



KSU Farm Management Guide

MF-670

Labor Standards For Forward Planning

Department of Agricultural Economics



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Larry N. Langemeier

Extension Agricultural Economist
Farm Management Studies

The following livestock and crop labor standards were developed to provide labor information for use in farm budgets, enterprise studies, forward planning, and comparative studies. As one example, these labor usage values have been incorporated into all K-MAR-105 computer programs, including Financial Plus, MCFP and Year-End Whole-Farm and Enterprise Systems.

The Kansas Farm Management Associations utilize these crops and livestock labor standards for use in farm typing studies, enterprise budgets, and expense alloca-

tions. In addition, the KSU Farm Management Guide Cost-Return budgets developed for livestock and crop enterprises use these labor usage values.

It should be emphasized that these standards represent "average" time requirements for specific crop and livestock enterprises. Actual labor usage will vary by enterprise size, type of operation, facilities available, management, machinery, etc. See MF-802 to obtain labor standards by size of operation.

Table 1. Labor Standards for Crop Enterprises¹

Crops	Hours Per Acre			
	East	Central	West	Irrigated
Wheat, Barley, Rye	1.85	1.70	.95	2.15
Oats	1.70	1.45	.95	2.15
Corn	3.00	2.55	1.30	3.05
Grain Sorghum	2.15	1.80	1.10	2.20
Soybeans	2.05	1.90	1.05	2.15
Sugar Beets	—	—	—	5.00
Other Cash Crops	—	—	—	2.90
Alfalfa	6.05	5.30	2.80	3.85
Brome, Bermuda, Prairie	2.45	1.75	1.35	2.35
Silage	5.50	4.90	4.20	4.65
Temporary Pasture	1.80	1.15	.90	1.55
Summer Fallow	—	.25	.25	—

¹Source: Larry N. Langemeier, Kim Witt, and Chris Akhimien, "Derived Labor Requirements for Western, Central, and Eastern Kansas Crops," Contribution Numbers 90-398-D, 91-89-D, and 91-88-D, Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

Table 2. Labor Standards for Livestock Enterprises

Livestock	Unit	Hours¹
Beef Cows	Cow	7.40
Dairy Cows	Cow	47.20
Swine (Farrow-Wean)	Litter	5.30
Feeder Pigs	Head	.40
Ewes	Ewe	2.70
Feeder Lambs	Head	.50
Laying Hens	Hen	.20
Turkeys	Head	.03
Hours per Month		
Cattle Feeding		
Winter Grazing	Head	.25
Summer Grazing	Head	.15
Background Drylot	Head	.25
Finishing	Head	.20
Custom Finishing	Head	.10

¹Source: Larry N. Langemeier, "Derived Labor Requirements for Kansas Livestock Enterprises," *Contr. Number 95-241-S, Report of Progress 732, Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.*

Publications from Kansas State University are available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu>

Contents of this publication may be freely reproduced for educational purposes. All other rights reserved. In each case, credit Larry N. Langemeier, *Labor Standards For Forward Planning*, Kansas State University, October 1998.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

MF-670

October 1998

It is the policy of Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and materials without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability. Kansas State University is an equal opportunity organization. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Marc A. Johnson, Director.

File code: Farm Management 6