



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

COST OF GROWING POTATOES
(ESTIMATED TO APPROXIMATE 1918 CONDITIONS)

RECORDS FOR CLAY COUNTY ARE BASED ON A COST OF PRODUCTION SURVEY COVERING TWO SEASONS ON 25 FARMS WITH A TOTAL POTATO ACREAGE OF 3,450 ACRES - AVERAGING 138 ACRES PER FARM*. THE 1918 ESTIMATE BASED ON THIS DATA REPRESENTS THE COST UNDER LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION METHODS. THE AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE WAS 122 BU.

THE RECORDS FOR OTHER LOCALITIES IN THE STATE** ARE BASED ON THE SAME SURVEY COVERING 46 FARMS WITH A TOTAL POTATO ACREAGE OF 841 ACRES, AVERAGING 18 ACRES PER FARM. AVERAGE YIELD 116 BU. PER ACRE. THE 1918 ESTIMATE BASED ON THIS DATA REPRESENTS THE COST UNDER ORDINARY MACHINE SCALE PRODUCTION AND IS APPLICABLE TO A LARGE NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE STATE. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THESE ARE ESTIMATES, BASED ON KNOWN QUANTITIES BUT ASSUMED PRICES. IF THE INDIVIDUAL GROWER USES A DIFFERENT QUANTITY OR PAYS A DIFFERENT PRICE HIS COST WILL VARY FROM THE FIGURES QUOTED.

ESTIMATED ACRE COST OF GROWING POTATOES, 1918

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITIES		RATE	VALUES		TOTAL COST		
		CLAY COUNTY	"OTHER" COUNTIES		CLAY COUNTY	"OTHER" COUNTIES	CLAY COUNTY	"OTHER" COUNTIES	
LABOR, MAN	Hour	38	64	\$.24	\$ 9.12	\$15.36			
LABOR, HORSE	Hour	69	71	.15	10.35	10.65			
CASH PICKING	Bu.	122		.045	5.49		\$24.96	\$26.01	LABOR
SEED	Bu.	10	10	1.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	SEED
PARIS GREEN	LBS.	3	4	.60	1.80	2.40	1.80	2.40	SPRAYING
CONTAINERS (SACKS)	100#	73		.15	10.95	1.05	10.95	1.05***	CONTAINERS
TAXES	ACRE			.50	.50	.60			
				&.60					
INSURANCE	ACRE				.08	.11			
MACHINERY	ACRE				3.00	3.00			
LAND, RENTAL	\$85 PER ACRE			6%	5.10	5.10	8.68	8.81	INDIRECT EXPENSE
OVERHEAD									
					TOTAL OPERATING COST		\$56.39	\$48.27	
					3% OF " "		1.69	1.45	
					TOTAL ACRE COST		\$58.08	\$49.72	
					AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE		122	116	
					AVERAGE COST PER BUSHEL		\$.47	\$.43	

NOTE - TO APPROXIMATE 1917 COST ADD ABOUT \$10 PER ACRE TO COVER ADDITIONAL SEED COST LAST YEAR.

*FROM POTATO SURVEY MADE BY OFFICE OF FARM MGMT. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1913-14. USED BY COURTESY OF THAT OFFICE.

**ANOKA, CHISAGO, ISANTI, MILLE LACS AND SHERBURNE COUNTIES.

***GROWERS IN THESE COUNTIES USUALLY SHIP POTATOES UNSACKED AND HENCE THE CONTAINER COST IS LOW.

AT 50 CENTS PER BUSHEL

SEED COST IS REDUCED

\$.00 PER ACRE

COST-ACCOUNTING SECTION, UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN