Tractor Costs per Hour

The average cost of keeping a tractor for a year was $151.04 (Table 11). 92 per cent of this cost was for fuel, oil, depreciation, and interest. Eleven of the 21 farmers had tractors. These tractors were used an average of 146.6 hours per year, which made a cost of $1.03 for every hour the tractor was used.

The largest single item affecting costs is the number of hours the tractor is used. Farmers using their tractors more than the average number of hours yearly had costs per hour of $1.95. Farmers using their tractors less than the average number of hours had tractor costs per hour of $1.25. One way to reduce the cost of tractor power is to have more productive work for the tractor to do.

Production and Utilization of Feed Crops

90 per cent of the crops grown were fed to livestock. As food costs constitute from 50 to 80 per cent of the total cost of producing livestock and livestock products, the crop yields obtained and the efficiency with which these crops are fed to livestock and converted into milk, pork, and poultry products has a direct bearing on the farmer's income.

The average yields per acre for crops were: 5.6 tons of silage, 37.24 bushels of oats, 31.83 bushels of barley, and 1.92 tons of hay (Table 12).

How well these farmers as a group used their feed in the production of livestock and livestock products is shown by the returns received from each class of livestock for each dollar of feed fed. The average returns per dollar of feed fed were $2.57 for cows, $2.88 for hogs, $1.82 for sheep, and $1.61 for poultry (Table 12).
Farms with the larger labor incomes had crop yields well above the average in most cases. They also had more than average returns from livestock for each dollar of feed used. For example, Farm 11, which had the largest labor income, had 51 per cent better yields of corn silage, 50 per cent better yields of oats, and 16 per cent better yields of barley than the average of all farms. The returns for each dollar of feed used on this farm were 21 per cent more than the average for cows and 100 per cent more than the average for hogs.