



Center-Pivot-Irrigated Corn

Cost-Return Budget

Department of Agricultural Economics



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This budget provides cost and return estimates for center pivot irrigated corn in Western Kansas. Feed demand from the area's cattle feeding complex and developing hog industry make irrigated corn an important crop. Kansas ranked eighth in the nation in corn production during 1998. The vast majority of Kansas irrigated corn production is located in Western Kansas.

Cost-Return Projections

Land preparation costs are included in land value. Other investments are shown in Table 1. Price of the energy source and total dynamic head are the important factors affecting pumping costs. For instance, a \$1 change in natural gas price causes a \$2.97 increase with 100 feet TDH. However, with 500 feet TDH, a \$1 change in gas price causes a \$14.83 change in costs for each acre foot of water pumped.

The choice of a flood or center pivot system depends on: (1) available capital; (2) labor availability during the growing season; (3) the terrain, which may require a center pivot system; and (4) soil type. Capital outlays will be \$20,000 to \$40,000 higher with a center pivot system, but labor requirements could be reduced by as much as 1 hour/acre compared to flood irrigation. MF-836, *Irrigation Capital Requirements and Energy Costs*, shows the irrigation costs and energy input amounts used in this budget.

Expected Yields and Enterprise Returns

Cost per bushel and net returns in crop production are highly dependent on yields. The following estimated budget includes three different yield levels. The three yield levels are intended to represent expected yields of varying land quality for a given level of management. Land values, government payments, and various inputs vary as yield levels vary. Crop insurance was not included in this budget as an input expense because yields reflect an average of all years (good and bad). If crop insurance is included as an input expense, than an expected value for indemnity payments should be included in the returns section. Historically, MPCI indemnity payments have exceeded premiums due to government subsidies.

Budgeting for alternative expected yields can help producers compare the profitability of crop enterprises on farmland tracts with varying yield potentials. In customizing this budget to fit your farm, attention should be given to using land values representative of your farm's productive capacity. Projections of net percentage return on investment permit comparisons to be made among alternative enterprises or other investments.

Table 1. Factors Used for Cost-Return Budget

Item	Yield Level (bu)			
	155	170	185	
Water, 260 TDH	20 in	22 in	24 in	\$2.72/inch
Fertilizer:				
N (Anhy.)	190	220	240	\$0.11/lb
N (Dry)	0	0	0	\$0.20/lb
P	45	45	45	\$0.22/lb
K	0	0	0	\$0.14/lb
Lime	0	0	0	\$0.01/lb
Seed,				
seeds/acre	28,000	32,000	36,000	
Seed price,				
\$/1,000 seeds	\$1.21	\$1.21	\$1.21	
Labor hours	2.24	2.45	2.66	
Labor price/hour				\$10.80
Land value/acre	\$550	\$687	\$824	
Land interest rate				6.00%
Land real estate tax				0.50%
Machinery investment				\$236
Machinery life				10 yrs
Salvage value				35%
Well, pump and gearhead value				\$317.42
Well, pump and gearhead life				15 yrs
Power unit and meter value				\$41.27
Power unit and meter life				7 yrs
Irrigation system value				\$359.00
Irrigation system life				10 yrs
Interest rate on machinery and equipment				9.00%
Insurance rate on machinery and equipment				0.25%
Interest on variable costs				9.00%

COST-RETURN PROJECTION — CENTER-PIVOT-IRRIGATED CORN

	Yield Level (bu)			Your
	155	170	185	Farm
VARIABLE COSTS PER ACRE:¹				
1. Labor	\$ 24.16	\$ 26.46	\$ 28.76	
2. Seed	33.88	38.72	43.56	
3. Herbicide	37.22	37.22	37.22	
4. Insecticide	42.15	42.15	42.15	
5. Fertilizer and Lime	30.80	34.10	36.30	
6. Fuel and Oil — Crop	9.27	10.16	11.04	
7. Fuel and Oil — Pumping ²	54.40	59.84	65.28	
8. Machinery and Equipment Repairs	22.83	25.00	27.18	
9. Irrigation Repairs and Maintenance	6.00	6.60	7.20	
10. Crop Insurance				
11. Drying	15.50	17.00	18.50	
12. Custom Hire ³				
13. Crop Consulting	6.50	6.50	6.50	
14. Miscellaneous	8.00	8.00	8.00	
15. Interest on 1/2 Variable Costs	13.08	14.03	14.93	
A. TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS	\$ 303.79	\$325.77	\$ 346.61	
FIXED COSTS PER ACRE:¹				
16. Real Estate Taxes (including well)	4.34	5.02	5.71	
17. Interest on Land and Well ⁴	52.05	60.27	68.49	
18. Rent for Rented Land ⁵				
19. Depreciation on Crop Machinery	15.34	15.34	15.34	
20. Interest on Crop Machinery ⁶	14.34	14.34	14.34	
21. Depreciation on Irrigation Equipment and Well	62.96	62.96	62.96	
22. Interest on Irrigation Equipment ⁶	18.01	18.01	18.01	
23. Insurance on Machinery and Equipment	1.59	1.59	1.59	
B. TOTAL FIXED COSTS	\$ 168.62	\$177.52	\$ 186.43	
C. TOTAL COSTS (A + B)	\$ 472.41	\$503.30	\$ 533.04	
D. YIELD PER ACRE	155	170	185	
E. PRICE PER BUSHEL⁷	\$ 2.31	\$ 2.31	\$ 2.31	
F. NET GOVERNMENT PAYMENT⁷	\$ 10.72	\$ 11.65	\$ 12.58	
G. INDEMNITY PAYMENTS	\$	\$	\$	
H. MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$	\$	\$	
I. RETURNS PER ACRE [(D × E) + F + G + H]	\$ 368.77	\$404.35	\$ 439.93	
J. RETURNS OVER VARIABLE COSTS (I – A)	\$ 64.98	\$ 78.58	\$ 93.32	
K. RETURNS OVER TOTAL COSTS (I – C)	\$-103.64	\$-98.95	\$-93.11	
L. VARIABLE COSTS PER BUSHEL (A ÷ D)	\$ 1.96	\$ 1.92	\$ 1.87	
M. TOTAL COSTS PER BUSHEL (C ÷ D)	\$ 3.05	\$ 2.96	\$ 2.88	
N. NET RETURN ON INVESTMENT				
[(K+15+17+20+22) ÷ INVESTMENT] ⁸	-0.41%	0.47%	1.27%	

¹Totals were derived using information listed in Table 1. ²See MF-836, "Irrigation Capital Requirements and Energy Costs." ³If using custom hire, adjust lines 6, 8, 19, and 20. ⁴Assumes interest rate shown in Table 1. ⁵If cash rented, insert zero in lines 16 and 17. ⁶Assumes one-half the average investment [(initial investment + salvage value) ÷ 2] at the interest rate shown in Table 1. ⁷See MF-1013 "Prices for Crop and Livestock Cost-Return Budgets" and MF-2236 "Government Program Payments for Crop Cost Return Budgets" for additional information on crop prices and program payments. ⁸Investment equals total value of all fixed assets shown in Table 1.

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