

2008 Purdue Crop Cost & Return Guide

The numbers in this publication are best considered general guidelines for beginning the process of generating one's own specific crop budgets.

Both product prices and input prices may have significantly changed since these estimates were prepared.

Table 1. Estimated per Acre Crop Budgets for Low, Average, and High Productivity Indiana Soils

	Crop Budgets for Three Yield Levels ¹														
	Low Productivity Soil					Average Productivity Soil					High Productivity Soil				
	Cont. Corn	Rot. Corn	Rot. Beans	Wheat	DC Beans	Cont. Corn	Rot. Corn	Rot. Beans	Wheat	DC Beans	Cont. Corn	Rot. Corn	Rot. Beans	Wheat	DC Beans
Expected yield per acre ²	118	125	39	62	23	147	157	49	70	29	177	188	59	84	35
Harvest price ³	\$3.90	\$3.90	\$9.40	\$6.20	\$9.40	\$3.90	\$3.90	\$9.40	\$6.20	\$9.40	\$3.90	\$3.90	\$9.40	\$6.20	\$9.40
Market revenue	\$460	\$488	\$367	\$384	\$216	\$573	\$612	\$461	\$434	\$273	\$690	\$733	\$555	\$521	\$329
Less variable costs ⁴															
Fertilizer ⁵	\$108	\$98	\$34	\$60	\$22	\$115	\$105	\$41	\$71	\$26	\$122	\$113	\$48	\$89	\$30
Seed ⁶	67	67	48	36	54	79	79	48	36	54	79	79	48	36	54
Pesticides ⁷	39	39	19	7	17	39	39	19	7	17	39	39	19	7	17
Dryer fuel ⁸	24	19	N/A	N/A	3	30	24	N/A	N/A	3	36	29	N/A	N/A	4
Machinery fuel @ \$2.65	20	20	9	12	8	20	20	9	12	8	20	20	9	12	8
Machinery repairs ⁹	11	11	8	8	8	11	11	8	8	8	11	11	8	8	8
Hauling ¹⁰	10	11	3	5	2	12	13	4	6	2	15	16	5	7	3
Interest ¹¹	15	14	7	7	7	16	16	8	8	7	9	7	8	9	7
Insurance/misc. ¹²	23	23	13	3	4	24	24	14	3	4	25	25	14	3	4
Total variable cost	\$317	\$302	\$141	\$138	\$125	\$346	\$331	\$151	\$151	\$129	\$356	\$339	\$159	\$171	\$135
Contribution margin ¹³ (Revenue - variable costs) per acre	\$143	\$186	\$226	\$246	\$91	\$227	\$281	\$310	\$283	\$144	\$334	\$394	\$396	\$350	\$194

¹Estimated yields and costs are for yields with average management for three different soils representing low, average, and high productivity. The high productivity soils represent soils capable of producing corn and soybeans with yields about 20% larger than average soils. Low productivity soils represent soils capable of producing corn and soybeans with yields about 20% less than the average soils.

²These yields assume average weather conditions and timely plant/harvest date, except soybean double-crop yield, which is based on July 1 plant date. Continuous corn, soybean, and wheat yields are a percent of rotation corn yield: continuous corn 94%; rotation soybeans 31.3%; wheat 49.2% on low productivity soil and 44.6% on average and high productivity soils; and double-crop soybeans 18.5%. Continuous corn yields assume chisel plow tillage system. Double-crop soybean yields apply to central and southern Indiana.

³Harvest corn price is December 2008 CBOT futures price less \$0.25 basis. Harvest soybean price is November 2008 CBOT futures price less \$0.30 basis. Harvest wheat price is July 2008 CBOT futures price less \$0.75 basis. The prices shown here were estimated using closing prices on October 19, 2007. These prices will change.

⁴Seed, fertilizer, chemical, and fuel prices are based on projections for 2008.

Table 1 (Continued)

⁵ Phosphate, potash, and lime applications are based on Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations (Source: Michigan Extension Bulletin E-2567, July 1995). Lime amounts represent the pounds of standard ag lime needed to neutralize the acidity from the nitrogen supplied from sources other than ammonium sulfate. Nitrogen application rate for corn is based on research from Department of Agronomy, Purdue University. Anhydrous ammonia is used as the nitrogen source for corn. Urea is used as the nitrogen source for wheat. Pounds of N-P₂O₅-K₂O-lime by crop and soil: continuous corn, 190-44-52-570, 190-54-60-570, 190-65-68-570; rotation corn, 160-46-54-480, 160-58-62-480, 160-69-71-480; rotation beans, 0-31-75-0, 0-39-89-0, 0-47-102-0; wheat, 60-39-43-181, 75-44-46-224, 99-53-51-298; double crop beans, 0-19-53-0, 0-23-61-0, 0-28-69-0. Fertilizer prices per lb.: NH₃ @ \$0.37; urea @ \$0.50; P₂O₅ @ \$0.43; K₂O @ \$0.27; lime @ \$18/ton. 5-10% more nitrogen might be needed on poorly drained soils. All soil tests for phosphorus and potassium are in the maintenance range, and the pH is in the recommended range.

