

TABLE 1. Acreage Summary, Lea County,
Actual 2025

BUDGET AREA..... SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS, LEA COUNTY	
FARM SIZE.....	480 ACRES
IRRIGATION TYPE.....	SPRINKLER
NUMBER OF CROPS...	3

ACREAGE SUMMARY:	WATER USE		
	LAND USE (ACRES)	AC.IN. PER AC.	TOTAL AC.IN.
ALFALFA ESTABLISHMENT	21.00	6	126
ALFALFA	125.00	42	5,250
WHEAT	106.25	20	2,125
ARP	0.00		
FLEX IN COTTON	18.75	20	375
COTTON	106.25	20	2,125
ARP	0.00		
FLEX IN COTTON	18.75	20	375
IDLE, FALLOW, ROADS	105.00		
TOTAL	480.00		10,376
ACRE FEET PER ACRE OF WATER RIGHTS			1.80

* DOUBLE-CROPPED

TABLE 2. Basic cost information for Lea County,
Actual 2025

Item			
Labor Wage Rate:			
Equipment operators	\$/hour		\$19.00
General & Irrigators	\$/hour		\$16.90
Purchased Inputs:			
Fertilizer:			
Nitrogen (N)	\$/pound		\$0.92
Phosphate (P205)	\$/pound		\$0.93
Seed:			
Alfalfa	\$/pound		\$4.60
Wheat	\$/pound		\$0.56
Cotton	\$/pound		\$7.00
Electricity (Lea Co Elec Coop)	cents/KwHr		12.08
Natural gas (Gas Co NM)	\$/TCF		\$4.05
Service Charge	\$/month		\$36.40
Diesel fuel	\$/gallon		\$3.33
Gasoline	\$/gallon		\$2.68
LP Gas	\$/gallon		\$6.27
Employee Liability Insurance	\$/ \$1,000 wages		\$20.00
Employee Benefits	percent/wages		18.00%
Labor Downtime	percent		25.00%
Financial Rates:			
Operating Capital Interest Rate	percent		8.75%
Land Interest Rate	percent		7.95%
Equipment Interest Rate	percent		6.45%
Real Interest Rate	percent		1.72%
Land Taxes	\$90.00 /acre (full value)		\$1.01
Personal Property Tax Rate	- NR - R	\$/ \$1,000 (Assessed Value)	\$33.52 \$27.11
Supervision Factors			
Field Crop-Irrigation	\$/labor hour		\$1.00
Field Crop-Equipment & General	\$/labor hour		\$0.50
Management Rate	percent		7.00%

TABLE 3. Overhead cost information for Lea County,
Actual 2025

Item			
Electricity (Domestic & Shop)		\$128.00 per month	\$1,536
Telephone		\$75.00 per month	\$900
Accounting & Legal			\$1,818
Misc. Supplies & Hand Tools			\$2,662
Pickup and Auto			
miles	26,368	@ \$0.700 per mile	\$18,458
Insurance			
- general liability (non-employee)			\$1,965
- fire/theft			\$1,555
Property Taxes			
- non-planted land			\$0
- other than land & machinery			\$6,010
Building repairs and maintenance			\$1,491
Dues, fees, publications			\$448
Farmstead Equipment			\$192
Total			\$37,035
Total per planted acre			\$98.76

TABLE 6. Alfalfa establishment, sprinkler-irrigated, budgeted per acre costs and returns for a 480 acre farm with above average management, Lea County, Actual 2025
Planting dates: August 15 - September 1

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	PURCHASED INPUTS	TOTAL
PURCHASED INPUTS				
SEED	\$4.60	30 LBS	\$138.00	\$138.00
NITROGEN (N)	\$0.92	55 LBS	\$50.81	\$50.81
PHOSPHATE (P205)	\$0.93	140 LBS	\$130.20	\$130.20
PUMP WATER		6 AC. IN.		
SUBTOTAL			\$319.01	\$319.01

