

Southeast Missouri Winter Wheat Planning Budget

Using this planning budget, wheat producers may estimate their costs and returns for 2026. Table 1 presents estimates for wheat production in southeast 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 southeast Missouri farms. Use the “Your estimate” column to plan your operation’s costs and returns for 2026.

Table 1. Southeast Missouri winter wheat planning budget for 2026.

	Dollars per acre	Your estimate
Income		
Grain sales	373.86	
Government payments	9.00	
Total income	382.86	
Operating costs		
Seed	34.00	
Fertilizer and soil amendments	138.48	
Crop protection chemicals	80.00	
Crop supplies, storage and marketing	8.50	
Crop consulting and insurance	13.00	
Custom hire and rental	7.37	
Operator labor	9.26	
Machinery fuel	10.67	
Machinery repairs and maintenance	24.87	
Management	11.49	
Operating interest	12.24	
Total operating costs¹	349.87	
Ownership costs		
Farm business overhead	7.66	
Machinery ownership	44.97	
Real estate charge	112.50	
Total ownership costs²	165.12	
Total costs³	514.99	
Income over operating costs	32.99	
Income over total costs	-132.13	
Return to land and management	-8.14	

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Ownership costs per bushel = \$2.46

1. Operating costs per bushel = \$5.22

3. Total costs per bushel = \$7.69

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Table 2 shows input assumptions for the wheat 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 and assumes wheat is followed by either double crop soybeans or milo.

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

Table 2. Input assumptions used in southeast Missouri winter wheat planning budget for 2026.

Selected input quantities	Per acre	Selected input prices	Dollars per unit
Yield, bushels	67	Wheat market price, per bushel	5.58
Seeding rate, pounds	100	Seed price, per pound	0.34
Nitrogen rate (urea), pounds	95	Nitrogen (urea), per pound N	0.70
Phosphorus rate, pounds P ₂ O ₅	42	Phosphorus, per pound P ₂ O ₅	0.73
Potassium rate, pounds K ₂ O	21	Potassium, per pound K ₂ O	0.42
Lime rate, tons	0.5	Lime, per ton	35.00
Skilled operator labor, hours	0.41	Skilled operator labor, per hour	22.50
Operating interest, annual percentage	7.25	Farm diesel, per gallon	2.90

Table 3. Machinery assumptions used in southeast Missouri winter wheat planning budget for 2026, on a per acre basis.

Machine activity (not custom fieldwork)	Passes per acre	Fuel (gallons)	Labor (hours)	Operating costs ¹ (dollars)	Ownership costs ² (dollars)	Total costs (dollars)
Air seeder drill with cart (52 feet), 340 HP MFWD	1	0.63	0.04	10.78	13.99	24.77
Self-propelled boom sprayer (120 feet), 275 HP	2	0.25	0.02	5.62	3.20	8.82
Draper platform (45 feet), 450 HP combine	1	1.29	0.06	10.96	16.91	27.87
Grain trailer (1,000 bushel), 475 HP semi truck		0.57	0.09	5.83	3.02	8.85
Grain cart (1,000 bushel), 280 HP MFWD		0.37	0.03	3.23	3.98	7.21
Grain auger (13 inch), 130 HP MFWD		0.11	0.02	1.14	0.88	2.02
Pickup (1 ton), 4WD		0.45	0.15	7.23	2.98	10.21
Dry fertilizer application, custom charge	1					7.37
Total		3.68	0.41	44.79	44.97	89.76

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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

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.

Producers can customize this budget using the [Southeast Missouri Crop Budgets workbook \(XLSX\)](https://www.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/crop-budgets-sembudgets.xlsx) (extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/crop-budgets-sembudgets.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.



Check out the complete collection of Missouri crop and livestock enterprise budgets at muext.us/MissouriAgBudgets