⁶ Corn seed prices assume a triple-stacked biotech variety (Bt-RW, Bt-CB, & RR traits). A 20% refuge is planted with varieties that do not contain insect resistant traits. According to the USDA's Agricultural Prices report for April 2007, biotech corn seed prices averaged 154% of non-biotech corn seed. This price differential is expected to increase in 2008. Seeding rates for corn are 28,000 seeds per acre on low productivity soils and 33,000 seeds per acre on average and high productivity soils. Soybean seed prices include Round-Up Ready® varieties. Rotation soybeans are drilled with a seeding rate of 180,000 seeds per acre. Double-crop soybeans are drilled with a seeding rate of 208,000 seeds per acre.

⁷ Includes both insecticides and herbicides. For corn, rootworm insecticide is applied to the refuge acres. In some areas of Indiana, this may not be required. Herbicide costs can vary widely based on both the herbicides selected and the required rate of application.

⁸ Fuel used to dry crop to a safe moisture level for storage. For double-crop soybeans, the drying charge represents the drying of wheat in order to allow an earlier planting of soybeans.

⁹ Repairs are based on approximately five-year-old machinery. For older machinery, per acre repairs and downtime cost will be higher and indirect machinery costs will be lower.

¹⁰ Hauling charge represents moving grain from field to storage. Based on Machinery Cost Estimates: Harvesting, University of Illinois, Farm Business Management Handbook, FBM 0203, July 2006.

¹¹ Interest is based on 8.75% annual rate for 9 months for seed, fertilizer, and chemicals, and for 6 months for half the machinery fuel and repairs and all the insurance/misc.

¹² The cost of crop insurance represents the premium for CRC insurance at the 75% level. Crop insurance is included for corn and rotation soybeans. The net cost of insurance (premiums less payments made by the insurance over a number of years) can be estimated using the iFarm Payment Simulator found at <<http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/cropins/cropinstoolsmain.asp?num=2>>. The net cost of crop insurance is estimated to be about \$4.00 per acre.

¹³ Contribution margin is the return to the unpaid operator labor/management, machinery services, and land resources.

Table 2. Estimated per Acre Indirect Charges for Low, Average, and High Productivity Indiana Soils

Farm Acres Rotation ¹	Low Productivity Soil				Average Productivity Soil				High Productivity Soil			
	900 c-c	1000 c-b	2700 c-c	3000 c-b	900 c-c	1000 c-b	2700 c-c	3000 c-b	900 c-c	1000 c-b	2700 c-c	3000 c-b
Crop contribution margin ²	\$143	\$206	\$143	\$206	\$227	\$296	\$227	\$296	\$334	\$395	\$334	\$395
Government payment ³	\$17	\$17	\$17	\$17	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Total contribution margin	\$160	\$223	\$160	\$223	\$247	\$316	\$247	\$316	\$359	\$420	\$359	\$420
Annual overhead costs:												
Machinery replacement ⁴	\$64	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$64	\$58	\$51	\$46	\$70	\$63	\$52	\$47
Drying/handling	\$14	\$9	\$14	\$9	\$14	\$9	\$14	\$9	\$14	\$9	\$14	\$9
Family and hired labor ⁵	\$60	\$52	\$33	\$29	\$60	\$52	\$33	\$29	\$60	\$52	\$33	\$29
Land ⁶	\$124	\$124	\$124	\$124	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$186	\$186	\$186	\$186
Earnings or (losses)	-\$101	-\$20	-\$58	\$18	-\$46	\$42	-\$6	\$76	\$29	\$109	\$74	\$148

¹Rotations are as follows: c-c = all of the farm acres in continuous corn; c-b = one-half of the farm acres in rotation corn and one-half in rotation soybeans.

²Crop's contribution margin is per acre contribution margin from Table 1.

³Government payment includes only the direct payment. The per bushel direct payment rate is \$0.28 for corn and \$0.44 for soybeans. Direct payment yields for corn were 94.5, 110.5, 136.6 on low, average, and high soils. Direct payment yields for soybeans were 31.7, 37.0, and 45.8 for low, average, and high soils. Base acres for the farm are assumed half corn and half soybeans. Federal regulations pertaining to payment limits may limit this payment to a smaller amount than is shown here.

⁴The same basic machinery set, which is timely for each rotation, is used for both the c-c and c-b rotation. The larger farm size requires larger, more expensive machinery. Corn production utilizes a chisel plow tillage system, and soybeans utilize no-till. Average annual replacement costs for the larger farm size were calculated using the Purdue Machinery Cost Calculator for a timely machinery set. Seven-year trading policy assumed for combine and planter, 10-year policy for other field machinery. On livestock farms where fewer hours each day are available for crops, or on small farms, machinery costs and/or labor costs will be higher. On well-drained soils where more days are suitable for spring field work, machinery costs could be lower. The machinery costs for the

⁵For the larger acreages, labor expense includes a family living withdrawal of \$40,212 (\$59,686 of family living expenses less \$29,961 in net nonfarm income plus \$10,251 in income and self-employment taxes) and a full-time employee with total compensation of \$35,800. The balance is used for part-time hired labor. Family living withdrawal is from Farm Income & Production Costs for 2006, University of Illinois Extension, AE-4566, April 2007. Employee compensation is based on Wages and Benefits for Farm Employees, Iowa State University, University Extension FM 1862, July 2006. For the smaller acreages, labor expense includes the same operator costs plus a part-time employee(s). The c-c rotation requires more total labor. Labor costs are likely to vary widely from farm to farm.

⁶Based on cash rent per bushel of corn yield reported in Indiana Farmland Values & Cash Rent Jump Upward, *Purdue Agricultural Economics Report*, August, 2007.

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