PREHARVEST OPERATIONS	POWER UNIT	ACCOMPLISHMENT RATE	PURCHASED INPUTS	LABOR	FUEL & LUBE	REPAIRS	FIXED COST	TOTAL
PLOW	155 HP	0.48 HR		\$9.12	\$14.31	\$4.95	\$9.91	\$38.29
DISC (2X)	155 HP	0.28 HR		\$5.32	\$8.35	\$2.54	\$5.33	\$21.54
FLOAT	155 HP	0.19 HR		\$3.61	\$5.66	\$1.02	\$5.29	\$15.58
FERT SPREADER	126 HP	0.05 HR		\$0.95	\$1.37	\$0.20	\$0.44	\$2.96
DRILL	126 HP	0.18 HR		\$3.42	\$4.94	\$0.90	\$5.14	\$14.40
IRRIGATE (3X)		0.30 HR		\$5.07	\$9.79	\$0.72	\$6.44	\$22.02
SUBTOTAL		1.48 HR		\$27.49	\$44.42	\$10.33	\$32.55	\$114.78

OVERHEAD EXPENSES	ACCOMPLISHMENT RATE	PURCHASED INPUTS	LABOR	TOTAL
DOWNTIME	0.30 HR		\$5.61	\$5.61
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			\$4.95	\$4.95
INSURANCE		\$0.55		\$0.55
SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT			\$31.26	\$31.26
SUBTOTAL	0.30 HR	\$0.55	\$41.81	\$42.36

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		1.78 HR	\$319.56	\$69.30	\$44.42	\$10.33	\$32.55	\$476.15
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TABLE 7. Alfalfa hay, sprinkler-irrigated, budgeted per acre costs and returns for a 480 acre farm with above average management, Lea County, Actual 2025
Harvest dates: May 20 - October 15

ITEM	PRICE	YIELD						TOTAL	
GROSS RETURNS									
ALFALFA HAY	\$245.00	6.00 TONS (STACKED)						\$1,470.00	
TOTAL								\$1,470.00	
PURCHASED INPUTS									
PURCHASED INPUTS	PRICE	QUANTITY	PURCHASED INPUTS					FIXED COST	TOTAL
PHOSPHATE (P2O5)	\$0.93	90 LBS	\$83.70						\$83.70
INSECTICIDE (CUSTOM)	\$14.08	1 ACRE	\$14.08						\$14.08
HERBICIDE	\$12.80	1 ACRE	\$12.80						\$12.80
WIRE	\$0.37	51 LBS	\$19.10						\$19.10
ESTABLISHMENT: Principal		6 YEARS						\$79.36	\$79.36
: Interest								\$24.22	\$24.22
PUMP WATER*		42 AC. IN.							
SUBTOTAL			\$129.68					\$103.58	\$233.26
PREHARVEST OPERATIONS									
	POWER UNIT	ACCOMPLISHMENT RATE	PURCHASED INPUTS	LABOR	FUEL & LUBE	REPAIRS	FIXED COST	TOTAL	
FERT SPREADER	126 HP	0.05 HR		\$0.95	\$1.37	\$0.20	\$0.44	\$2.96	
IRRIGATE		1.40 HR		\$23.66	\$68.52	\$5.07	\$45.06	\$142.31	
SUBTOTAL		1.45 HR		\$24.61	\$69.89	\$5.27	\$45.50	\$145.27	
HARVEST OPERATIONS									
SWATHER (5X)	16 FT SP	0.55 HR		\$10.45	\$6.85	\$0.76	\$30.59	\$48.64	
BALER & ACCUM (5X)	155 HP	1.25 HR		\$23.75	\$37.27	\$6.88	\$20.09	\$87.99	
FRONT END LOADER (5X)	126 HP	1.25 HR		\$23.75	\$34.29	\$8.90	\$13.19	\$80.13	
SUBTOTAL		3.05 HR		\$57.95	\$78.40	\$16.53	\$63.88	\$216.76	
OVERHEAD EXPENSES									
DOWNTIME		0.78 HR		\$14.73				\$14.73	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				\$14.86				\$14.86	
INSURANCE			\$1.65					\$1.65	
LAND TAXES							\$1.01	\$1.01	
SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT				\$105.85				\$105.85	
OTHER EXPENSES			\$98.76					\$98.76	
SUBTOTAL		0.78 HR	\$100.41	\$135.44			\$1.01	\$236.85	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		5.28 HR	\$230.09	\$218.00	\$148.29	\$21.80	\$213.96	\$832.14	
NET OPERATING PROFIT								\$637.86	
INTEREST ON OPERATING CAPITAL		(\$91.54 @ 8.75%)						\$8.01	
INTEREST ON EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT								\$11.79	
RETURN TO LAND AND RISK								\$618.06	

