

## **19. Managing Risk Using AgManager.info**

**Rich Llewelyn**

**<rvl@ksu.edu>**

*Rich Llewelyn is an Extension Assistant in the Department of Agricultural Economics at K-State. A graduate of K-State with a PhD in Agricultural Economics in 1995, he spent 10 years teaching economics and working with urban community development in Surabaya, Indonesia before returning to Kansas in 2006 to work with the AgManager.info website and departmental conferences, including Risk and Profit.*

### **Abstract/Summary**

*The Internet is an excellent way to obtain needed information. However, rapid changes in technology, the abundant and varied information available, as well as the increased mobility and interactivity allowed by the Internet can create challenges and difficulties in efficiently accessing and using the information on the web. Though not comprehensive, this presentation notes some of the current trends in Internet usage and seeks to help users to make more effective use of the Internet. The AgManager.info website is introduced and used as an example of some of the issues discussed.*

## Managing Risk Using *AgManager.info*

Rich Llewelyn

Email: [rwl@ksu.edu](mailto:rwl@ksu.edu)

Phone: 785.532.1504



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1

## Technology for Cornhuskers...

**LOG ON:** Making a wood stove hotter.

**LOG OFF:** Don't add no more wood.

**MONITOR:** Keepin' an eye on the woodstove.

**DOWNLOAD:** Gettin' the firewood off the truck

**MEGA HERTZ:** When yer not careful gettin' the firewood

**RAM:** That thing that splits the firewood

**HARD DRIVE:** Gettin' home in the winter time

**WINDOWS:** What to shut when it's cold outside

**SCREEN:** What to shut when it's black fly season

**BYTE:** What them dang flies do

**MODEM:** What ya did to the hay fields

**LAPTOP:** Where the kitty sleeps

**KEYBOARD:** Where ya hang the dang keys

**SOFTWARE:** Them dang plastic forks and knives

**MOUSE:** What eats the grain in the barn

**MOUSE PAD:** That hippie talk fer the rat hole

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2

## Introduction

- Web 2.0: enhancing creativity, information sharing, and collaboration among users (web-based communities and services, such as social-networking sites, wikis, and blogs).
- Internet is a good way to obtain information, BUT:
  - Rapid change in technology
  - Lots and lots of info available
  - Increasing mobility and interactivity
  - Sometimes can be a bit overwhelming
- This presentation:
  - Current trends in internet use
  - Introduce *AgManager.info*
  - RSS feeds on *AgManager.info*
  - Risk management and decision tools on *AgManager.info*
  - Searching, navigation, and other cool things about using the internet

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3

## A Few Current Trends

- **Greater interactivity:** blogs, wikis, "YouTube" – takes time to find things; can waste time using it.
- **Increasing mobility :** laptop computers, PDA's, cell phones, i-Phones – real-time information.
- **Visual media** – video, graphics, GIS. Specialized software, download times.
- **Rapid information obsolescence** – frequent updates/revisions requiring diligence to view.
- **Limited number of sites** visited. Most usually go on-line for a specific site.

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4

## Development of *AgManager.info*

- 2001-2002 – *AgManager.info* developed and launched as a single, comprehensive site.
  - Initial focus on risk management, crops, and livestock marketing. Now:
    - Grain basis tool/maps, decision tools, updates
    - Publication of upcoming events/conferences
- Current usage of *AgManager.info*
  - More than 40,000 visits from 20,000 unique visitors per month (more than double since 2004)
  - Most popular sections:
    - Livestock, Crops, Farm management, Upcoming events, Agribusiness, Policy

