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Iowa Crops

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Division of Agricultural Statistics



**A Graphic Summary of Iowa
Corn and Oats Yields**

By

Townships, 1930-1939



Supplement to
Bulletin No. 92.1



Published by
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MARK G. THORNBURG, Secretary
DES MOINES

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Issued Cooperatively by

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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A GRAPHIC SUMMARY OF IOWA CORN AND OATS YIELDS

INTRODUCTION

This publication of average yields per acre of corn and oats is the second in a series of Iowa bulletins presenting crop yield data on a township basis. It is issued as a supplement to bulletin number 92.1 titled "Iowa Crop Yields" which was published in 1940. Bulletin number 92.1 presents in tabular form the average yield per acre of corn and oats, by townships and counties, for each year in the period 1930 through 1939. In addition the average yield per acre by counties for the same period is given for winter wheat, barley, and soybeans.

The primary object of this publication has been to present a visual summary of the productive capacity of Iowa farm land. One of the basic concepts of value in agricultural land is the ability of the land to produce crops. Consequently dependable yield data over a period of years is a useful yardstick to apply in determining the variation in real worth between different areas and soil types. Considering the State as a whole it is our opinion that corn and oats yields will furnish the most reliable data for making the above mentioned determinations.

From time to time there have been requests for the average yield per acre by townships for such crops as soybeans, barley, wheat, rye and flax. This information is available in the historical files of the division but was not included in either of the yield publications since the acreage of these crops in many townships of the State is so small that the average yield figure would have no particular significance. In fact, it should be pointed out that some county average yields for crops other than corn or oats are based on an acreage that is not large enough to develop a dependable figure.

SOURCE

The yield data that are presented in this publication and in bulletin number 92.1 are taken from the annual Iowa Farm Census tabulation that is carried out each year by city and township Assessors in cooperation with the Iowa and United States Departments of Agriculture. The availability of annual agricultural statistics on a county or township basis is the result of a considerable amount of detailed work on the part of township and county officials and it is to their credit that the necessary farm to farm enumeration has been carried out efficiently and completely.

YIELD DATA

The yields presented in figures one, two, three and four are simple averages for the 10-year period 1930 to 1939 inclusive. It should be remembered that serious drought conditions prevailed over wide areas of the State during two of these years, namely 1934 and 1936. The data in all cases is the average yield of grain from the harvested acreage. In both 1934 and 1936 there were numerous townships, particularly in south central and southwestern third of the State, where none of the corn or oats acreage was harvested for grain. In such instances the average yield was reported as zero and was carried as such in calculating the 10-year average yield for the particular township.

1939 CORN YIELD

Worthy of special attention is the average yield per acre of corn in 1939. The State figure of 52.2 bushels per acre is an all time high and a number of individual townships report average yields of more than 70 bushels per acre. The three highest township yields were as follows:

Clay Township in Grundy County.....	76.0 bushels per acre
Clarke Township in Tama County.....	76.0 bushels per acre
Red Oak Township in Cedar County.....	75.3 bushels per acre

There were 109 townships in the State with an average yield of 65 bushels per acre or higher, while 29 townships turned in average yields of more than 70 bushels per acre. Cedar had the highest average county yield with 67.9 bushels per acre. Jones county was second with 66.1 bushels and Benton was third high with 65.8 bushels.

The 1939 corn yield averages for all townships in the State are shown in figure five.

TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Any detailed study or analysis of yield trends over a period of years should be tempered with a knowledge of changing production techniques. Iowa corn yields for example have probably been raised at least 15 percent by the use of hybrid seed. Other factors such as improved tillage practices, application of fertilizer and acreage shifts are also important, but are more difficult to evaluate since there is little quantitative evidence of their application or effect on an area as large as a State.

The increased use of hybrid seed corn in Iowa is well demonstrated by the fact that from a mere beginning in 1935 the acreage planted to hybrid seed had increased to 88 percent of the total by 1940.

WORKS PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

Some of the clerical personnel used in the assembling of unpublished data from the historic files of the annual Iowa Farm Census was provided from funds authorized by the Works Projects Administration. We are pleased to acknowledge the credit due that organization and submit this publication as a supplementary report on Unit 8 of official project number O.P.-65-1-72-2360.