* Pump water costs are shown under irrigation in the preharvest operations section.

BUDGET SUMMARY

GROSS RETURN	\$1,470.00	
VARIABLE OPERATING EXPENSES	\$400.19	
RETURN OVER VARIABLE EXPENSES	\$1,069.81	(GROSS MARGIN)
FIXED EXPENSES	\$213.96	
NET FARM INCOME	\$855.85	(RETURN TO CAPITAL, LABOR, LAND & RISK)
LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COST	\$218.00	
NET OPERATING PROFIT	\$637.86	(RETURN TO CAPITAL, LAND & RISK)
CAPITAL COSTS	\$19.80	
RETURN TO LAND AND RISK	\$618.06	

TABLE 8. Wheat, sprinkler-irrigated, budgeted per acre costs and returns for a 480 acre farm with above average management, Lea County, Actual 2025
 Planting dates: August 15 - October 30
 Harvest dates: June 20 - July 5

ITEM	PRICE	YIELD	BASE	TOTAL
GROSS RETURNS				
WHEAT	\$4.64	48.00 BUSHELS		\$222.72
PROGRAM PAYMENT	\$0.00	48.00 BUSHELS	0.85	\$0.00
PLC PAYMENT	\$0.00			\$0.00
GRAZING	\$50.00	1.00 ACRE		\$50.00
TOTAL				\$272.72

PURCHASED INPUTS	PRICE	QUANTITY	PURCHASED INPUTS	FIXED COST	TOTAL
SEED	0.56	90 LBS	\$50.40		\$50.40
PHOSPHATE (P205)	0.93	70 LBS	\$65.10		\$65.10
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA (NH3)	0.15	200 LBS	\$30.00		\$30.00
PUMP WATER*		20 ACRE IN.			
CROP INSURANCE	0.47		\$0.47		\$0.47
SUBTOTAL			\$145.97		\$145.97

PREHARVEST OPERATIONS	POWER UNIT	ACCOMPLISHMENT RATE	PURCHASED INPUTS	LABOR	FUEL & LUBE	REPAIRS	FIXED COST	TOTAL
CHISEL	155 HP	0.15 HR		\$2.85	\$4.47	\$1.05	\$3.84	\$12.21
DISC	155 HP	0.14 HR		\$2.66	\$4.17	\$1.27	\$2.67	\$10.77
ANNHYDROUS APPL	155 HP	0.17 HR		\$3.23	\$5.07	\$1.03	\$4.31	\$13.64
FERT SPREADER	126 HP	0.05 HR		\$0.95	\$1.37	\$0.20	\$0.44	\$2.96
DISC	155 HP	0.14 HR		\$2.66	\$4.17	\$1.27	\$2.67	\$10.77
DRILL	126 HP	0.18 HR		\$3.42	\$4.94	\$0.90	\$5.14	\$14.40
IRRIGATE (12X)		1.20 HR		\$20.28	\$32.63	\$2.41	\$21.46	\$76.78
SUBTOTAL		2.03 HR		\$36.05	\$56.83	\$8.13	\$40.51	\$141.52