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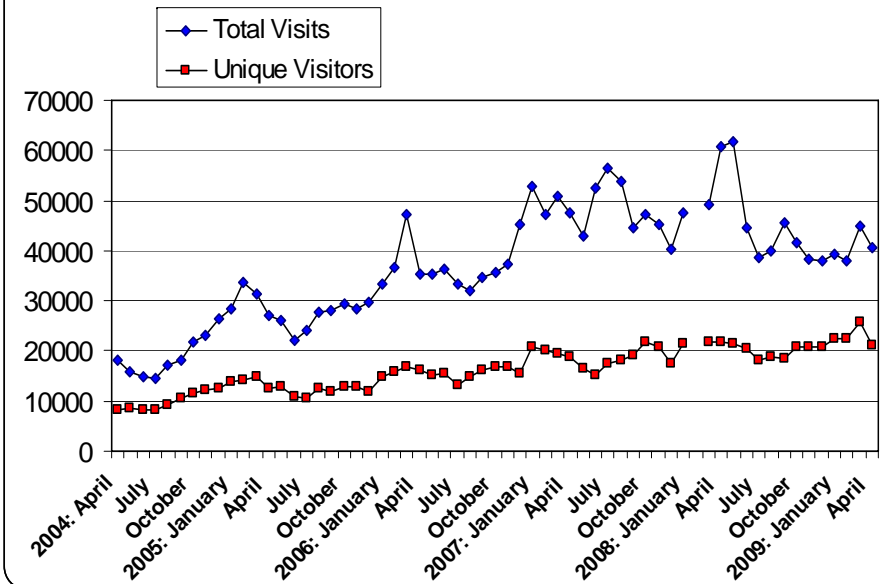


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5

## Monthly Visits/Visitors to *AgManager*



## New and Coming Development of *AgManager.info*

- Notification of changes and updates using RSS feeds (in addition to current listserv to send emails)
- Web tools, operated in the web browser, as opposed to Excel spreadsheets.
- Development of the grain basis tool and maps to allow easier use and to expand the scope.
- Redesign

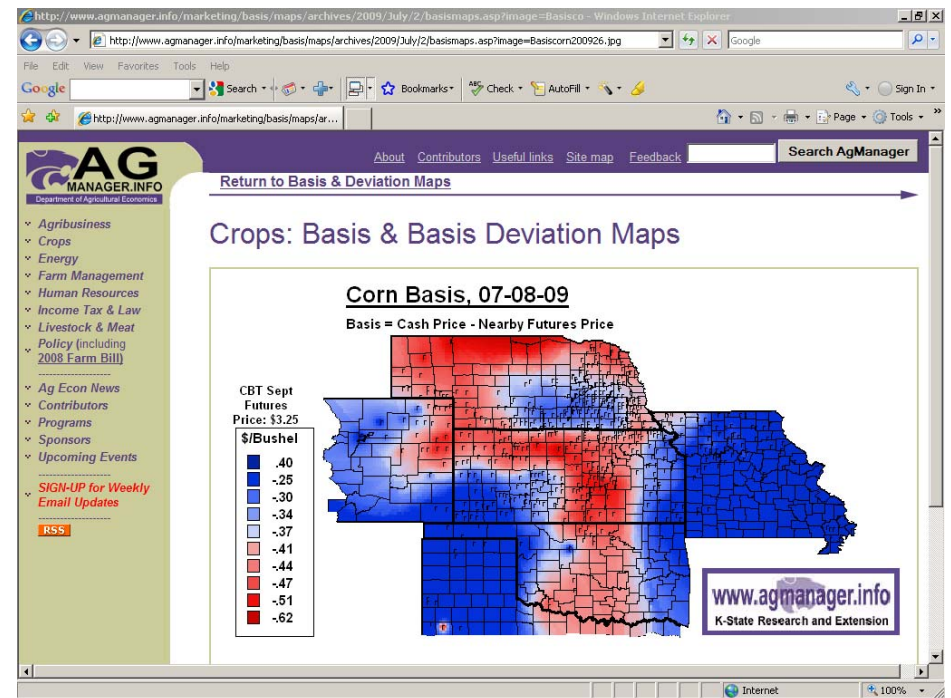
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7



AgManager: providing agricultural economic information on crops, livestock, marketing and auto - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.agmanager.info/