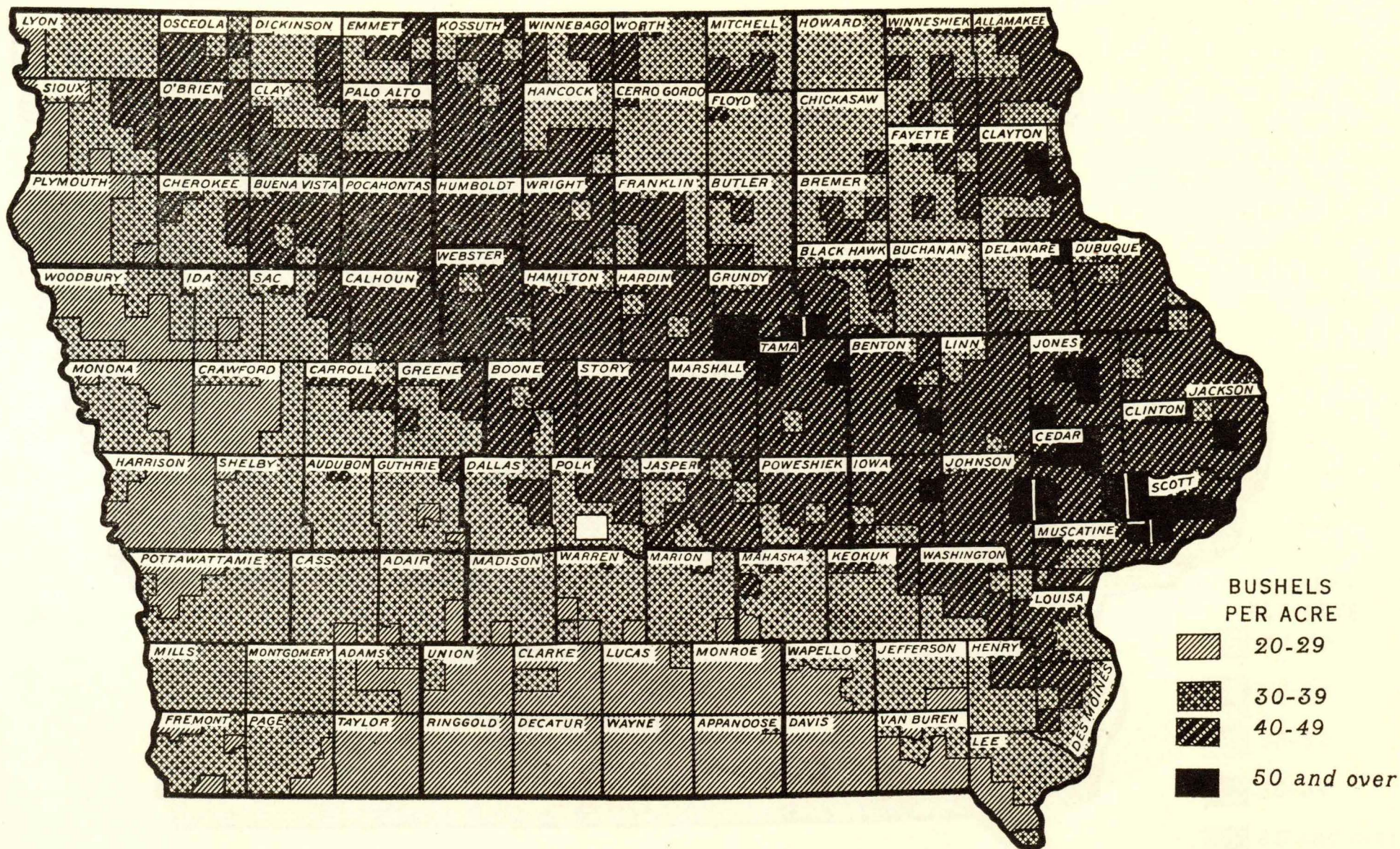


Figure 1—Iowa corn yields, 10-year (1930-1939) average yield per acre in bushels by townships. Data from Iowa annual farm Census.

