
Estimated Costs of Crop Production in Iowa—2022

The estimated costs of corn, corn silage, soybeans, alfalfa, and pasture maintenance in this report are based on data from several sources. They include the annual Iowa Farm Business Association record summaries, production and costs data from the Departments of Economics, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, and Agronomy at Iowa State University, and a survey of selected agricultural cooperatives and other input suppliers around the state.

These cost estimates intend to represent average costs for farms in Iowa. Very large or small farms may have lower or higher fixed costs per acre.

Due to differences in soil potentials, quantity of inputs used, and other factors, production costs will vary from farm to farm. Price shifts for inputs can change production costs in both the short and long run. The data reflect average cost of purchased inputs and a return to land and labor resources, but do not provide a margin for profit or a return to management. They reflect production costs only, and do not include costs of storage.

Labor has been treated as a fixed cost because most labor on Iowa farms is supplied by the operator, family, or permanent hired labor. However, when deciding among alternative crops, labor should be considered a variable cost. The wage rate used here is \$17.00 per hour. The hours assumed per crop are presented in the budgets. The hours per crop acre include not only the field work but also time for maintenance, travel, and other activities related to crop production. The land charge is based on cash rent equivalent¹. Owned land may require a greater or lesser cash outlay.

In the short run, cash income must be sufficient to pay cash costs, including seed, fertilizer, chemicals, insurance, cash rent, and hired labor, as well as machinery fuel and repairs, and interest on operating capital. In the long run, income should be sufficient to pay all costs of production for resources to be used in their most profitable alternative.

¹The cash rent used in this report corresponds to last year's average cash rents for the state of Iowa (AgDM File C2-10). Readers are advised to adjust land costs to reflect their own situation.

Starting in 2019, reference yields for corn and soybeans budgets reflect 30-year trend yields and are updated annually. Corn yields reflect rotation effects. Fertilizer rates have been adjusted to reflect current data on removal and application rates. Starting in 2021, nitrogen rates on corn budgets reflect recommendations from the [Corn Nitrogen Calculator](http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu), cnrc.agron.iastate.edu. For 2022, the projected corn to nitrogen price ratio is 6.67. Crop insurance costs reflect revenue crop protection at 80% coverage for a typical farm in Central Iowa. Starting in 2020, the average cost of lime is adjusted to account for regional differences in lime application practices (ag lime quality, quantity, and frequency of application).

Machinery costs reflect both new and used equipment. The machine operations assumed are based on the 2016 Crop Production Practices Survey conducted by the Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach publication PM 696: [Estimating the Field Capacity of Farm Machines](http://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4032), store.extension.iastate.edu/product/4032. In 2022, machinery costs were adjusted to reflect the 7% increase between 2016 and 2020 reported by [USDA Economic Research Service](https://www.usda.gov/economic-research-service), bit.ly/3FnMw94, in the budget line “Capital recovery of machinery and equipment” for corn production in the Heartland Region.

Estimates represent typical costs and are only intended to be guidelines. Actual costs will vary considerably and can be entered in the column for “Your Estimates.” Decision Tool spreadsheets for developing crop production budgets are available on the [Ag Decision Maker](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm) website, www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm.

Budgets for alfalfa hay establishment with an oat companion crop and by direct seeding are included in this publication. Annual production costs for established alfalfa or alfalfa-grass hay as well as a budget for maintaining grass pastures are included.

Two low-till budgets, one for corn and one for soybeans, are included. The major differences between the low-till and conventional budgets are the preharvest machinery, labor, herbicide, and seeding costs. The soybean budgets are for herbicide tolerant varieties. A strip-till budget is also included.