HARVEST OPERATIONS								
COMBINE (CUSTOM)				\$12.67				\$12.67
HAUL (CUSTOM)				\$7.68				\$7.68
SUBTOTAL				\$20.35				\$20.35

OVERHEAD EXPENSES								
DOWNTIME		0.21 HR		\$3.94				\$3.94
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				\$6.49				\$6.49
INSURANCE				\$0.72				\$0.72
LAND TAXES							\$1.01	\$1.01
SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT				\$20.71				\$20.71
OTHER EXPENSES				\$98.76				\$98.76
SUBTOTAL		0.21 HR		\$99.48	\$31.14		\$1.01	\$131.62

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES 2.24 HR \$265.80 \$67.19 \$56.83 \$8.13 \$41.52 \$439.47

NET OPERATING PROFIT (\$166.75)

INTEREST ON OPERATING CAPITAL (\$90.92 @ 8.75%) \$7.96
 INTEREST ON EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT \$3.25

RETURN TO LAND AND RISK (\$177.96)

* Pump water costs are shown under irrigation in the preharvest operations section.

BUDGET SUMMARY

GROSS RETURN		\$272.72	
VARIABLE OPERATING EXPENSES	\$330.76		
RETURN OVER VARIABLE EXPENSES		(\$58.04)	(GROSS MARGIN)
FIXED EXPENSES	\$41.52		
NET FARM INCOME		(\$99.56)	(RETURN TO CAPITAL, LABOR, LAND & RISK)
LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COST	\$67.19		
NET OPERATING PROFIT		(\$166.75)	(RETURN TO CAPITAL, LAND & RISK)
CAPITAL COSTS	\$11.21		
RETURN TO LAND AND RISK		(\$177.96)	

TABLE 9. Upland cotton (stripper), sprinkler-irrigated, budgeted per acre costs and returns for a 480 acre farm with above average management, Lea County, Actual 2025
 Planting dates: May 1 - May 25
 Harvest dates: November 1 - December 15

ITEM	PRICE	YIELD	BASE	TOTAL
GROSS RETURNS				
LINT	\$0.65	595.00 LBS		\$386.75
SEED	\$0.13	952.00 LBS		\$123.76
PROGRAM PAYMENT	\$0.0000	595.00 LBS	0.85	\$0.00
PLC PAYMENT	\$0.3404	675.00 LBS	0.85	\$195.30
TOTAL				\$705.81

PURCHASED INPUTS	PRICE	QUANTITY	PURCHASED INPUTS	FIXED COST	TOTAL
SEED	\$7.00	20 LBS	\$140.00		\$140.00
NITROGEN (N)	\$0.92	32 LBS	\$29.56		\$29.56
PHOSPHATE (P2O5)	\$0.93	40 LBS	\$37.20		\$37.20
INSECTICIDE	\$11.20	1 X/ACRE	\$11.20		\$11.20
HERBICIDE	\$8.00	1 X/ACRE	\$8.00		\$8.00
INSECTICIDE (CUSTOM)	\$11.07	1 X/ACRE	\$11.07		\$11.07
CROP INSURANCE			\$0.35		\$0.35
PUMP WATER*		20 ACRE IN.			
SUBTOTAL			\$237.38		\$237.38

