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## EC873 Annual Farm Business Report : Southeast Nebraska Loess-Drift Hill Area 42 Farms Gage, Johnson, Lancaster and Pawnee Counties for 1942

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August 1943

#873

Extension Circular 873  
1942

ANNUAL FARM BUSINESS REPORT  
SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA LOESS-DRIFT HILL AREA  
FORTY-TWO FARMS  
GAGE, JOHNSON, LANCASTER, AND  
PAWNEE COUNTIES 1942

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W. L. Ruden, Department of Rural Economics  
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in  
cooperation with  
county extension agents

Kenneth M. Reed  
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Gage  
Johnson  
Lancaster  
Pawnee

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Nebraska Agricultural College and United States Department of Agriculture Co-operating.

W. H. Brokaw, Director

The Nebraska Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Nebraska cooperate in the collecting of annual business records from farm operators. The Experiment Station is represented by the Department of Rural Economics and the Extension Service by extension economists and county extension agents. The records are summarized by county or area. Each cooperating farmer receives a summary of his own farm business, and a comparison of his records with the records of other farms of similar size.

Farm records from four counties, Gage, Johnson, Lancaster, and Pawnee, for the year, 1942, have been combined in an area report. The records were sorted into size groups based on the amount of productive work accomplished. The average amount of work accomplished in an area by one man in 10 hours on crops, or livestock, or both is a productive man work unit commonly called a work unit.

The number of work units required per acre of crop or per head of livestock varies with type of production. For example, more work is required ordinarily to produce an acre of corn than is required to produce an acre of oats, and more hours of labor are required to care for a dairy cow than a beef cow.

The total work units per farm given in the tables do not include all the work done on the farms. For example, mowing weeds along the highway is a farm

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job that should be done, but since this work does not contribute directly to crop or livestock production, it is not included in this report. Neither do the work units include the time spent building fences, repairing machinery, and taking care of horses. Probably not more than three-fourths of the work performed on an average farm is included in the table of work units.

Farms with 100 to 299 work units are small and medium sized, those with 300 to 499 work units are large, and farms having 500 or more work units are extra large. Only five of the 42 records were from small farms. That is not in proportion to the average distribution of different sized farms in the area.

Numbers of livestock except horses are included under "Productive livestock units". One cow, two other cattle, 100 hens, or 1000 pounds of live pork produced are each considered as a livestock unit. Horses are not included with productive livestock, because they are used primarily as power. Any feed or depreciation charged to horses is part of the power cost on a farm.

The section of Table 1 headed "Organization" shows the distribution of crop acres among intertilled, close growing spring and fall seeded grain, legumes and rotation grasses, tilled fallow, and wild hay crops. Representatives of the Soil Conservation Service have classified land in the area from the standpoint of soil type, slope, and the degree of erosion that has taken place. They have prepared recommendations of erosion control and cultural practices for each class of land. Many farms have been mapped in detail. A farm operator who is familiar with the classification of his farm can check his cropping system with recommended practices.

Crop yields are shown for corn, oats, wheat, and alfalfa. The productivity of an entire farm is shown in total feed units produced. A feed unit is the approximate equivalent of a bushel of corn in relative feed value. Hay and roughages as well as grain were converted into feed units on the basis of their nutritive contents. A ton of alfalfa equals 19 feed units.

Productivity of livestock is measured by several factors such as sales of dairy products per cow, net increase per \$100 worth of feed consumed, pork produced per litter, feed units and supplements consumed per hundredweight of live pork produced, and egg sales per 100 hens on hand January 1. The net increase from each kind of livestock is the difference between closing inventory plus sales and opening inventory plus purchases.

Labor efficiency is measured by the amount of work accomplished per man. Work units per man, crop acres per man, and the amount of live pork produced per man are different measures of accomplishment.

The efficiency of operating capital is shown by the ratio of expenses to receipts. Receipts per \$100 capital indicate efficiency in the use of fixed capital.

Farm income is the amount earned by a farm operator and all capital used in the farm business. Returns per man is the amount each man would receive if the operator, family labor, and hired labor shared the income equally after other expenses and five per cent interest on all capital are deducted from receipts. Labor income is the amount earned by the operator and is determined by deducting five per cent interest on all capital from farm income.

