

Historical Costs of Crop Production

Table 1. Estimated costs of crop production in Iowa, soybeans (\$ per acre).¹

Year	Machinery for Growing and Harvesting	Seed, Chemicals and Fertilizer	Labor	Land	Total	Expected Cost per	
						Yield-bu.	Bushel
1973	23.75	22.70	8.67	45.00	100.12	35	2.86
1974	26.56	26.58	10.11	60.00	123.25	35	3.52
1975	31.75	39.40	14.60	72.00	157.75	35	4.51
1976	32.59	32.80	14.16	88.00	167.55	35	4.79
1977	40.23	32.50	15.51	98.00	186.24	35	5.32
1978	37.32	43.10	15.51	98.00	193.93	35	5.54
1979	40.99	46.15	17.90	102.00	207.04	35	5.92
1980	48.51	54.60	17.90	112.00	233.01	36	6.47
1981	52.40	65.60	18.40	118.00	254.40	38	6.69
1982	48.50	65.70	19.80	122.00	256.00	38	6.73
1983	47.80	64.75	19.80	120.00	252.35	38	6.64
1984	48.90	70.30	19.80	118.00	257.00	38	6.76
1985	48.15	71.35	16.80	115.00	251.30	38	6.61
1986	46.30	70.00	16.80	92.00	225.10	38	5.92
1987	42.85	65.15	16.80	74.00	198.80	38	5.23
1988	46.95	69.55	15.60	78.00	210.10	38	5.53
1989	52.52	74.96	15.60	84.00	227.08	38	5.98
1990	52.68	74.15	15.60	84.00	226.42	38	5.96
1991	61.01 ²	74.49	15.60	88.00	239.10	38	6.29
1992	45.46 ³	74.95	15.60	88.00	224.00	38	5.89
1993	46.29	79.87	15.60	92.00	233.76	45	5.19
1994	45.85	77.85	15.60	100.00	239.30	45	5.32
1995	47.90	75.33	18.20	105.00	246.43	45	5.48
1996	40.85	83.95	18.20	110.00	253.00	45	5.62
1997	39.87	86.30	18.20	120.00	264.28	45	5.87
1998	36.90	91.99	15.75	125.00	269.64	45	5.99
1999	39.25	90.39	15.75	125.00	270.35	45	6.01
2000	42.36	89.44	18.99	120.00	270.79	45	6.02
2001	42.84	88.95	19.60	120.00	271.39	45	6.03
2002	41.39	87.46	19.00	125.00	271.39	45	6.03
2003	43.38	84.47	22.05	135.00	284.90	45	6.33
2004	41.51	90.76	23.28	140.00	295.54	45	6.57
2005 ⁴	40.53	96.53	23.28	140.00	300.34	45	6.67
2006	45.90	106.79	25.73	145.00	323.21	45	7.19
2007	46.76	107.58	26.95	155.00	336.29	50	6.73
2008	48.50	126.06	26.95	190.00	391.51	50	7.83
2009	55.80	202.85	26.95	205.00	490.60	50	9.81

1. Summarized from FM-1712 and earlier editions of Cost of Crop Production in (North Central) Iowa.
2. Change in machinery mix used to estimate costs.
3. Change in machinery prices and fertilizer mix to estimate costs.
4. Beginning in 2005, soybean estimates are for herbicide tolerant varieties

Table 2. Estimated costs of crop production in Iowa, corn (\$ per acre).^{1 2}

Year	Machinery for Growing and Harvesting	Seed, Chemicals and Fertilizer	Labor	Land	Total	Expected Yield-bu.	Cost per Bushel
1973	40.34	33.30	11.67	45.00	130.31	110	1.18
1974	49.00	50.12	13.62	60.00	172.74	110	1.57
1975	52.40	76.30	15.60	72.00	216.30	110	1.97
1976	57.08	63.80	15.08	88.00	223.96	110	2.04
1977	68.09	60.30	16.29	98.00	242.68	110	2.21
1978	58.54	65.57	15.00	98.00	237.11	110	2.16
1979	64.79	67.55	16.67	102.00	251.01	110	2.28
1980	75.45	79.70	16.67	112.00	283.82	115	2.47
1981	84.62	92.28	18.33	118.00	313.23	115	2.72
1982	80.80	97.25	20.00	122.00	320.05	115	2.78
1983	85.10	95.73	20.00	120.00	320.83	115	2.79
1984	83.55	107.10	20.00	118.00	328.65	115	2.86
1985	78.72	112.87	20.00	115.00	326.58	115	2.84
1986	79.54	106.25	20.00	92.00	297.79	117	2.55
1987	74.37	97.04	20.00	74.00	265.40	117	2.28
1988	74.87	100.23	18.80	78.00	271.90	122	2.24
1989	82.48	108.35	18.80	84.00	293.63	122	2.42
1990	78.45	109.80	18.80	84.00	291.05	122	2.40
1991	92.75 ³	100.95	18.80	88.00	300.50	122	2.46
1992	71.10 ⁴	104.00	18.80	88.00	281.90	122	2.31
1993	77.60	110.20	18.80	92.00	296.10	130	2.28
1994	74.60	109.40	18.80	100.00	302.80	130	2.33
1995	76.52	114.66	21.92	105.00	318.10	130	2.45
1996	66.83	124.06	21.93	110.00	322.82	130	2.48
1997	65.83	126.13	21.56	120.00	332.52	130	2.56
1998	63.66	127.06	21.56	125.00	327.28	132	2.56
1999	66.36	124.17	21.56	125.00	337.08	132	2.56
2000	67.52	124.09	20.54	120.00	332.14	132	2.52
2001	79.18	129.67	21.20	120.00	350.04	132	2.66
2002	73.56	128.59	21.20	125.00	348.33	132	2.65
2003	79.84	129.32	23.85	135.00	368.00	147	2.51
2004	85.90	140.51	25.18	140.00	391.58	147	2.67
2005	93.61	161.78	25.18	140.00	420.56	147	2.87
2006	97.93	175.73	27.83	145.00	446.48	152	2.94
2007 ⁵	100.83	197.55	29.29	155.00	482.67	156	3.10
2008	108.48	238.67	29.15	190.00	566.30	157	3.62
2009	114.38	352.71	29.15	205.00	701.24	157	4.48

1. Summarized from FM-1712 and earlier editions of Cost of Crop Production in (North Central) Iowa.
2. Costs for 1970-1977 represent continuous corn. Costs from 1978-1995 represent 1/3 continuous corn and 2/3 corn following soybeans. 1996 - Present, costs represent 80% corn following soybeans and 20% continuous corn.
3. Change in machinery mix used to estimate costs.
4. Change in machinery prices and fertilizer mix to estimate costs.
5. 2007 costs represent 75% corn following soybeans and 25% continuous corn.

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