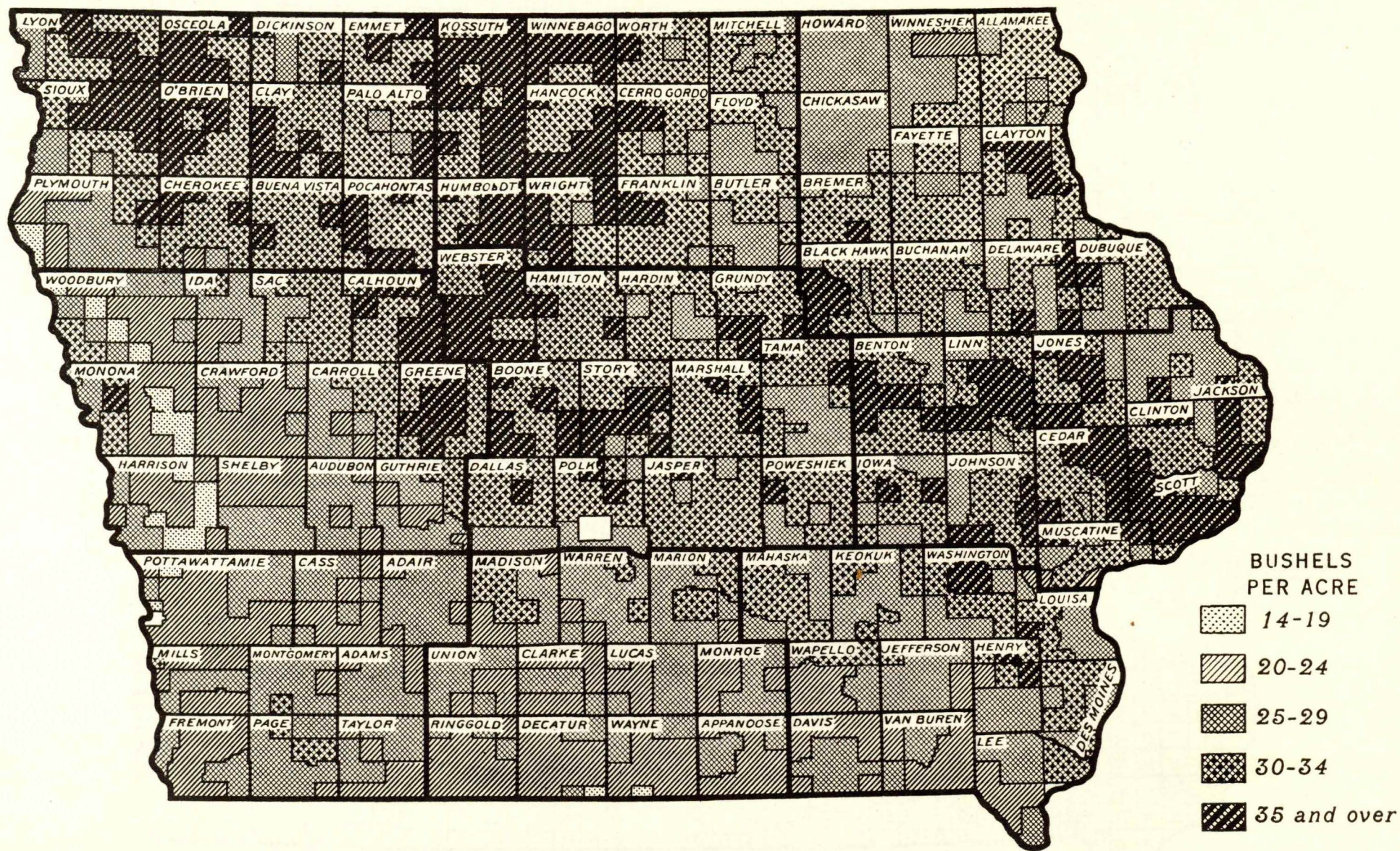


Figure 2—Iowa oats yields, 10-year (1930-1939) average yield per acre in bushels by townships. Data from Iowa annual farm Census.