Detailed receipts, expenditures, and inventory changes are shown in Table 2 for three size groups of farms. Inventories increased in value from the beginning to the end of 1942 for all groups.

Table 1. Summary of farm business records for 1942 in Gage, Johnson, Lancaster, and Pawnee counties.

Item	Your farm:	Averages for each group		
		Size of farm (work units)		
		100-299	300-499	500 and over
Number of records		17	15	10
<b>CAPITAL DISTRIBUTION</b>				
Land and improvements except dwelling <sup>1*</sup>	\$	\$ 9,300	\$15,000	\$29,600
Productive livestock <sup>2*</sup>		1,800	2,500	5,600
Horses, tractors, machinery, and equipment		1,100	1,900	3,900
Feed, grain, and seeds		800	1,700	3,300
Total capital	\$	\$13,000	\$21,100	\$42,400
<b>SIZE OF BUSINESS</b>				
Men per farm		1.2	1.5	2.3
Work units <sup>3*</sup>		233	384	615
Productive livestock units <sup>2*</sup>		23	38	76
Crop acres		107	151	261
Pasture acres		64	64	112
Total acres		189	234	392
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>				
Acres of cropland:				
Row crops		41	54	85
Spring seeded small grains		23	28	42
Fall seeded small grains		18	39	57
Legumes and rotation grasses		37	43	92
Tilled fallow		0	1	1
Wild hay		8	6	27
Livestock numbers:				
Cows milked		5	7	7
Cows not milked		5	4	5
Other cattle		17	15	18
Sows farrowed (spring)		4	9	16
Sows farrowed (fall)		2	4	8
Hens and pullets, Jan. 1		181	202	230
Power and machinery inventory per crop acre	\$	\$10	\$12	\$15
<b>CROP PRODUCTION</b>				
Feed units per farm <sup>4*</sup>		3,100	4,900	8,000
Crop yields:				
Corn		32	38	33
Oats		29	31	40
Wheat		20	21	26
Alfalfa		1.6	1.8	1.9
Feed units per feed crop acre <sup>4*</sup>		26	29	29
Crop value per crop acre	\$	\$17	\$20	\$20
Pasture value per acre	\$	2.20	3.00	2.70

Table I (Continued)

Item	Your farm	Averages for each group		
		Size of farm (work units)		
		100-299	300-499	500 and over
<b>LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION</b>				
Cattle:				
Dairy sales per cow	\$	\$ 51	\$ 77	\$ 107
Net increase per \$100 worth of feed consumed		226	186	156
Hogs:				
Live pork produced (cwt.)		78	201	385
Pork produced per litter (cwt.)		15	17	14
Pigs weaned per litter		6.1	5.5	6.5
Feed required per cwt. live pork produced:				
Feed units <sup>4*</sup>		9	9	10
and supplements <sup>5*</sup>	\$	-\$1.20	-\$1.30	-\$1.90
Feed cost per cwt. live pork produced	\$	\$7.80	\$7.30	\$9.60
Net increase per \$100 worth of feed consumed		190	199	172
Poultry				
Egg sales per 100 hens and pullets on hand Jan. 1		202	266	253
Net increase per \$100 worth of feed consumed		184	206	161
<b>POWER, MACHINERY &amp; LABOR COSTS</b>				
Auto and truck	\$	\$ 84	\$ 147	\$ 324
Horses		145	248	275
Tractor		76	201	204
Machinery		154	223	488
Labor		882	1,082	1,703
Power, Machinery, and labor cost per crop acre		7.80	8.10	7.50
<b>LABOR AND CAPITAL EFFICIENCY</b>				
Work units accomplished per man <sup>3*</sup>		194	256	267
Crop acres tended per man		89	101	109
Productive livestock units per man <sup>2*</sup>		19	25	33
Live pork produced per man (cwt)		65	134	167
Net increase from productive livestock per man	\$	\$2,200	\$3,200	\$4,500
Expenses per \$100 receipts <sup>6*</sup>		36	38	58
Receipts per \$100 capital <sup>6*</sup>		32	37	40
FARM INCOME <sup>7*</sup>		\$2,525	\$4,642	\$6,842
RETURNS PER MAN <sup>8*</sup>		1,709	2,661	2,519
LABOR INCOME <sup>9*</sup>		1,877	3,588	4,721
RETURNS TO OPERATOR & HIS CAPITAL <sup>10*</sup>				
(Rented farms, only)				

See footnotes on Page 7.