PREHARVEST OPERATIONS	POWER UNIT	ACCOMPLISHMENT RATE	PURCHASED INPUTS	LABOR	FUEL & LUBE	REPAIRS	FIXED COST	TOTAL
PLOW	155 HP	0.48 HR		\$9.12	\$14.31	\$4.95	\$9.91	\$38.29
DISC	155 HP	0.14 HR		\$2.66	\$4.17	\$1.27	\$2.67	\$10.77
FERT SPREADER	126 HP	0.05 HR		\$0.95	\$1.37	\$0.20	\$0.44	\$2.96
DISC	155 HP	0.14 HR		\$2.66	\$4.17	\$1.27	\$2.67	\$10.77
PRE-IRRIGATE		0.10 HR		\$1.69	\$4.08	\$0.30	\$2.68	\$8.75
PLANTER	155 HP	0.17 HR		\$3.23	\$5.07	\$1.26	\$8.51	\$18.06
CULTIVATOR (3X)	126 HP	0.39 HR		\$7.41	\$10.70	\$2.99	\$6.42	\$27.53
HOE (CUSTOM 2X)			\$20.00					\$20.00
IRRIGATE (7X)		0.70 HR		\$11.83	\$28.55	\$2.11	\$18.78	\$61.27
SUBTOTAL		2.17 HR	\$20.00	\$39.55	\$72.42	\$14.35	\$52.07	\$198.40

HARVEST OPERATIONS								
COTTON STRIPPER	126 HP	0.62 HR		\$11.78	\$17.01	\$3.03	\$11.20	\$43.01
MODULE BUILDER	155 HP	0.62 HR		\$11.78	\$18.48	\$7.93	\$16.31	\$54.50
GIN COTTON (CUSTOM)			\$111.98					\$111.98
SUBTOTAL		1.24 HR	\$111.98	\$23.56	\$35.49	\$10.95	\$27.51	\$209.49

POSTHARVEST OPERATIONS								
SHREDDER	155 HP	0.14 HR		\$2.66	\$4.17	\$0.80	\$4.38	\$12.02

OVERHEAD EXPENSES								
DOWNTIME		0.68 HR		\$12.83				\$12.83
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				\$11.84				\$11.84
INSURANCE			\$1.32					\$1.32
LAND TAXES						\$1.01		\$1.01
SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT				\$51.56				\$51.56
OTHER EXPENSES			\$98.76					\$98.76
SUBTOTAL		0.68 HR	\$100.07	\$76.22		\$1.01		\$177.30

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		4.23 HR	\$469.44	\$141.99	\$112.09	\$26.11	\$84.97	\$834.59
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NET OPERATING PROFIT								(\$128.78)
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INTEREST ON OPERATING CAPITAL		(\$154.83 @	8.75%)				\$13.55
INTEREST ON EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT								\$8.81

RETURN TO LAND AND RISK								(\$151.14)
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* Pump water costs are shown under irrigation in the preharvest operations section.

BUDGET SUMMARY

GROSS RETURN		\$705.81	
VARIABLE OPERATING EXPENSES	\$607.63		
RETURN OVER VARIABLE EXPENSES	\$98.18	(GROSS MARGIN)	
FIXED EXPENSES	\$84.97		
NET FARM INCOME	\$13.21	(RETURN TO CAPITAL, LABOR, LAND & RISK)	
LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COST	\$141.99		
NET OPERATING PROFIT	(\$128.78)	(RETURN TO CAPITAL, LAND & RISK)	
CAPITAL COSTS	\$22.36		
RETURN TO LAND AND RISK		(\$151.14)	

TABLE 10. Summary of per acre costs and returns for a 480 acre farm with above average management, Lea County, Actual 2025

