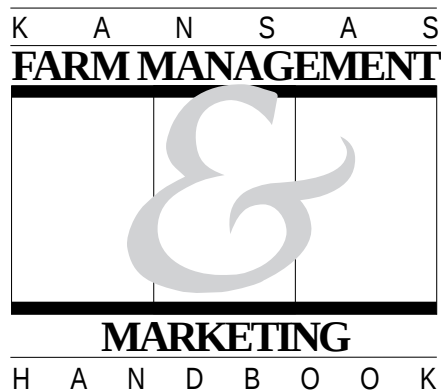




# Crop and Livestock Labor Standards by Size of Operation

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## Crops

The following crop labor standards, by size of machinery, were derived to provide labor information for use in enterprise studies, farm budgets, forward planning, and comparative studies. The Kansas Farm Management and K-MAR-105 Associations utilize an “average” of these crop labor standards for use in farm typing studies, enterprise budgets, and expense allocations. In addition, the KSU Farm Management Guide Cost-Return Budgets developed

for crop and livestock enterprises use an “average” labor standard value.

## Farm Size

Farm size represents the size of machinery and equipment utilized in a given farm operation, and not the number of acres. For example, the “Large Size Farm” represents typical labor usage for farm operations using machinery which can be classified as large.

**Table 1. Labor Standards for Dryland Crop Enterprises in Eastern Kansas By Machinery Size<sup>1</sup>**

| Crops                   | Hours Per Acre  |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                         | Small Size Farm | Average Size Farm | Large Size Farm |
| Wheat, Barley, Rye      | 2.10            | 1.80              | 1.55            |
| Oats                    | 1.95            | 1.65              | 1.40            |
| Corn                    | 3.80            | 2.75              | 2.25            |
| Grain Sorghum           | 2.55            | 2.10              | 1.65            |
| Soybeans                | 2.55            | 2.00              | 1.60            |
| Alfalfa                 | 6.30            | 6.25              | 5.00            |
| Brome, Bermuda, Prairie | 2.55            | 2.50              | 2.05            |
| Silage                  | 5.80            | 5.45              | 5.15            |

<sup>1</sup>Source: Larry N. Langemeier, Kim Witt, and Chris Akhimien, “Derived Labor Requirements for Eastern Kansas Crops,” Contribution Number 91-88-D, Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

**Table 2. Labor Standards for Dryland Crop Enterprises in Central Kansas  
by Machinery Size<sup>1</sup>**

| Crops                   | Hours Per Acre  |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                         | Small Size Farm | Average Size Farm | Large Size Farm |
| Wheat, Barley, Rye      | 2.10            | 1.65              | 1.35            |
| Oats                    | 1.75            | 1.40              | 1.15            |
| Corn                    | 3.15            | 2.50              | 1.95            |
| Grain Sorghum           | 2.15            | 1.75              | 1.40            |
| Soybeans                | 2.30            | 1.85              | 1.55            |
| Alfalfa                 | 6.35            | 5.10              | 4.30            |
| Brome, Bermuda, Prairie | 2.05            | 1.70              | 1.45            |
| Silage                  | 5.40            | 4.80              | 4.55            |

<sup>1</sup>Source: Larry N. Langemeier, Chris Akhimien, and Kim Witt, “Derived Labor Requirements for Central Kansas Crops,” Contribution 91-89-D, Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

**Table 3. Labor Standards for Dryland Crop Enterprises in Western Kansas  
by Machinery Size<sup>1</sup>**

| Crops                   | Hours Per Acre  |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                         | Small Size Farm | Average Size Farm | Large Size Farm |
| Wheat, Barley, Rye      | 1.30            | .90               | .70             |
| Grain Sorghum           | 1.35            | 1.20              | .80             |
| Alfalfa                 | 3.00            | 2.55              | 2.55            |
| Brome, Bermuda, Prairie | 1.40            | 1.35              | 1.20            |

<sup>1</sup>Source: Larry N. Langemeier, Kim Witt, and Chris Akhimien, “Derived Labor Requirements for Western Kansas Irrigated and Dryland Crops,” Contribution Number 90-398-D, Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