Table 2. Cash receipts, cash expenditures, and inventory changes in 1942, in Gage, Johnson, Lancaster, and Pawnee counties.

Item	Your farm	Averages for each group		
		Size of farm (work units)		
		100-299	300-499	500 and over
<b>CASH RECEIPTS</b>				
Improvements				
Horses	\$	\$21	\$7	\$62
Cattle		420	709	3,168
Hogs		906	2,228	5,255
Sheep		54	37	1,583
Poultry		187	141	119
Egg sales		366	537	581
Dairy sales		257	539	751
Machinery and equipment		40	93	355
Feed, grain and seeds		706	1,293	1,412
Labor off farm		32	99	151
Miscellaneous receipts		171	436	318
Total	\$	\$3,162	\$6,119	\$13,755
<b>CASH EXPENDITURES</b>				
Improvements	\$	\$ 77	\$ 78	\$ 180
Horses		27	9	25
Cattle		118	310	1,370
Hogs		52	96	215
Sheep		13	1	1,126
Poultry		42	37	55
Livestock expense		29	70	132
Machinery and equipment		405	666	1,632
Feed and grain		436	1,092	3,524
Crop expense		71	107	185
Hired labor		72	242	815
Taxes		150	224	380
Miscellaneous expenses		13	21	53
Total	\$	\$ 1,505	\$2,953	\$9,692
<b>INVENTORY INCREASES</b>				
Horses	\$	\$ 4	\$	\$ 5
Cattle		335	496	495
Hogs		167	362	835
Sheep				35
Poultry		60	53	44
Machinery and equipment		50	4	260
Feed, grain, and seeds		369	810	1,484
<b>INVENTORY DECREASES</b>				
Improvements		13	55	121
Horses			28	
Sheep		2	4	
Machinery and equipment				
Feed, grain, and seeds				
<b>NET INVENTORY INCREASE</b>	\$	\$ 970	\$1,638	\$ 3,037

Table 3. Comparison of farms with 200 to 299 work units per year from 1939 to 1942.

Item	1939	1940	1941	1942
Number of records	39	53	24	12
<b>SIZE AND CAPITAL</b>				
Men per farm	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Work units <sup>3*</sup>	239	240	249	267
Productive livestock units <sup>2*</sup>	22	23	25	25
Crop acres	118	108	122	125
Total acres	204	189	203	213
Total capital	\$11,700	\$10,200	\$12,600	\$14,900
<b>CROP PRODUCTION</b>				
Corn yield	22	26	24	31
Wheat yield	14	24	7	20
Feed units per feed crop acre <sup>4*</sup>	19	24	28	26
Feed units per farm <sup>4*</sup>	2,400	2,000	2,400	3,600
Pasture value per acre	\$2.30	\$2.10	\$2.40	\$2.30
<b>LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION</b>				
<b>Cattle</b>				
Dairy sales per cow	29	59	48	59
Net increase per \$100 worth of feed consumed		224	245	212
Cows milked		3	5	5
<b>Hogs:</b>				
Live pork produced (cwt.)		88	84	93
Number of litters: Spring		3	4	4
Fall		1	3	3
Pork produced per litter (cwt.)		13	13	15
Pigs weaned per litter		6.5	6.6	6.1
Feed required per cwt. live pork produced:				
Feed units		8	8	9
Supplements		+\$0.90	+\$1.10	+\$1.40
Feed cost per cwt. live pork produced		5.20	5.80	7.90
Net increase per \$100 worth of feed consumed		\$120	\$209	\$191
<b>Poultry:</b>				
Total egg sales		129	274	339
Egg sales per 100 hens on hand Jan. 1		70	136	213
Net increase per \$100 worth of feed consumed		181	194	173
<b>POWER, MACHINERY &amp; LABOR COSTS</b>				
Auto and truck		110	85	90
Horses		140	158	153
Tractor		59	73	71
Machinery		112	97	184
Labor		585	750	933
Total cost per crop acre		6.20	6.10	7.30