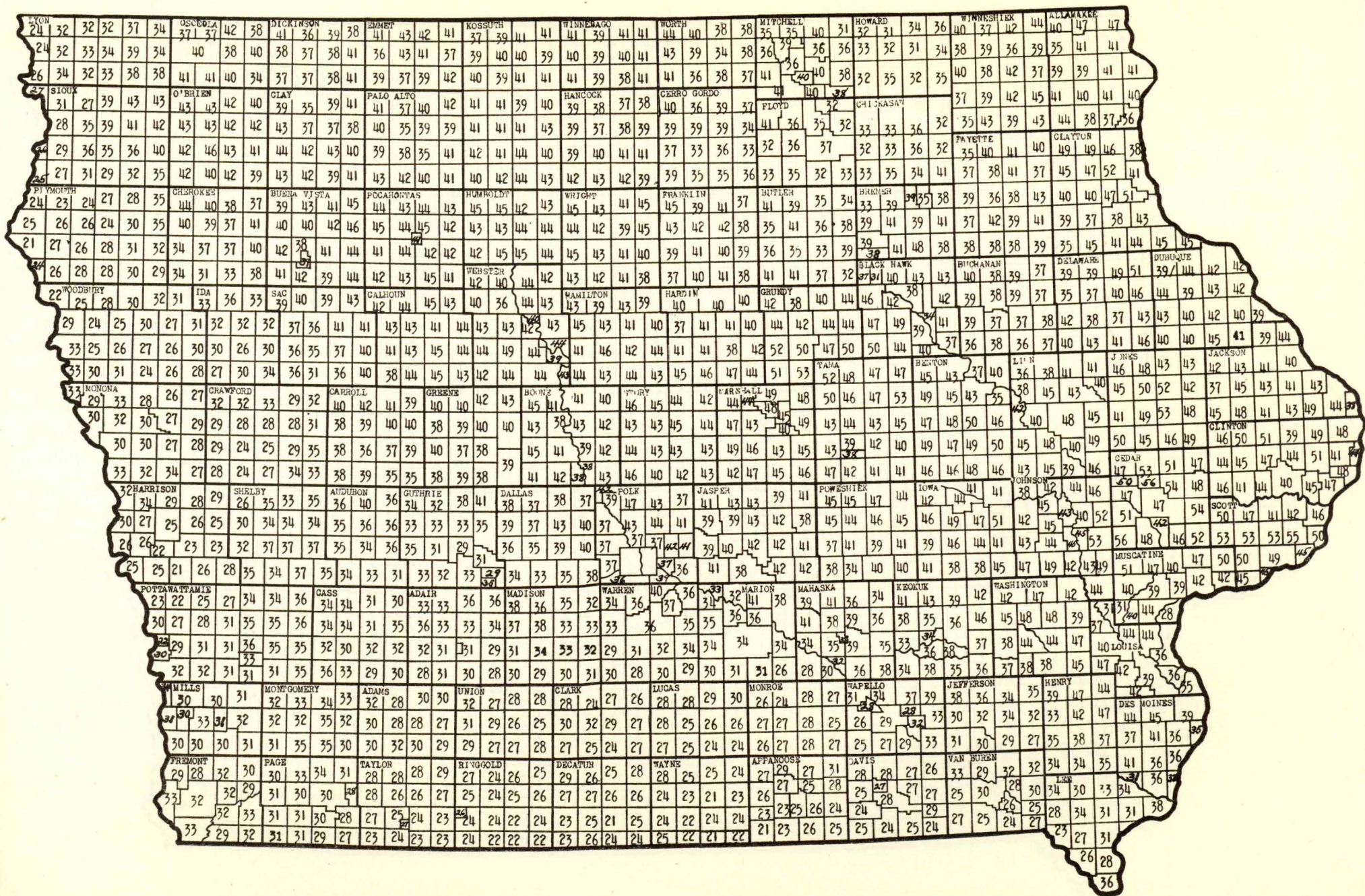


Figure 3—Iowa corn yields, 10-year (1930-1939) average yield per acre in bushels by townships. Data from Iowa annual farm Census.