Corn Following Corn

	162 bushels per acre		180 bushels per acre		198 bushels per acre		Your Estimate
	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	
Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$24.80	\$22.50	\$24.80	\$22.50	\$24.80	\$22.50	\$
Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units		Units		Units		
Seed @ \$3.56 per 1000 kernels	28,000	\$99.68	30,000	\$106.80	35,000	\$124.60	\$
Nitrogen @ \$0.72 per pound	158	113.76	171	123.12	184	132.48	
Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	61	37.82	68	42.16	74	45.88	
Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	49	27.44	54	30.24	59	33.04	
Lime (yearly cost)		8.60		8.60		8.60	
Herbicide		39.40		39.40		39.40	
Insecticide		22.33		22.33		22.33	
Crop insurance		14.90		16.40		17.70	
Miscellaneous		9.90		11.00		12.10	
Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		14.53		15.49		16.82	
Total		\$388.37		\$415.55		\$452.95	\$
Harvest Machinery							
Combine	\$14.00	\$7.10	\$14.00	\$7.10	\$14.00	\$7.10	\$
Grain cart	6.70	3.20	6.70	3.20	6.70	3.20	
Haul	7.45	6.48	8.28	7.20	9.11	7.92	
Dry (LP gas @ \$1.70 per gallon)	8.10	33.05	9.00	36.72	9.90	40.39	
Handle (auger)	3.03	3.32	3.37	3.69	3.70	4.06	
Total	\$39.28	\$53.15	\$41.35	\$57.91	\$43.41	\$62.67	\$
Labor							
2.80 hours @ \$17.00	\$47.60		\$47.60		\$47.60		\$
Land							
Cash rent equivalent	\$197.00		\$232.00		\$267.00		\$
Total fixed, variable							
Per acre	\$308.68	\$464.02	\$345.75	\$495.96	\$382.81	\$538.12	Yield: bushels per acre
Per bushel	\$1.91	\$2.86	\$1.92	\$2.76	\$1.93	\$2.72	
Total cost per acre	\$772.70		\$841.70		\$920.93		\$
Total cost per bushel	\$4.77		\$4.68		\$4.65		\$

^{1/}Chisel plow, tandem disk, apply Nitrogen, field cultivate, plant, and spray. See the Estimated Machinery Costs table.

Corn Following Soybeans

	178 bushels per acre		198 bushels per acre		218 bushels per acre		Your Estimate
	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	
Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$21.00	\$18.40	\$21.00	\$18.40	\$21.00	\$18.40	\$
Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units		Units		Units		
Seed @ \$3.56 per 1000 kernels	28,000	\$99.68	30,000	\$106.80	35,000	\$124.60	\$
Nitrogen @ \$0.72 per pound	114	82.08	124	89.28	135	97.20	
Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	67	41.54	74	45.88	82	50.84	
Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	53	29.68	59	33.04	65	36.40	
Lime (yearly cost)		8.60		8.60		8.60	
Herbicide		39.40		39.40		39.40	
Crop insurance		14.90		16.40		17.70	
Miscellaneous		9.90		11.00		12.10	
Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		12.62		13.52		14.86	
Total		\$338.40		\$363.93		\$401.70	\$
Harvest Machinery							
Combine	\$14.00	\$7.10	\$14.00	\$7.10	\$14.00	\$7.10	\$
Grain cart	6.70	3.20	6.70	3.20	6.70	3.20	
Haul	8.19	7.12	9.11	7.92	10.03	8.72	
Dry (LP gas @ \$1.70 per gallon)	8.90	36.31	9.90	40.39	10.90	44.47	
Handle (auger)	3.33	3.65	3.70	4.06	4.08	4.47	
Total	\$41.12	\$57.38	\$43.41	\$62.67	\$45.70	\$67.96	\$
Labor							
2.55 hours @ \$17.00	\$43.35		\$43.35		\$43.35		\$
Land							
Cash rent equivalent	\$197.00		\$232.00		\$267.00		\$
Total fixed, variable							
Per acre	\$302.47	\$414.19	\$339.76	\$445.00	\$377.05	\$488.06	Yield: bushels per acre
Per bushel	\$1.70	\$2.33	\$1.72	\$2.25	\$1.73	\$2.24	
Total cost per acre	\$716.65		\$784.76		\$865.12		\$
Total cost per bushel	\$4.03		\$3.96		\$3.97		\$

^{1/}Apply Nitrogen, tandem disk, field cultivate, plant, and spray. See the Estimated Machinery Costs table.

