PIK ...

Continued from Page 14 and pastures are completely gone," said Allen Boettcher, a Lancaster County extention agent.

Irrigated corn had some pollination problems but should have nearly normal yields, Boettcher said.

The Nebraska Crop and Livestock Reporting Service projected in its August report a statewide average corn yield of 113 bushels an acre, up two bushels an acre from last year. But these statistics are misleading,

But these statistics are misleading, said Bill Dobbs, statistician for the service.

The corn average is 5 million acres this year compared with almost 7 million acres last year. Those acres idled by the PIK program generally were the most unproductive corn acres, so those poorer yields arer t being averaged into the figures, Dobbs said.

Irrigation also has increased statewide, which slightly increases the average yield, he said.

"Keep in mind, these figures are from information up to Aug. 1, and the average yield is surely dropping daily due to the heat and drought," he said.

Soybeans have a chance to make 25 bushels an acre and milo 50 bushels in Lancaster County if rain and cooler weather prevail in the next two weeks, Boettcher said.

Despite the drought, losses in total farm income for the state may be minimal, Kendrick said.

He said farmers in the drought area who weren't enrolled in the PIK will suffer heavy losses, but farmers in the PIK (program) and those outside of the drought area who raised a crop can expect a goodyear due to the high grain prices.



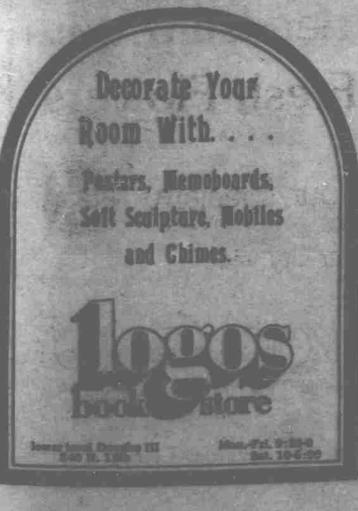


Underdeveloped kernels might cause Robert Lemke to chop his corn crop for sliage.

OPPORTUNITY

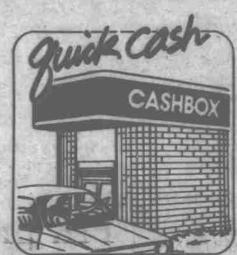
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