2015 Projected Crop Cost and Return Estimates, Artesia-Lake Arthur

Flood-Irrigated Farms

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Cost and return estimates for irrigated crops in the Artesia-Lake Arthur area of Eddy and Chaves Counties are presented in this report. These estimates were gathered from a panel of local producers, state and federal agency personnel, and others interested in crop production. They are estimates for a representative farm with above-average management. These estimates will not fit any particular farm and should be adjusted to match individual businesses and operating conditions.

The representative farm contains 500 acres. The crops grown are:

Alfalfa
Barley
Oat Hay
Cotton
Red Chile

Primary Information Tables

Table 1 lists the basic cost assumptions for primary inputs.

Table 2 shows well and pump characteristics and pumping costs for four fuel types. Tables 4 through 10 assume the use of natural gas as the primary fuel source for 7 shallow wells, but irrigation costs can be modified by substituting the costs per acre-inch listed at the bottom of Table 2.

Table 3 lists the machinery complement for this representative farm. It also lists the hours of annual use, number, current market value and associated costs for each item. All machinery is assumed to be used; large tractor units are approximately one to seven years old; small tractor units average about 15 to 20 years of age; tillage, irrigation and miscellaneous equipment is seven years old on average; and harvest and planting equipment and trucks were assumed to be about five years old.

Individual Crop Estimates

Tables 4 through 11 are the cost and return estimates for the individual crops. Definitions and methods are explained on the backside of this page.

Summaries

Table 12 is a side-by-side summary of the individual crop estimates. Table 13 pulls together all of the individual estimates into a whole-farm summary.

The last three tables in this report show the pump costs for 3 artesian wells as well as the associated summary tables for an artesian water source.

Further Explanation and Other Estimates

The final two pages of this report provide a glossary of the terms used and a few ideas about how to modify these budgets to better fit your farm.
Contact your County Extension Agent or an Extension Farm Management Specialist at NMSU for a complete list of available crop cost and return estimates.

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