Corn Silage Following Corn

	21 tons per acre		24 tons per acre		26 tons per acre		Your Estimate
	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	
Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$24.80	\$22.50	\$24.80	\$22.50	\$24.80	\$22.50	\$
Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units		Units		Units		
Seed @ \$3.56 per 1000 kernels	32,200	\$114.63	34,500	\$122.82	40,250	\$143.29	\$
Nitrogen @ \$0.72 per pound	150	108.00	150	108.00	150	108.00	
Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	74	45.88	84	52.08	91	56.42	
Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	168	94.08	192	107.52	208	116.48	
Lime (yearly cost)		8.60		8.60		8.60	
Herbicide		39.40		39.40		39.40	
Insecticide		22.33		22.33		22.33	
Crop insurance		14.90		16.40		17.70	
Miscellaneous		9.90		11.00		12.10	
Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		17.61		18.72		20.05	
Total		\$475.33		\$506.88		\$544.37	\$
Harvest Machinery							
Silage harvester	\$52.70	\$32.90	\$52.70	\$32.90	\$52.70	\$32.90	\$
Haul	30.03	28.14	34.32	32.16	37.18	34.84	
Store silage (unloader)	9.45	2.94	10.80	3.36	11.70	3.64	
Total	\$92.18	\$63.98	\$97.82	\$68.42	\$101.58	\$71.38	\$
Labor							
4.95 hours @ \$17.00	\$84.15		\$84.15		\$84.15		\$
Land							
Cash rent equivalent	\$197.00		\$232.00		\$267.00		\$
Total fixed, variable							
Per acre	\$398.13	\$561.81	\$438.77	\$597.80	\$477.53	\$638.25	Yield: tons per acre
Per ton	\$18.96	\$26.75	\$18.28	\$24.91	\$18.37	\$24.55	
Total cost per acre	\$959.94		\$1,036.57		\$1,115.78		\$
Total cost per ton	\$45.71		\$43.19		\$42.91		\$

^{1/} Chisel plow, tandem disk, apply Nitrogen, field cultivate, plant, and spray. See the Estimated Machinery Costs table.

Herbicide Tolerant Soybeans Following Corn

	51 bushels per acre		57 bushels per acre		63 bushels per acre		Your Estimate
	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	
Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$22.60	\$19.90	\$22.60	\$19.90	\$22.60	\$19.90	\$
Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units		Units		Units		
Seed @ \$58.20 per 140,000 kernels	140,000	\$58.20	140,000	\$58.20	140,000	\$58.20	\$
Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	41	25.42	46	28.52	50	31.00	
Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	77	43.12	86	48.16	95	53.20	
Lime (yearly cost)		8.60		8.60		8.60	
Herbicide		53.00		53.00		53.00	
Crop insurance		14.50		16.40		17.90	
Miscellaneous		9.90		11.00		12.10	
Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		8.53		8.94		9.31	
Total		\$221.27		\$232.82		\$243.31	\$
Harvest Machinery							
Combine	\$8.90	\$4.30	\$8.90	\$4.30	\$8.90	\$4.30	\$
Grain cart	6.70	3.20	6.70	3.20	6.70	3.20	
Haul	2.35	2.04	2.62	2.28	2.90	2.52	
Handle (auger)	0.95	1.05	1.07	1.17	1.18	1.29	
Total	\$18.90	\$10.59	\$19.29	\$10.95	\$19.68	\$11.31	\$
Labor							
2.20 hours @ \$17.00	\$37.40		\$37.40		\$37.40		\$
Land							
Cash rent equivalent	\$197.00		\$232.00		\$267.00		\$
Total fixed, variable							
Per acre	\$275.90	\$251.76	\$311.29	\$263.67	\$346.68	\$274.53	Yield: bushels per acre
Per bushel	\$5.41	\$4.94	\$5.46	\$4.63	\$5.50	\$4.36	
Total cost per acre	\$527.66		\$574.96		\$621.20		\$
Total cost per bushel	\$10.35		\$10.09		\$9.86		\$

^{1/} Chisel plow, tandem disk, field cultivate, plant, and two sprays. See the Estimated Machinery Costs table.

^{2/} Estimates do not include any insecticide or fungicide costs.

