obtained in 1933 covering growing and harvesting costs. Tabulations and analyses of these records are appended to this circular and appear in Tables 3 and 4.

### Storage and Marketing Costs, 1932

The figures showing storage and marketing costs for 1932 are presented in Table 1. Average figures from 10 growers appear in the first column. These figures show itemized costs and total cost per acre followed by the potato acreage, the yield per acre and the storage and marketing cost per bushel. The next column shows the high figures found among the 10 records for each of the items indicated and similarly the last column shows the low figures from among the 10 records submitted. Individual cooperators whose records were used in this study will find their figures in the circular which they receive typed in the column headed "Your farm." They can then easily compare their figures, item by item with the average, with the high, and with the low. It should be mentioned that the high and low figures given are the highs and lows for the different items from among the 10 records and that neither column comprises the data from an individual record.

It will be noted that the average cost per acre for storing and marketing potatoes was \$5.03, that the high cost was \$10.01, and that the low cost was \$1.55. Comparing yields per acre we find the average was 74.2 bushels, the high yield was 100.0 bushels, and the low yield 15.0 bushels. Storage and marketing costs per bushel were found to be 7 cents for the average, 11 cents for the high, and 6 cents for the low.

In making these computations the storage and marketing costs were determined from the potatoes actually stored but were charged to the entire crop produced. This method of computation will give the storage and marketing costs on an acre basis to which can be added the cost for growing and harvesting. Thus the final cost per acre and per bushel can be computed as will be shown later.

The variation in storage and marketing costs as computed in Table 1 was due to differences in labor and materials used, to the number of bushels actually stored, and to the number of bushels of potatoes produced. In computing these costs man labor was charged at 20 cents per hour; hauling by truck  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents per bushel, hauling with horses 9 cents per horse hour and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents per horse hour for use of

10-10-35  
MRC 800 C  
15748m



the equipment; storage one cent per bushel on potatoes actually stored; and other costs such as use of sacks and miscellaneous items were charged at the rates given by the cooperating growers.

TABLE 1. Potato storage and marketing costs, Nebraska, 1932.

	:	Your	:	Average	:	Range among 10 farms
	:	farm	:	of	:	High : Low
	:		:	10 farms	:	
COSTS PER ACRE						
Man labor	\$			\$ 2.01		\$ 2.59 \$ 1.08
Hauling				.74		2.40 .04
Sacks				1.53		2.40 -
Storage				.64		.84 .15
Miscellaneous				.11		.37 -
Total cost per acre	\$			\$ 5.03		\$10.01 \$ 1.55
NUMBER OF ACRES				61.8		165.0 15.0
YIELD PER ACRE: BUSHELS				74.2		100.0 15.0
COST PER BUSHEL	\$			\$ .07		\$ .11 \$ .06

The potato growers who submitted storage and marketing cost data for 1932 likewise submitted growing and harvesting data. Their growing and harvesting cost figures are shown below:

	Your			
	Farm	Average	High	Low
Growing and harvesting costs				
Per acre	\$	\$20.48	\$29.79	\$16.55
Per bushel	\$	\$ .27	\$ 1.25	\$ .20

If the growing and harvesting costs are combined with the storage and marketing costs, we find the results shown below:

	Your			
	Farm	Average	High	Low
Final costs				
Per acre	\$	\$25.51	\$35.63	\$20.36
Per bushel	\$	\$ .34	1.36	.26

These cost figures are shown, not that they may indicate efficiency factors in this phase of potato production, but that growers may have figures showing these costs on different farms as a guide in the conduct of their future potato operations.



### Storage and Marketing Costs, 1934

Table 2 shows storage and marketing costs on potatoes in 1934. The figures for 1934 are not comparable to those for 1932 as they have been worked out on a different basis. The figures for 1932 showed storage and marketing costs determined from the potatoes stored but charged to the entire crop raised. The figures for 1934 have been computed on potatoes actually stored and show the storage and marketing costs per bushel based upon the data submitted by the different co-operators.

Actual storage has been charged at one cent per bushel, hauling at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents per bushel, man labor at 20 cents per hour, and materials and miscellaneous expenses at actual figures given by cooperating farmers.

It will be noted that this table shows no data on acre costs nor on growing and harvesting costs. Since abandonment was so excessive in 1934 and yields so low, it was deemed best to show storage and marketing costs based only on the potatoes actually stored. The range in such costs was from 10.6 cents to 18 cents per bushel. The average cost per bushel for storing and marketing potatoes was 13.4 cents per bushel.

