

New irrigation techniques aid in increasing corn production

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



The featured photo in the Enterprise 125th Anniversary calendar for the month of September is of workers in a corn field 10 miles southeast of Holyoke.

Taken in the fall of 1938, crews worked on a developing irrigation project. This particular piece of land belonged to W.E. Heginbotham, but many other landowners were also putting in systems to use flood irrigation in fields.

Contour lines were run through the fields to create ditches, followed by concrete drops and laterals. It was estimated that irrigated land would yield 60 bushels of corn per acre, compared to the average dryland yield of about 8 bushels per acre.

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Holyoke Enterprise September 5, 2013