Strip Tillage Corn and Soybeans

Corn Following Soybeans				Herbicide Tolerant Soybeans Following Corn			
	198 bushels per acre		Your Estimate		57 bushels per acre		Your Estimate
	Fixed	Variable			Fixed	Variable	
Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$11.80	\$10.40	\$	Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$14.40	\$12.30	\$
Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units			Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units		
Seed @ \$3.56 per 1000 kernels	30,000	\$106.80	\$	Seed @ \$58.20 per 140,000 kernels	160,000	\$66.51	\$
Nitrogen @ \$0.72 per pound	124	89.28					
Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	74	45.88		Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	46	28.52	
Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	59	33.04		Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	86	48.16	
Lime (yearly cost)		8.60		Lime (yearly cost)		8.60	
Herbicide ^{2/}		48.50		Herbicide ^{2/}		65.00	
Crop insurance		16.40		Crop insurance		16.40	
Miscellaneous		11.00		Miscellaneous		11.00	
Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		13.56		Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		9.40	
Total		\$373.07	\$	Total		\$253.60	\$
Harvest Machinery							
Combine	\$14.00	\$7.10	\$	Combine	\$8.90	\$4.30	\$
Grain cart	6.70	3.20		Grain cart	6.70	3.20	
Haul	9.11	7.92		Haul	2.62	2.28	
Dry (LP gas @ \$1.70 per gallon)	9.90	40.39					
Handle (auger)	3.70	4.06		Handle (auger)	1.07	1.17	
Total	\$43.41	\$62.67	\$	Total	\$19.29	\$10.95	\$
Labor							
2.25 hours @ \$17.00	\$38.25		\$	1.70 hours @ \$17.00	\$28.90		\$
Land							
Cash rent equivalent	\$232.00		\$	Cash rent equivalent	\$232.00		\$
Total fixed, variable							
Per acre	\$325.46	\$446.14	Yield: bushels per acre	Per acre	\$294.59	\$276.85	Yield: bushels per acre
Per bushel	\$1.64	\$2.25		Per bushel	\$5.17	\$4.86	
Total cost per acre	\$771.60		\$	Total cost per acre	\$571.44		\$
Total cost per bushel	\$3.90		\$	Total cost per bushel	\$10.03		\$

^{1/} Strip till, plant, and spray for corn. No-till drill, two sprays for soybeans. See the Estimated Machinery Costs table.

^{2/} Estimates do not include any insecticide or fungicide costs.

Non-Herbicide Tolerant Soybeans Following Corn

	Soybeans Following Corn			Drilled Soybeans Following Corn		
	57 bushels per acre		Your Estimate	57 bushels per acre		Your Estimate
	Fixed	Variable		Fixed	Variable	
Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$23.00	\$20.20	\$	\$19.80	\$16.70	\$
Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units			Units		
Seed @ \$48.00 per 140,000 kernels	130,000	\$44.60	\$	150,000	\$51.40	\$
Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	46	28.52		46	28.52	
Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	86	48.16		86	48.16	
Lime (yearly cost)		8.60			8.60	
Herbicide ^{2/}		60.00			65.00	
Crop insurance		16.40			16.40	
Miscellaneous		11.00			11.00	
Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		8.71			9.01	
Total		\$225.99	\$		\$238.10	\$
Harvest Machinery						
Combine	\$8.90	\$4.30	\$	\$8.90	\$4.30	\$
Grain cart	6.70	3.20		6.70	3.20	
Haul	2.62	2.28		2.62	2.28	
Handle (auger)	1.07	1.17		1.07	1.17	
Total	\$19.29	\$10.95	\$	\$19.29	\$10.95	\$
Labor						
2.40 hours @ \$17.00	\$40.80		\$			
1.72 hours @ \$17.00				\$29.24		\$
Land						
Cash rent equivalent	\$232.00		\$	\$232.00		\$
Total fixed, variable						
Per acre	\$315.09	\$257.14		\$300.33	\$265.74	
Per bushel	\$5.53	\$4.51	Yield: bushels per acre	\$5.27	\$4.66	Yield: bushels per acre
Total cost per acre	\$572.23		\$	\$566.07		\$
Total cost per bushel	\$10.04		\$	\$9.93		\$

^{1/}Chisel plow, tandem disk, field cultivate, plant, cultivate, and spray.

Tandem disk, field cultivate, drill, and spray for drilled soybeans. See the Estimated Machinery Costs table.

^{2/}Estimates do not include any insecticide or fungicide costs.