In the first column of Table 2 are shown average figures for the 12 records submitted. In the next column appear the high figures for the different items as found among the 12 records submitted. In like manner the last column shows the low figures for the same records. These two columns thus show the range in costs for the different items mentioned in the table.

Those growers who submitted records for this study will each receive a copy of this circular with their individual figures typed in the column headed "Your farm."

The costs shown in this circular supplement the growing and harvesting costs which appear in Extension Circular 865 for the 1932 crop and Extension Circular 865-1934 for the 1934 crop.

The figures given indicate no important conclusions but are given for the interest they may arouse and for study by potato growers and other interested individuals.



TABLE 2. Potato storage and marketing costs, Nebraska, 1934.

	:	:	:	Range among
	:	:	Average	12 Farms
	:	Your	of 12	
	:	Farm	Farms	High : Low
<hr/>				
COSTS PER BUSHEL				
Storage	\$		\$ .010	\$ .010
Hauling			.015	.015
Sacks and miscellaneous			.055	.074
Grading and sacking			.017	.026
Other labor			.037	.064
Total	\$		\$ .134	\$ .180
				\$ .106



APPENDIX

CERTIFIED POTATO GROWING AND HARVESTING COSTS, NEBRASKA, 1933

The tables which follow show the growing and harvesting costs of certified seed potato growers in Nebraska for 1933. The data are presented without analytical comment but for the information of those interested.

Table 3 shows figures from dry land farms and Table 4 from irrigated farms. The first column in each table shows average figures for the items listed. The range from high to low is shown in the last two columns of each table. These figures are not from any particular farm but are the highs and lows from among all the records submitted.

15748m



TABLE 3. Cost of producing potatoes, Nebraska, 1933 (dry land).

		Your Farm	Average of 13 Farms	Range among 13 Farms	
				High	Low
GROWING COSTS PER ACRE					
Man labor	\$		\$ 2.16	\$ 3.46	\$ 1.21
Horse power			.59	2.20	-
Tractor power			1.68	3.32	-
Equipment			.65	.87	.44
Seed			4.98	8.00	2.00
Seed treatment			.04	.12	-
Certification			.77	1.00	-
Total	\$		\$10.87	\$15.59	\$ 8.95
HARVESTING COSTS PER ACRE					
Man labor	\$		\$ 5.21	\$ 6.90	\$ 1.92
Horse power			.28	1.28	-
Tractor power			.78	1.81	-
Equipment			.29	.50	.19
Sacks			.20	.75	-
Hauling			2.12	2.77	.60
Total	\$		\$ 8.88	\$11.17	\$ 3.58
Total cost per acre*	\$		\$19.75	\$26.16	\$16.01
Bushels of seed per acre			10.0	13.0	6.7
Price of seed per bushel	\$		\$ .50	\$ .80	\$ .20
NUMBER OF ACRES			40.1	130.0	9.0
YIELD PER ACRE: BUSHEL					
Total yield			151.3	184.6	40.0
Tenant yield			120.1	147.7	32.0
COST PER BUSHEL*	\$		\$ .16	\$ .60	\$ .11

\*Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land while cost per bushel does include such a charge.



TABLE 4. Cost of producing potatoes, Nebraska, 1933 (irrigated).

		Your Farm	Average of 4 Farms	Range among 4 Farms	
				High	Low
GROWING COSTS PER ACRE					
Man labor	\$		\$ 4.71	\$ 7.62	\$ 3.35
Horse power			1.94	5.16	-
Tractor power			2.03	3.70	-
Equipment			1.16	2.01	.70
Seed			12.46	15.43	8.50
Seed treatment			.16	.60	-
Certification			.93	1.00	.79
Water charge			3.01	5.00	1.10
Total	\$		\$26.40	\$27.44	\$25.37
HARVESTING COSTS PER ACRE					
Man labor	\$		\$ 9.31	\$12.71	\$ 5.46
Horse power			.65	1.50	-
Tractor power			.28	1.04	-
Equipment			.31	.58	.05
Sacks			.36	.90	-
Hauling			4.15	5.25	2.69
Total	\$		\$15.06	\$20.56	\$ 8.65
Total cost per acre*	\$		\$41.46	\$46.96	\$34.02
Bushels of seed per acre			20.4	25.0	17.0
Price of seed per bushel	\$		\$ .61	\$ .74	\$ .50
NUMBER OF ACRES			18.5	24.0	8.0
YIELD PER ACRE: BUSHELS					
Total yield			275.2	350.0	179.6
Tenant yield			206.4	262.5	134.7
COST PER BUSHEL*	\$		\$ .20	\$ .25	\$ .18

\*Cost per acre does not include a charge for the use of land while cost per bushel does include such a charge.