

# Corn (Dryland) Planning Budget

Using this planning budget, corn producers may estimate their costs and returns for 2026. Table 1 presents estimates for dryland corn grain production in northern, central and southwest Missouri. Assumptions were based on price forecasts as of October 2025. Detailed prices and practices are summarized in Tables 2 and 3. The production practices used to develop these cost estimates are common for Missouri farms. Use the “Your estimate” column to plan your operation’s costs and returns for 2026.

**Table 1. Missouri corn (dryland) planning budget for 2026.**

	Dollars per acre	Your estimate
<b>Income</b>		
Grain sales	762.08	
Government payments	25.00	
Total income	787.08	
<b>Operating costs</b>		
Seed	99.38	
Fertilizer and soil amendments	187.01	
Crop protection chemicals	104.00	
Grain drying	26.40	
Crop supplies, storage, and marketing	8.50	
Crop consulting and insurance	18.00	
Custom hire and rental	19.97	
Operator labor	22.60	
Machinery fuel	21.76	
Machinery repairs and maintenance	32.11	
Management	39.35	
Operating interest	20.99	
Total operating costs <sup>1</sup>	600.07	
<b>Ownership costs</b>		
Farm business overhead	23.61	
Machinery ownership	93.78	
Real estate charge	185.00	
Total ownership costs <sup>2</sup>	302.40	
Total costs <sup>3</sup>	902.47	
<b>Income over operating costs</b>	<b>187.01</b>	
<b>Income over total costs</b>	<b>-115.39</b>	
<b>Return to land and management</b>	<b>108.97</b>	

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

1. Operating costs per bushel = \$3.41.
2. Ownership costs per bushel = \$1.72.
3. Total costs per bushel = \$5.13.

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Table 2 shows input assumptions for the dryland corn budget. Price estimates reflect harvest time prices. Costs or returns from storage or other marketing methods are not included. Farm business overhead includes liability insurance, utilities, accounting, etc. Real estate charge is an estimated rental rate for above-average land.

Table 3 details the field activities and costs assumed in this budget. Machinery costs were estimated using typical life (years), use (hours) and performance (fuel and labor) factors for each power unit and implement used.

Producers can customize this budget using the [Missouri Crop Budgets workbook](https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/crop-budgets.xlsx) (extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/crop-budgets.xlsx). Each crop budget has an accompanying sensitivity analysis so producers can see how their financial return to land and management varies with different crop yields and crop prices.

**Table 2. Input assumptions used in corn (dryland) planning budget for 2026.**

Selected input quantities	Per acre	Selected input prices	Dollars per unit
Yield, bushels	176	Corn market price, per bushel	4.33
Seeding rate, count	30,000	Seed, per 80,000 seed bag	265.00
Anhydrous ammonia rate, pounds N	120	Anhydrous ammonia, per pound N	0.52
Side-dress nitrogen rate, pounds N	40	Side-dress nitrogen rate, per pound N	0.70
Phosphorus rate, pounds P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	65	Phosphorus, per pound P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.73
Potassium rate, pounds K <sub>2</sub> O	48	Potassium, per pound K <sub>2</sub> O	0.42
Other nutrients, pounds	13	Other nutrients, average price per pound	0.62
Lime rate, tons	0.60	Lime, per ton	35.00
Skilled operator labor, hours	0.82	Skilled operator labor, per hour	27.50
Operating interest, annual percentage	7.25	Farm diesel, per gallon	2.90

**Table 3. Machinery assumptions used in corn (dryland) planning budget for 2026, on a per acre basis.**

Machine activity (including custom fieldwork)	Passes per acre	Fuel (gallons)	Labor (hours)	Operating costs <sup>1</sup> (dollars)	Ownership costs <sup>2</sup> (dollars)	Total costs (dollars)
Tandem disk (32 feet), 400 HP 4WD	1	0.89	0.05	7.34	10.51	17.84
Field cultivator (42 feet), 400 HP 4WD	1	0.54	0.03	4.24	6.02	10.26
Anhydrous applicator (40 feet), 280 HP MFWD	1	0.61	0.05	6.46	9.02	15.47
Row crop planter (40 feet), 280 HP MFWD	1	0.62	0.05	11.39	16.87	28.27
Boom sprayer (90 feet), 130 HP MFWD	2	0.17	0.03	2.48	3.24	5.72
Combine, corn head (20 feet), 350 HP combine	1	2.14	0.12	20.47	29.99	50.46
Grain cart (1,000 bushel), 280 HP MFWD		0.62	0.06	4.03	6.76	10.78
Grain trailer (1,000 bushel), 475 HP semi truck		0.78	0.12	6.17	4.22	10.40
Tandem grain truck (600 bushel), 325 HP		0.54	0.11	4.83	1.48	6.31
Grain auger (13 inch), 130 MFWD					1.62	1.62
Pickup (1 ton), 4WD		0.60	0.20	9.06	4.06	13.12
Apply fertilizer, custom charge	1					7.37
Aerially apply chemicals, custom charge	1					12.60
<b>Total</b>		<b>7.50</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>76.47</b>	<b>93.78</b>	<b>190.22</b>

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Abbreviations: 4WD = 4-wheel drive; MFWD = mechanical front-wheel drive tractor; HP = horsepower.

1. Machinery operating cost is the sum of fuel, repairs, maintenance and the value of labor.
2. Machinery ownership cost is the sum of machinery overhead and depreciation.



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