Low-till Corn and Soybeans

Corn Following Soybeans				Herbicide Tolerant Drilled Soybeans Following Corn			
	198 bushels per acre		Your Estimate		57 bushels per acre		Your Estimate
	Fixed	Variable			Fixed	Variable	
Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$16.10	\$14.80	\$	Preharvest Machinery ^{1/}	\$14.50	\$12.10	\$
Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units			Seed, Chemical, etc.	Units		
Seed @ \$3.56 per 1000 kernels	30,000	\$106.80	\$	Seed @ \$58.20 per 140,000 kernels	160,000	\$66.51	\$
Nitrogen @ \$0.72 per pound	124	89.28					
Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	74	45.88		Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	46	28.52	
Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	59	33.04		Potash @ \$0.56 per pound	86	48.16	
Lime (yearly cost)		8.60		Lime (yearly cost)		8.60	
Herbicide ^{2/}		48.50		Herbicide ^{2/}		65.00	
Crop insurance		16.40		Crop insurance		16.40	
Miscellaneous		11.00		Miscellaneous		11.00	
Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		13.72		Interest on preharvest variable costs (8 months @ 5.5%)		9.40	
Total		\$373.23	\$	Total		\$253.60	\$
Harvest Machinery							
Combine	\$14.00	\$7.10	\$	Combine	\$8.90	\$4.30	\$
Grain cart	6.70	3.20		Grain cart	6.70	3.20	
Haul	9.11	7.92		Haul	2.62	2.28	
Dry (LP gas @ \$1.70 per gallon)	9.90	40.39					
Handle (auger)	3.70	4.06		Handle (auger)	1.07	1.17	
Total	\$43.41	\$62.67	\$	Total	\$19.29	\$10.95	\$
Labor							
2.25 hours @ \$17.00	\$38.25		\$	1.70 hours @ \$17.00	\$28.90		\$
Land							
Cash rent equivalent	\$232.00		\$	Cash rent equivalent	\$232.00		\$
Total fixed, variable							
Per acre	\$329.76	\$450.70	Yield: bushels per acre	Per acre	\$294.69	\$276.64	Yield: bushels per acre
Per bushel	\$1.67	\$2.28		Per bushel	\$5.17	\$4.85	
Total cost per acre	\$780.46		\$	Total cost per acre	\$571.33		\$
Total cost per bushel	\$3.94		\$	Total cost per bushel	\$10.02		\$

^{1/} Apply Nitrogen, cultivate, plant, and spray for corn. Disk, drill, and spray for soybeans. See the Estimated Machinery Costs table.

^{2/} Estimates do not include any insecticide or fungicide costs.

Oats and Hay Production-Seeding Year Costs

Establishment Costs	Alfalfa-Grass Seeded with Oat Companion Crop ^{1/}		Alfalfa Seeded with Herbicide ^{2/}		Your Estimate	
	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable		
Preharvest Machinery						
Spray herbicide			\$2.40	\$2.10	\$	
Tandem disk (2 times)	\$9.80	\$7.20	9.80	7.20		
Spread fertilizer	2.10	1.70	2.10	1.70		
Harrow	2.20	1.60	2.20	1.60		
Seed (drill)	4.80	4.30	4.80	4.30		
Total preharvest machinery	\$18.90	\$14.80	\$21.30	\$16.90	\$	
Seed ^{3/}						
Oats	2 bushels	\$26.50	15 pounds	\$85.50	\$	
Alfalfa	8 pounds	45.60				
Bromegrass	6 pounds	22.86				
Orchardgrass	3 pounds	13.50				
Total seed cost		\$108.45		\$85.50	\$	
Herbicide				\$18.20	\$	
Lime (total cost for hay lifetime)		\$48.00		48.00		
Labor: 1 hour @ \$17.00	\$17.00		\$17.00		\$	
Total establishment costs	\$35.90	\$171.25	\$38.30	\$168.60	\$	
Annual Costs	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	Your Estimate	
One-third of Establishment Costs (for establishment year)	\$11.97	\$57.08	\$12.77	\$56.20	\$	
Fertilizer						
Nitrogen	60 pounds	\$43.20	35 pounds	\$21.70	\$	
Phosphorus	45 pounds	27.90				
Potash	130 pounds	72.80			125 pounds	70.00
Total fertilizer		\$143.90		\$91.70	\$	
Insurance, oats		\$2.70			\$	
Labor @ \$17.00	4 hours	\$68.00	3 hours	\$51.00	\$	
Land: Cash rent equivalent	\$133.00		\$133.00		\$	
Harvest Machinery						
Oats: combine and haul grain	\$11.68	\$6.50	\$40.60	\$31.87	\$	
Oats: rake, bale, and haul straw	12.95	9.91				
Alfalfa: mower-conditioner, rake, bale, and haul hay	19.80	15.17				
Total harvest cost	\$44.43	\$31.57	\$40.60	\$31.87	\$	
Total fixed and variable costs	\$257.40	\$235.26	\$237.37	\$179.77	\$	
Total cost per acre	\$492.66		\$417.13		\$	

