Corn Contest Posts Results

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Percentage of fields recieving a sidedress N fertilizer application: 40%
Average sidedress N application: 102 lbs/A

Percentage of fields recieving a row insecticide:

Previous crop	
corn	60.6%
alfalfa	31.6%
soybeans	36.0%
wheat	40.0%

1994 Pennsylvania Corn Club Budget Summary

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Crop enterprise budgets are an important farm management tool. Budgets summarize the cost of production and the returns from a given crop enterprise. Budgets can be developed as 1) projections prior to planting and 2) after harvest to check the economic performance of the crop enterprise. In this way, budgets can be used to 1) estimate cash flow, 2) provide a basis for credit, 3) assist in farm planning, and 4) develop least cost feed rations. They can also be used to help indicate possible areas of inefficiency on your operation. The information contained in these summaries along with farm specific data can be used to help develop corn cost of production projections for the 1995 growing season. Budgets for other crops on your farm can be developed in a similar manner. Land changes have not been reported in any of the budget summaries. Because land charges (principal and interest payments, taxes, rent) are so variable and location specific, the bottom line has been reported in these summaries as "Returns to Land and Management". When preparing your own budgets, land charges should be included so that all relevant costs are considered when gauging the performance of the crop enterprise. The agricultural value of the land should be used rather than the market value. Market value includes the "development" or "speculative" value of the land, which the corn enterprise should not be expected to cover.

Table 1 contains statewide budget summaries for corn grain. Averages, standard deviations, and ranges are given for each budget item. The standard deviation and range give us an idea of the variability of the budget data. The standard deviation can be used to construct confidence intervals for the average values. We would expect about 68% of all farmers to fall within ± 1 standard deviation of the average, 95% to fall within ± 2 standard deviations, and 99.7% to fall within ± 3 standard deviations. For instance, using the returns to land and management from Table 1, we would expect 68% of the grain farmers to fall between $94.78 and $268.80 per acre. The range gives the lowest and highest values reported for each budget item. Not enough silage budgets were completed this year to have a silage cost of production summary.

Due to the small number of producers participating in the budget program this year, summaries by region, tillage practice, yield level, and soil productivity group were not generated.

Table 1. Grain Budget Summary, Five Acre Corn Club, 1994 Crop Year

	Grain Production Budget Summary (32 records)			
	Average	Standard Deviation	Range Low	Range High
Receipts:				
Yield (bu.)	164.3	32.2	76.0	214.0
Price ($/bu.)	$2.25	$0.13	$2.00	$2.60
Deficiency Payment	$0.06	$0.15	$0.00	$0.53
Gross Returns	$380.52	$83.85	$182.40	$549.02
Variable Costs:				
Seed	$26.39	$4.65	$14.88	$35.00
Fertilizer				
Preplant	$15.48	$16.59	$0.00	$56.79
Starter	$16.00	$9.06	$0.00	$47.50
Sidedress	$5.50	$8.77	$0.00	$30.00
Lime	$8.31	$7.67	$0.00	$30.00
Herbicide	$25.25	$11.29	$11.53	$50.00
Insecticide	$5.06	$6.03	$0.00	$18.00
Machinery Operating	$21.53	$19.00	$0.00	$96.53
Grain Drying	$13.20	$17.74	$0.00	$50.00
Custom Hire	$8.29	$19.91	$0.00	$130.00
Paid Labor	$5.27	$9.01	$0.00	$30.00
Miscellaneous	$2.39	$4.50	$0.00	$18.00
Interest on Operating Captial	$5.32	$4.16	$0.00	$24.62
Total Variable Cost	$157.99	$47.74	$84.68	$310.09
Fixed Costs				
Machinery Ownership	$40.73	$25.09	$0.00	$105.37
Total Specified Costs	$198.73	$52.20	$118.10	$348.51
Returns to Land and Mgt.	$181.79	$87.01	$32.59	$354.78
Breakeven Price ($/bu.)	$1.25	$0.37	$0.74	$1.99
Breakeven Yield (bu./A)	89.0	25.6	47.2	158.4

Note: Land Charges have not been included in the calculations for Breakeven Price or Breakeven Yield
n/a. not applicable

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