	ALFALFA ESTABLISHMENT	ALFALFA HAY	WHEAT	STRIPPER COTTON
		TONS	BU	LBS
PRIMARY YIELD		6.00	48.00	595.00
PRIMARY PRICE		\$245.00	\$4.64	\$0.65
GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$195.30
SECOND INCOME		\$0.00	\$50.00	\$123.76
GROSS RETURN		\$1,470.00	\$272.72	\$705.81
CASH OPERATING EXPENSES				
SEED	\$138.00		\$50.40	\$140.00
FERTILIZER	\$181.01	\$83.70	\$95.10	\$66.76
CHEMICALS		\$26.88		\$30.27
CROP INSURANCE			\$0.47	\$0.35
OTHER PURCHASED INPUTS		\$19.10		
CANAL WATER				
FUEL, OIL & LUBRICANTS-EQUIPMENT	\$34.63	\$79.77	\$24.20	\$79.46
FUEL-IRRIGATION	\$9.79	\$68.52	\$32.63	\$32.63
REPAIRS	\$10.33	\$21.80	\$8.13	\$26.11
CUSTOM CHARGES			\$20.35	\$131.98
LAND TAXES		\$1.01	\$1.01	\$1.01
OTHER EXPENSES	\$0.55	\$100.41	\$99.48	\$100.07
TOTAL CASH EXPENSES	\$374.31	\$401.19	\$331.77	\$608.64
RETURN OVER CASH EXPENSES	(\$374.31)	\$1,068.81	(\$59.05)	\$97.18
FIXED EXPENSES	\$32.55	\$212.96	\$40.51	\$83.96
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$406.86	\$614.15	\$372.28	\$692.60
RETURNS TO CAPITAL, LABOR, LAND & RISK	(\$406.86)	\$855.85	(\$99.56)	\$13.21
LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COSTS	\$69.30	\$218.00	\$67.19	\$141.99
RETURNS TO CAPITAL, LAND & RISK	(\$476.15)	\$637.86	(\$166.75)	(\$128.78)
CAPITAL COSTS				
INTEREST ON OPERATING CAPITAL		\$8.01	\$7.96	\$13.55
INTEREST ON EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT		\$11.79	\$3.25	\$8.81
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS	\$0.00	\$19.80	\$11.21	\$22.36
RETURN TO LAND AND RISK	(\$476.15)	\$618.06	(\$177.96)	(\$151.14)

TABLE 11. Whole farm summary, Lea County,
Actual 2025

GROSS RETURNS		
ALFALFA HAY	125.00 ACRES	
CROP		\$183,750
WHEAT	106.25 ACRES	
CROP		\$23,664
GRAZING		\$5,313
PROGRAM PAYMENT		\$0
PLC PAYMENT		\$0
COTTON	143.75 ACRES	
LINT		\$55,595
SEED		\$17,791
PROGRAM PAYMENT		\$0
PLC PAYMENT		\$28,075
GROSS RETURN		\$314,187
CASH OPERATING EXPENSES		
SEED		\$28,378
FERTILIZER		\$33,966
CHEMICALS		\$7,712
CROP INSURANCE		\$100
OTHER PURCHASED INPUTS		\$2,388
CANAL WATER		\$0
FUEL, OIL & LUBRICANTS-EQUIPMENT		\$24,692
FUEL-IRRIGATION		\$16,928
REPAIRS		\$7,559
CUSTOM CHARGES		\$21,134
LAND TAXES		\$377
OTHER EXPENSES		\$37,518
TOTAL CASH EXPENSES		\$180,752
RETURN OVER CASH EXPENSES		\$133,436
FIXED EXPENSES		\$33,757
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$214,509
NET FARM INCOME		\$99,678
LABOR AND MANAGEMENT COSTS		\$56,255
NET OPERATING PROFIT		\$43,424
CAPITAL COSTS		
INTEREST ON OPERATING CAPITAL		\$3,794
INTEREST ON EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT		\$3,086
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS		\$6,880
RETURN TO LAND AND RISK		\$36,543

LAND VALUE	RETURN TO RISK*	RETURN ON INVESTMENT**
\$500 /ACRE	\$32,427	9.38%
\$700 /ACRE	\$30,781	7.77%
\$900 /ACRE	\$29,135	6.63%
\$1,100 /ACRE	\$27,488	5.78%
\$1,300 /ACRE	\$25,842	5.13%
\$1,500 /ACRE	\$24,195	4.61%

* RETURN TO LAND AND RISK MINUS (INTEREST RATE TIMES LAND VALUE TIMES ACREAGE)

** NET OPERATING PROFIT DIVIDED BY (MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT VALUE PLUS LAND VALUE)