^{1/} Assumes 80 bushels oat yield, one ton straw yield, and one ton per acre alfalfa yield from one cutting.

^{2/} Assumes two and a half tons per acre from two alfalfa cuttings with herbicide-assisted seeding.

^{3/} Omit oats from August seedings. Higher priced seed varieties or different seed mixtures could vary these costs by 1.2 to 2.0 times.

Annual Production Costs for Established Alfalfa or Alfalfa-Grass Hay

	Hay Production Level				Your Estimate
	4 tons per acre ^{1/}		6 tons per acre ^{1/}		
	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	
One-third of establishment costs					
Machinery, seed, lime, labor, and herbicide ^{2/}	\$11.97	\$57.08	\$12.77	\$56.20	\$
Annual fertilizer ^{3/}					
0-13-50 pounds per ton removed plus spreading and insurance	\$2.10	\$149.14	\$4.20	\$224.56	\$
Harvesting Costs: Large Round Bales ^{4/}					
Mower-conditioner, rake, baling, and hauling	\$61.40	\$48.57	\$83.20	\$66.80	\$
Labor costs: 1.33 hours per cutting @ \$17.00 per hour	\$68.00		\$90.67		\$
Land: Cash rent equivalent	\$133.00		\$174.00		\$
Total fixed and variable cost using large round bales per acre	\$276.47	\$254.79	\$364.83	\$347.56	\$
Fixed, variable cost per ton	\$69.12	\$63.70	\$60.81	\$57.93	\$
Total cost per acre	\$531.26		\$712.39		\$
Total cost per ton	\$132.81		\$118.73		\$
Harvesting Costs: Small Square Bales ^{4/}					
Mower-conditioner, rake, baling, haul and stack	\$58.42	\$46.53	\$79.32	\$64.25	\$
Labor costs: 2 hours per cutting @ \$17.00 per hour	\$102.00		\$136.00		\$
Land: Cash rent equivalent	\$133.00		\$174.00		\$
Total fixed and variable cost using small square bales per acre	\$307.48	\$252.75	\$406.29	\$345.01	\$
Fixed, variable cost per ton	\$76.87	\$63.19	\$67.71	\$57.50	\$
Total cost per acre	\$560.24		\$751.30		\$
Total cost per ton	\$140.06		\$125.22		\$

^{1/} For harvest as silage, use machine cost estimates from the Estimated Machinery Costs table.

^{2/} Assumes alfalfa-grass seeded with oat companion crop. If alfalfa seeded with preplant herbicide, then use other costs (see previous page).

^{3/} For 6-ton yield goal, a split application of fertilizer is assumed.

^{4/} Harvest cost estimates assume 3 cuttings for 4 tons and 4 cuttings for 6 tons.

Maintaining Grass Pastures - Annual Cost per Acre

	Improved Grass ^{2/}		Improved Grass-Legume ^{3/}		Your Estimate
	Fixed	Variable	Fixed	Variable	
Machinery Costs					
Spreading fertilizer	\$2.10	\$1.70	\$2.10	\$1.70	\$
Spraying herbicide	2.40	2.10			
Clipping weeds	7.00	4.40	7.00	4.40	
Total machinery cost	\$11.50	\$8.20	\$9.10	\$6.10	\$
Fertilizer and Herbicide ^{1/}					
Nitrogen @ \$0.72 per pound	80 pounds	\$57.60			\$
Phosphate @ \$0.62 per pound	30 pounds	18.60	30 pounds	\$18.60	
Potash @ \$0.56 per pound			40 pounds	22.40	
Herbicide		5.00			
Total fertilizer and herbicide		\$81.20		\$41.00	\$
Labor					
Growing practices .5 hours @ \$17.00	\$8.50		\$8.50		\$
Fence maintenance 1 hours @ \$17.00	17.00		17.00		
Total labor	\$25.50		\$25.50		\$
Land					
Cash rent equivalent	\$55.00		\$79.00		\$
Total annual cost	\$92.00	\$89.40	\$113.60	\$47.10	\$
Total annual cost per acre		\$181.40		\$160.70	\$