**Table 4. Labor Standards for Irrigated (Sprinkler) Crop Enterprises in Eastern Kansas  
by Machinery Size<sup>1</sup>**

| Crops                   | Hours Per Acre  |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                         | Small Size Farm | Average Size Farm | Large Size Farm |
| Wheat, Barley, Rye      | 2.20            | 1.65              | 1.45            |
| Corn                    | 3.10            | 2.50              | 2.00            |
| Grain Sorghum           | 2.15            | 1.75              | 1.40            |
| Soybeans                | 2.05            | 1.75              | 1.45            |
| Alfalfa                 | 3.75            | 3.25              | 3.00            |
| Brome, Bermuda, Prairie | 2.50            | 2.15              | 2.00            |
| Silage                  | 4.50            | 4.25              | 4.15            |

<sup>1</sup>Source: Larry N. Langemeier, Kim Witt, and Chris Akhimien, “Derived Labor Requirements for Western Kansas Irrigated and Dryland Crops,” Contribution Number 90-398-D, Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

**Table 5. Labor Standards for Irrigated (Flood) Crop Enterprises in Eastern Kansas  
by Machinery Size<sup>1</sup>**

| Crops                   | Hours Per Acre  |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                         | Small Size Farm | Average Size Farm | Large Size Farm |
| Wheat, Barley, Rye      | 2.65            | 2.25              | 1.80            |
| Corn                    | 3.80            | 3.15              | 2.65            |
| Grain Sorghum           | 2.70            | 2.30              | 1.95            |
| Soybeans                | 2.50            | 2.25              | 2.00            |
| Alfalfa                 | 4.40            | 3.95              | 3.90            |
| Brome, Bermuda, Prairie | 3.10            | 2.80              | 2.80            |
| Silage                  | 5.05            | 4.80              | 4.45            |

<sup>1</sup>Source: Larry N. Langemeier, Kim Witt, and Chris Akhimien, “Derived Labor Requirements for Western Kansas Irrigated and Dryland Crops,” Contribution Number 90-398-D, Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

## Livestock

The following livestock labor standards, by size of operation, provide the in-depth labor information needed for use in enterprise studies, farm budgets, forward planning, and comparative studies. In addition, these standards can be used for a specific farm business.

The Kansas Farm Management and K-MAR-105 Associations utilize an “average” of these livestock labor standards for use in farm typing studies, enterprise budgets, and expense allocations. The KSU Farm Management Guide Cost-Return Budgets developed for livestock enterprises also use labor usage values.

## Enterprise Size

Labor usage values, by size of operation, are provided for dairy and beef cows based on the number of cows handled. Size of operation for swine, farrow to weaning, is the number of litters. Size of operation for sheep is the number of ewes. Average labor standards also are given for swine, sheep, and cattle feeding enterprises.

**Table 6. Labor Standards for Livestock Enterprises, by Size of Operation<sup>1</sup>**

| Livestock Type                 | Enterprise Size  | Hour Per Unit   |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Dairy:</b>                  | Number of Cows   |                 |
|                                | < 50             | 54.00           |
|                                | 50 – 100         | 49.70           |
|                                | > 100            | 37.10           |
| <b>Beef Cows:</b>              | Number of Cows   |                 |
|                                | < 100            | 9.20            |
|                                | 100 – 200        | 6.00            |
|                                | > 200            | 4.20            |
| <b>Swine (Farrow to Wean):</b> | Number of Litter |                 |
|                                | ≤ 175            | 6.00            |
|                                | > 175            | 4.30            |
| <b>Swine (Feeder Pig):</b>     | Unit<br>Pig      | .40             |
| <b>Sheep (Ewes)</b>            | Unit<br>Ewe      | 2.70            |
| <b>Sheep (Feeder Lamb)</b>     | Unit<br>Head     | .50             |
| <b>Cattle Feeding:</b>         | Unit             | Hours Per Month |
| Summer Grazing                 | Head             | .15             |
| Winter Grazing                 | Head             | .25             |
| Backgrounding, Drylot          | Head             | .25             |
| Finishing                      | Head             | .20             |
| Custom Finishing               | Head             | .10             |

<sup>1</sup>Source: Larry N. Langemeier “Derived Labor Requirements for Kansas Livestock Enterprises,” *Contr. Number 95-421-S, Report of Progress 732, Agricultural Experiment Station. Kansas State University Manhattan Kansas.*



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, MANHATTAN, KANSAS

MF-802 Revised

October 1995

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File Code: Farm Management 3-1

10-94—1.5M; 10-95—1.5M