2014 Crop Budgets

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The 2014 Nebraska Crop Budgets are complete and are being prepared for publication on the internet. There are 66 different budgets this year, compared to 53 in 2013. Seven of these new budgets are for roundup ready alfalfa. There are also two new corn budgets, a new field pea budget and a new no-till millet budget.

Prices of inputs were generally higher, with some notable exceptions including nitrogen and glyphosate herbicides. Costs of production for crops that use a lot of nitrogen and/or roundup ready technologies were moderated by these price reductions.

At the same time, increased land prices put upward pressure on the cost of production for all crops. Real estate costs are calculated by multiplying the price of land, as determined by the annual Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Survey, times four percent. Another one percent is added for real estate taxes.

Relative price changes between the different forms of nitrogen resulted in major changes being made in pivot irrigated corn budgets. The application of anhydrous ammonia in the spring was replaced with urea ammonium nitrate applied through the pivot system, saving the cost for applying anhydrous.

Another change was how seed was priced, which reduced corn production costs in the budgets. In past years, these budgets have used the listed price for corn seed; even though most producers were getting
discounts. The 2014 budgets use lower seed prices, reflecting these discounts. Increased machinery prices is another input that increased the cost of producing crops. Finally, the 2014 budgets estimate the cost for removing two points of moisture rather than four.

Even with all the savings in the corn budgets mentioned above, the estimated cost for producing a bushel of corn only declined from $4.04 per bushel for pivot irrigated no-till corn in 2013, to $3.98 in 2014. Since nitrogen is generally not applied to soybeans, the cost savings from lower nitrogen prices had no effect. Even though some prices used for inputs for soybeans such as glyphosate were lower, the increased price of land and machinery resulted in the cost per bushel for growing no-till soybeans in a rotation with corn to increase from $9.32 per bushel to $10.07.

Decreased prices for herbicides and nitrogen drove the costs of production for no-till wheat budgets down. The increase in real estate prices for dryland in Western Nebraska were generally more modest than farm land price increases in the east, so the effect of higher land prices was not as pronounced for the wheat budgets. The result is that the estimated production costs for no-till wheat in a fallow system decreased from $5.86 per bushel to $5.25.

The Nebraska Crop Budgets are found online at: http://cropwatch.unl.edu/web/economics/budgets.

They can also be accessed by going through the Cropwatch homepage (http://cropwatch.unl.edu/), and the Department of Agricultural Economics homepage, under publications: http://agecon.unl.edu/.

The budgets can be downloaded in two different formats: as a PDF file or as Excel spreadsheets. The PDF format only permits users to see what has been created. The Excel spreadsheets allow users to change which inputs are used in the budgets, as well as prices.

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