Recipe for Disaster

The Topeka Daily Capital

ALL KANSAS INTO FIGHT TO WIN THE WAR WITH WHEAT

Men Desert Towns to Harvest Grain,
While Superhuman Efforts Are Made to Increase Fall Acreage.

“Win the War with Wheat.” That is the Kansas slogan. It is a battle cry that is heard in every home of the state. From Baxter Springs to St. Francis; from White Cloud to Elkhart, a determined and patriotic people have enlisted in a great industrial army to fight the battle for bread as truly and as bravely as our soldier will fight for liberty and humanity on the battlefields of Europe.

Kansas stands at the head of the class of forty-eight states in the great battle for bread. It was first to respond to the call of the federal government to conserve and produce. That the people of Kansas grasped the importance of the world’s food problem was shown in the statewide response to Governor Capper’s first call for the organization of a council of defense. It aroused the inherent patriotism of a citizenship that has never failed in duty or obligation.”

THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

June, 1926

Farm with the McCormick-Deering 15-30.

Don’t Underpower Yourself!

The extra power of the husky 15-30 McCormick-Deering can be used with profit in all seasons. It plows 10 to 12 acres a day … More power and work in one man’s control—that’s the key to farm profit. … You will have extra power to spare for taking on extra acres and bigger-scale farming.

Farmer Charlie A. Conner from Kirksville, Missouri claimed, “With the larger [tractor] one can do the same amount of work at less cost per acre in one-third less time.”
Farming the Dust Bowl: A First-Hand Account from Kansas, a memoir by Lawrence Svobida

Svobida, a farmer in Meade County, Kansas, provides a first-hand account of the intense heat during the summer of 1936. Numerous people died from the heat. Farmers found the bodies of jack rabbits that had succumbed to the heat scattered over their fields. Svobida’s wheat yielded less than four bushels per acre. Because of the heat and lack of rain the seed was shriveled, bleached, and too light in weight. After harvest the heat continued to build. Svobida reported that one afternoon his thermometer registered 117° F. Normally in western Kansas summer nights are cool. However in that year Svobida said the thermometer read in the upper 80s, or 90s night after night. One night it was 100° F at midnight and held there until morning.

Note: The bold line shows the average annual precipitation in Kansas from 1859-1973.