^{1/} These are average rates and may vary with soil test and the level of management on a particular field. Different herbicide alternatives could vary this cost.

^{2/} Improved grass pastures assume a dominance of cool season grasses such as smooth brome grass, orchard grass, tall fescue, or reed canary grass.

^{3/} Improved grass-legume pasture assumed one-third of the forage is made up of red clover, birdsfoot trefoil, or alfalfa.

Estimated Machinery Costs

The following cost estimates are for on-farm use, excluding labor. Depreciation is based on current replacement cost; interest is based on average market rates. Fixed costs will be greater for newer machinery. If annual machine use is greater than that assumed, fixed costs per acre will be lower, and vice versa. Hauling costs are based on a round trip of one mile. Remember these are estimates and they should not take the place of accurate record-keeping. **Diesel fuel is estimated to cost \$2.62 per gallon, delivered to the farm in bulk.**

Operation	Hours of Use Assumed per Year	Fixed Cost per Acre (depreciation, interest, insurance, housing)	Variable Cost per Acre (fuel, oil, repairs)
Subsoiling (V-ripper)	120	\$6.70	\$8.00
Moldboard plow	120	9.70	10.10
Chisel plow	120	3.80	4.10
Chop stalks	120	5.20	5.10
Tandem disk	120	4.90	3.60
Offset disk	120	4.10	3.40
Peg tooth harrow	60	2.20	1.60
Sprayer/disk	120	4.00	3.10
Field cultivator	120	2.90	2.90
Disk/Field cultivator	120	2.80	2.80
Strip tiller	120	3.20	3.20
Bulk fertilizer spreader	60	2.10	1.70
NH3 applicator	120	4.60	4.70
Chisel plow, NH3 applicator	120	6.40	7.20
Grain drill	100	4.80	4.30
Broadcast seeder	100	3.10	1.80
Planter	100	6.20	5.10
No-till planter	100	7.90	6.70
No-till drill	100	9.60	8.10
Rotary hoe	60	2.00	1.20
Cultivator	120	2.80	2.40
Sprayer	150	2.40	2.10
Combine corn	180	14.00	7.10
Combine soybeans	120	8.90	4.30
Combine small grain	120	8.00	3.30
Haul grain (on farm)	600	0.046/bushel	0.040/bushel
Grain cart	200	6.70	3.20
Store grain (auger)		0.0187/bushel	0.0205/bushel
Silage harvester	200	52.70	32.90
Haul silage	140	1.43/ton	1.34/ton
Store silage (unloader)		0.45/ton	0.14/ton
Rotary mower	120	7.00	4.40
Mower-conditioner	120	5.80	4.50
Rake	120	3.30	2.10
Small square baler	120	7.50/cutting	4.50/cutting
Round baler	120	8.70	5.50
Large square baler	120	9.20	6.60
Windrower	200	3.20	2.20
Forage chopper	200	19.10	14.40
Haul small square bales	120	2.15/ton	3.31/ton
Haul large round bales	120	2.00/ton	3.07/ton

