

Corn Silage Planning Budget

Using this planning budget, farmers growing corn silage can estimate their costs and returns for 2026. Table 1 presents estimates for corn silage production in 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 on Missouri farms. Use the “Your estimate” column to plan your operation’s costs and returns for 2026.

Table 1. Missouri corn silage planning budget for 2026.

	Dollars per acre	Your estimate
Income		
Silage sales	1,035.00	
Other income	0.00	
Total income	1,035.00	
Operating costs		
Seed	106.00	
Fertilizer and soil amendments	223.82	
Crop protection chemicals	104.00	
Crop supplies, storage, and marketing	15.00	
Crop consulting and insurance	17.00	
Custom hire and rental	374.93	
Operator labor	11.17	
Machinery fuel	7.44	
Machinery repairs and maintenance	16.69	
Management	31.05	
Operating interest	32.88	
Total operating costs¹	939.99	
Ownership costs		
Farm business overhead	41.40	
Machinery ownership	37.83	
Real estate charge	185.00	
Total ownership costs	264.23	
Total costs²	1,204.22	
Income over operating costs	95.01	
Income over total costs	-169.22	
Return to land and management	46.83	

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

1. Operating costs per ton, as-fed basis = \$40.87, or dry matter basis = \$116.77.
2. Total costs per ton, as-fed basis = \$52.36, or dry matter basis = \$149.60.

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Table 2 shows input assumptions for the corn silage budget. Price estimates reflect harvest time prices. Costs or returns from storage or other marketing methods are not included. No income from government programs is added.

Table 3 details the field activities for 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 corn silage planning budget for 2026.

Selected input quantities	Per acre	Selected input prices	Dollars per unit
Forage yield, tons, as-fed basis	23	Corn silage market price, per ton	45.00
Corn seeding rate, seeds per acre	32,000	Seed, per 80,000 seed bag	265.00
Nitrogen rate, pounds	160	Nitrogen, per pound N	0.52
Phosphorus rate, pounds P ₂ O ₅	72	Phosphorus, per pound P ₂ O ₅	0.73
Potassium rate, pounds K ₂ O	168	Potassium, per pound K ₂ O	0.42
Lime rate, tons	0.5	Lime, per ton	35.00
Operator labor, hours	0.51	Operator labor wage, per hour	22.00
Operating interest, annual percentage	7.25	Farm diesel, per gallon	2.90

Table 3. Machinery assumptions used in corn silage planning budget for 2026, on a per acre basis.

Machine activity (including custom fieldwork)	Passes per acre	Fuel (gallons)	Labor (hours)	Operating costs ¹ (dollars)	Ownership costs ² (dollars)	Total costs (dollars)
Boom sprayer, pull type (90 feet), 130 HP MFWD	2	0.26	0.05	3.83	6.99	10.81
Anhydrous applicator (30 feet), 200 HP MFWD	1	0.58	0.07	6.40	7.44	13.84
Field cultivator (28 feet), 200 HP MFWD	1	0.41	0.05	3.74	4.32	8.06
Row crop planter (20 feet), 130 HP MFWD	1	0.57	0.10	9.20	14.02	23.21
Pickup (1 ton), 4WD		0.75	0.25	12.14	5.07	17.21
Dry fertilizer application, custom charge	1					7.37
Silage chopped and delivered to storage, custom charge						367.56
Total		2.57	0.51	35.30	37.83	448.07

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Abbreviations: 4WD = 4-wheel drive; TWD = 2-wheel drive tractor; 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.

Farmers can customize this budget using the [Missouri Forage Budgets workbook \(XLSX\)](https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/forage-budgets.xlsx) (extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pro/AgBusinessPolicyExtension/Docs/forage-budgets.xlsx).



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