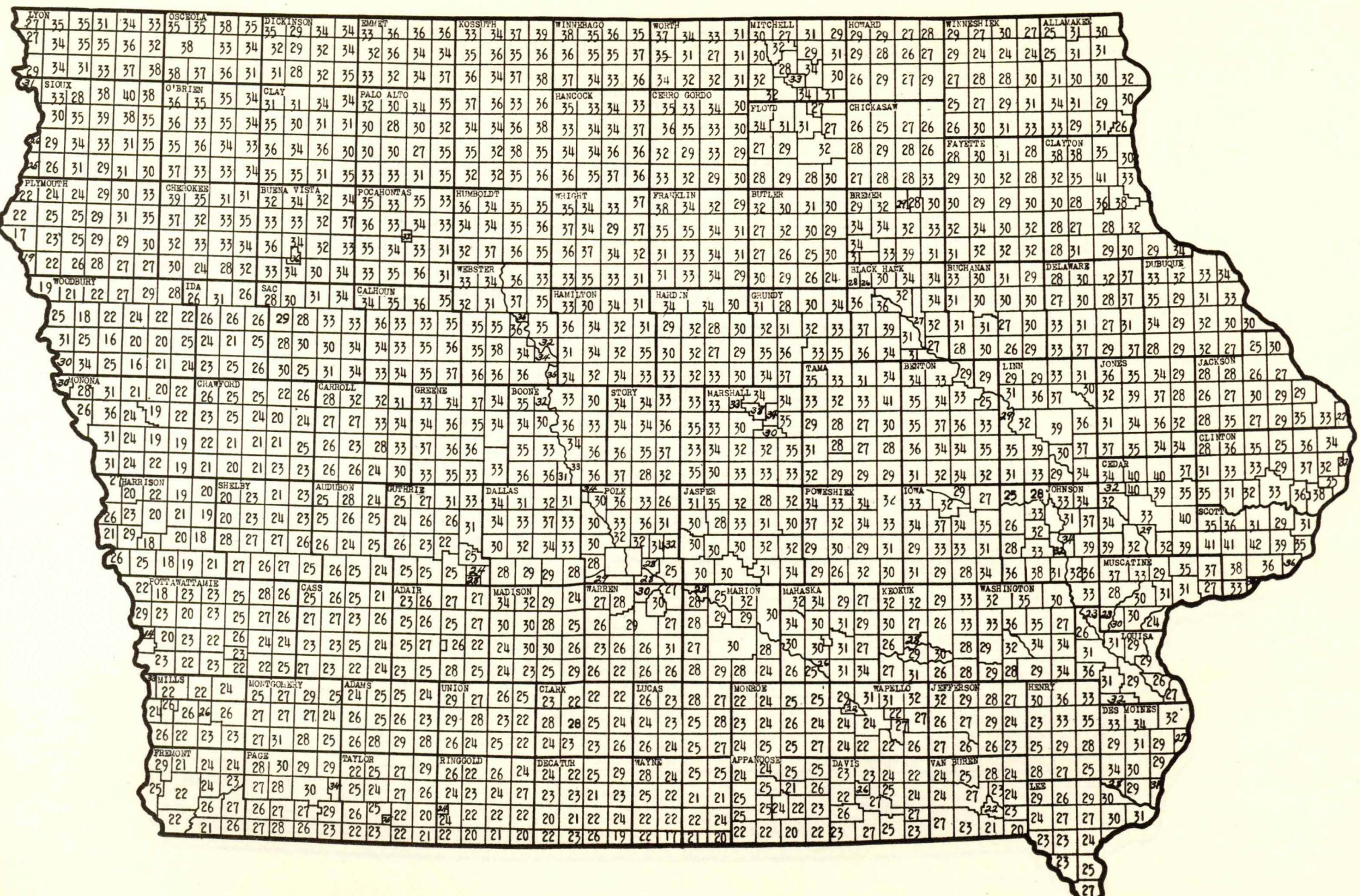


Figure 4—Iowa oats yields, 10-year (1930-1939) average yield per acre in bushels by townships. Data from Iowa annual farm Census.