Estimated Crop Production Costs in Iowa, 2013-2022

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ^{1/}	2020	2021	2022 ^{2/}
Corn Following Corn										
Machinery	\$147.37	\$155.29	\$144.99	\$129.92	\$119.83	\$132.80	\$134.38	\$128.46	\$126.73	\$146.56
Seed, chemicals, etc.	372.43	340.27	357.80	330.55	287.19	279.81	313.70	299.79	311.84	415.55
Labor	34.91	37.05	37.05	37.05	36.40	39.20	39.90	41.30	42.70	47.60
Land	276.00	287.00	273.00	266.00	230.00	219.00	223.00	219.00	222.00	232.00
Total cost per acre	830.70	819.61	812.83	763.52	673.41	670.80	710.98	688.54	703.28	841.70
Assumed yield	165 bu.	165 bu.	165 bu.	165 bu.	165 bu.	165 bu.	182 bu.	182 bu.	184 bu.	180 bu.
Total cost per bushel	\$5.03	\$4.97	\$4.93	\$4.63	\$4.08	\$4.07	\$3.91	\$3.78	\$3.82	\$4.68
Corn Following Soybeans										
Machinery	\$144.22	\$152.28	\$142.18	\$126.74	\$116.56	\$130.47	\$132.22	\$126.10	\$125.17	\$145.48
Seed, chemicals, etc.	324.61	298.80	311.84	292.47	251.48	241.86	279.96	259.59	278.36	363.93
Labor	31.85	33.80	33.80	33.80	33.15	35.70	36.34	37.61	38.89	43.35
Land	276.00	287.00	273.00	266.00	230.00	219.00	223.00	219.00	222.00	232.00
Total cost per acre	776.68	771.88	760.81	719.01	631.18	627.03	671.51	642.30	664.42	784.76
Assumed yield	180 bu.	180 bu.	180 bu.	180 bu.	180 bu.	180 bu.	198 bu.	199 bu.	201 bu.	198 bu.
Total cost per bushel	\$4.31	\$4.29	\$4.23	\$3.99	\$3.51	\$3.48	\$3.39	\$3.23	\$3.31	\$3.96
Soybeans Following Corn ^{3/}										
Machinery	\$80.70	\$84.70	\$79.17	\$75.43	\$67.40	\$68.67	\$68.43	\$68.11	\$63.86	\$72.74
Seed, chemicals, etc.	163.44	155.65	166.38	162.63	157.11	154.41	183.61	168.52	181.24	232.82
Labor	27.56	29.25	29.25	29.25	28.60	30.80	31.35	32.45	33.55	37.40
Land	276.00	287.00	273.00	266.00	230.00	219.00	223.00	219.00	222.00	232.00
Total cost per acre	547.71	556.60	547.80	533.30	483.11	472.89	506.38	488.09	500.65	574.96
Assumed yield	50 bu.	50 bu.	50 bu.	50 bu.	50 bu.	50 bu.	56 bu.	56 bu.	56 bu.	57 bu.
Total cost per bushel	\$10.95	\$11.13	\$10.96	\$10.67	\$9.66	\$9.46	\$9.04	\$8.72	\$8.94	\$10.09
Alfalfa Hay, annual production, 6 ton per acre, large round bales										
One-third of est. costs	\$54.25	\$58.17	\$60.62	\$57.93	\$60.03	\$51.43	\$48.50	\$49.65	\$51.97	\$68.97
Annual fertilizer	200.94	164.14	166.88	148.21	109.05	121.48	135.37	129.37	129.37	228.76
Harvest machinery	174.50	179.60	167.60	159.20	140.80	144.40	141.60	141.20	130.80	150.00
Labor	65.33	69.33	69.33	69.33	69.33	74.67	76.00	78.67	81.33	90.67
Land	161.00	167.00	167.00	170.00	165.00	157.00	157.00	160.00	164.00	174.00
Total cost per acre	656.02	638.24	631.43	604.67	544.22	548.97	558.47	558.89	557.47	712.39
Assumed yield	6 ton	6 ton	6 ton	6 ton	6 ton	6 ton	6 ton	6 ton	6 ton	6 ton
Total cost per ton	\$109.34	\$106.37	\$105.24	\$100.78	\$90.70	\$91.49	\$93.08	\$93.15	\$92.91	\$118.73

^{1/} Starting in 2019, reference yields for corn and soybean budgets reflect 30-year trend yields.

^{2/} Starting in 2022, reference yields are adjusted by the percent of the maximum yield attainable at the maximum return to nitrogen (MRTN) rate according to the [Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator](https://www.cnr.cornell.edu/extension/programs/soybean/cnr-calculator), [cncr.agron.iastate.edu](https://www.cnr.cornell.edu/extension/programs/soybean/cnr-calculator).

^{3/} Soybean estimates are for herbicide tolerant varieties.

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