

Southeast Missouri Wheat Planning Budget

Using this planning budget, wheat producers may estimate their costs and returns for 2025. Table 1 presents estimates for wheat production in southeast Missouri. Assumptions were based on price forecasts as of October 2024. 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 2025.

Table 1. Southeast Missouri wheat planning budget for 2025.

	Dollars per acre ¹	Your estimate
Income		
Grain sales	391.95	
Government payments	20.00	
Total income	411.95	
Operating costs		
Seed	34.00	
Fertilizer and soil amendments	98.88	
Crop protection chemicals	72.00	
Crop supplies, storage, and marketing	8.00	
Crop consulting and insurance	27.00	
Custom hire and rental	7.02	
Operator labor	9.40	
Machinery fuel	11.46	
Machinery repairs and maintenance	32.29	
Management	12.36	
Operating interest	12.11	
Total operating costs	324.51	
Ownership costs		
Farm business overhead	4.12	
Machinery ownership	52.16	
Real estate charge	112.50	
Total ownership costs	168.78	
Total costs	493.29	
Income over operating costs	87.44	
Income over total costs	-81.34	
Return to land and management	43.52	
Operating costs per bushel	4.99	
Ownership costs per bushel	2.60	
Total costs per bushel	7.59	

1. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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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.

Producers can customize this budget using the Southeast Missouri Crop Budget spreadsheet, which can be downloaded from the [Missouri Crop and Livestock Enterprise Budgets webpage](https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/agricultural-business-and-policy-extension/missouri-crop-and-livestock-enterprise-budgets) (extension.missouri.edu/programs/agricultural-business-and-policy-extension/missouri-crop-and-livestock-enterprise-budgets).

Table 2. Input assumptions used in Southeast Missouri wheat planning budget for 2025.

Selected input quantities	Per acre	Selected input prices	Dollars per unit
Yield, bushels	65	Wheat market price, per bushel	6.03
Seeding rate, pounds	100	Seed price, per pound	0.34
Nitrogen rate (urea), pounds	95	Nitrogen (urea), per pound N	0.60
Phosphorus rate, pounds P ₂ O ₅	42	Phosphorus, per pound P ₂ O ₅	0.45
Potassium rate, pounds K ₂ O	21	Potassium, per pound K ₂ O	0.38
Lime rate, tons	0.5	Lime, per ton	30.00
Sum of allocated labor, hours	0.47	Skilled labor, per hour	20.00
Operating interest, annual percentage	7.75	Farm diesel, per gallon	3.25

Table 3. Machinery assumptions used in Southeast Missouri wheat planning budget for 2025, on a per acre basis.

Machine activity (not custom fieldwork)	Trips across field	Labor (hours)	Fuel (gallons)	Operating costs ¹ (dollars)	Ownership costs ² (dollars)	Total costs (dollars)
Air seeder drill with cart (52 feet), 340 HP MFWD	1	0.05	0.68	10.64	22.66	33.30
Self-propelled boom sprayer (120 feet), 275 HP	2	0.02	0.22	11.16	2.89	14.05
Draper platform (45 feet), 440 HP combine	1	0.06	0.97	14.80	14.40	29.20
Grain trailer (1,000 bushel), 475 HP road tractor		0.09	0.57	5.32	2.61	7.93
Grain cart (1,000 bushel), 280 HP MFWD		0.03	0.37	3.43	4.85	8.28
Grain auger (13 inch), 130 HP MFWD		0.02	0.11	1.31	1.32	2.63
Pickup (1 ton), 4WD		0.20	0.60	6.48	3.44	9.92
Dry fertilizer application, custom charge	1					7.02
Total³		0.47	3.53	53.15	52.16	112.33

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.

3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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