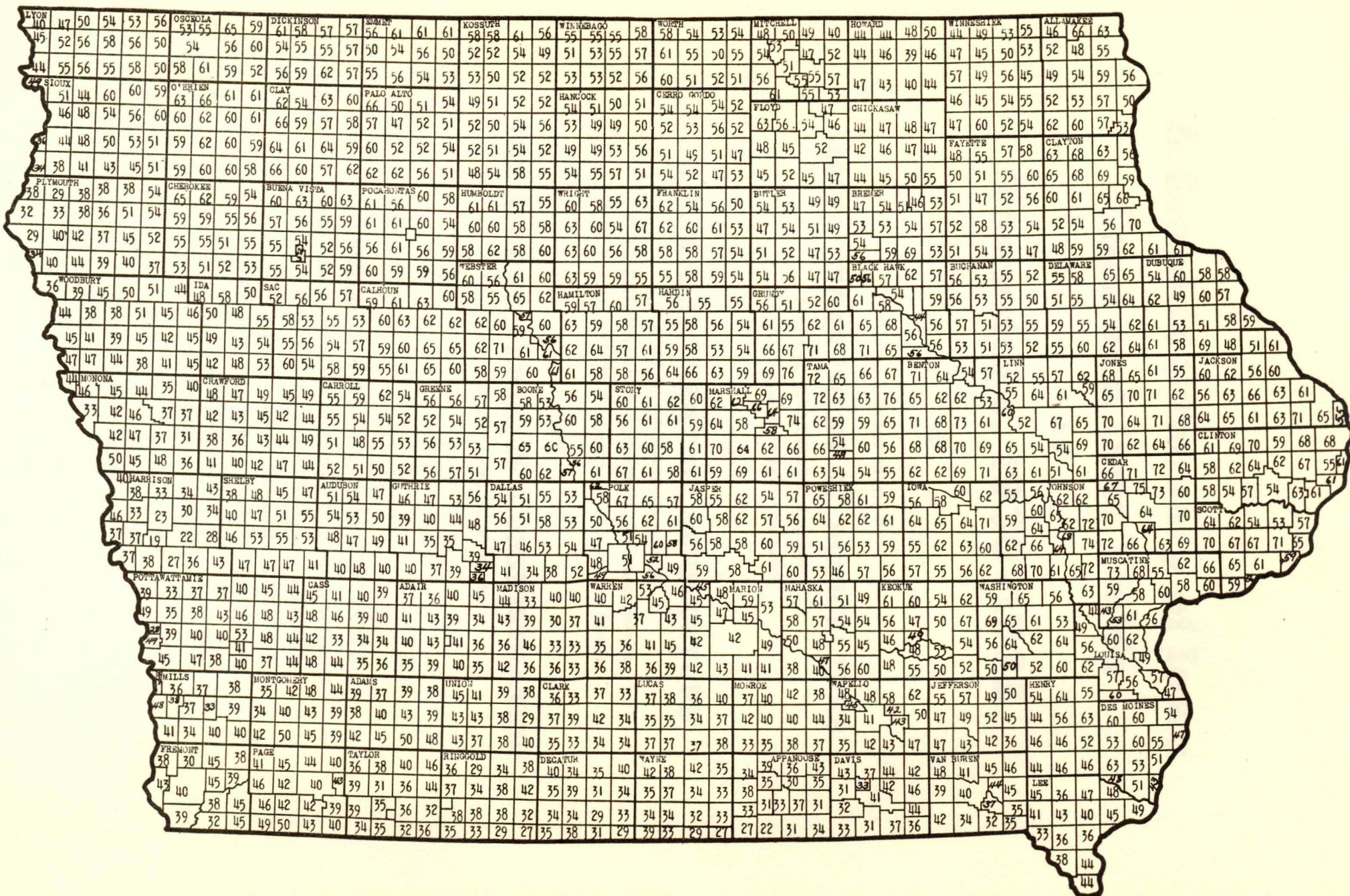


Figure 5—Iowa corn yields. 1939 average yield per acre in bushels by townships. Data from Iowa annual farm Census.

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