### RSS Feeds on AgManager

AG MANAGER.INFO  
Department of Agricultural Economics

About Contributors Useful links Site map Feedback Search AgManager

## AgManager.info

Providing Information and Tools For The Competitive Business

2009 RISK AND PROFIT CONFERENCE  
K-State Alumni Center MANHATTAN, KS  
AUGUST 20-21, 2009

2009 Ag Lenders Conferences  
Sept. 30, 2009: Garden City  
October 7, 2009: Manhattan

2009 Insurance Workshop  
November 12, 2009  
Holiday Inn Salina, KS

2009 Kansas Income Tax Institute

CRML Cattle Risk Management Library

Recent Updates

Planting Could Cost Farmers Revenue  
April 20, 2009 by Art Barnaby

Livestock Outlook Radio Program  
April 20, 2009 by Jim Mintert/LMIC

Links for Articles on Hunting Leases  
April 17, 2009 by OSUNoble Foundation and USDA ERS

ACRE Calculator and Free ACRE Seminar on the Web  
April 17, 2009 by Art Barnaby

Livestock and Hay Charts  
April 17, 2009 by Jim Mintert

Updated Crop Basis Tool  
April 16, 2009 by Kevin Dhuyvetter

Crop Basis Maps  
April 16, 2009 by Kevin Dhuyvetter

Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) - Updated  
April 16, 2009 by Troy Dumler

Commodity Program Decisions in the 2008 Farm Bill - Updated  
April 16, 2009 by Troy Dumler

In The Cattle Markets  
April 15, 2009 by Jim Mintert/LMIC

Updated PPT Slides for SURE and ACRE  
April 15, 2009 by Art Barnaby

Arresting a Recession: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
April 14, 2009 by Vincent Amanor-Boadu

World Grain Supply and Demand Estimates

AgManager.info Recent Updates - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.agmanager.info/crm/rss.xml

### AgManager.info Recent Updates

You are viewing a feed that contains frequently updated content. When you subscribe to a feed, it is added to the Common Feed List. Updated information from the feed is automatically downloaded to your computer and can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs. Learn more about feeds.

- Add this feed to iGoogle
- Subscribe to this feed in Google Reader
- Subscribe to this feed

Displaying 33 / 33

Sort by: Date Title

#### Grain Outlook Newsletter

Friday, July 10, 2009, 3:34:00 PM

"The July Supply and Demand Report", by Dr. Michael Woolverton.

#### Grain Outlook Radio Program

Friday, July 10, 2009, 3:24:00 PM

Dr. Michael Woolverton/Woolverton talks about the latest USDA grain supply and demand report, as part of this week's grain market commentary.

#### World Grain Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)

Friday, July 10, 2009, 3:03:00 PM

USDA supply and demand estimates for corn, soybeans and wheat. Includes graphs of historical data and spreadsheets with raw data.

Updated MYA 2009-2010 Estimates for ACRE

AT&T Yahoo! - Windows Internet Explorer

http://att.my.yahoo.com/

### Yahoo Reader for RSS Feeds

at&t

Web | Yellow Pages | People | Images | Video | More

Web Search

Categories My Front Page My Front Page x New Tab

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Last update: Jan 15, 4:15 pm

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• Oil price weakness pressures Iran, Venezuela: CIA - 19 minutes ago  
• North Korea leader picks 3rd son as heir; media - 4 hours ago  
• U.S. probe into Afghan civil deaths "tawed": group - 4 hours ago

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• Intel shares advance following in-line results; Genentech slips - 6 minutes ago  
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• Remembering Pete Hammond - 3 hours ago

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## Gathering Information Via RSS Feeds

- RSS (Real Simple Syndication) feeds: access information without visiting each website
- Browse the RSS feed on your reader. If there is a topic of interest, go directly to the site for the full article.
- Sites with RSS feeds will have buttons such as those shown below:



## Using RSS Feeds

- Websites create RSS feeds that can be subscribed to. When the content on the website changes, the news reader will retrieve it automatically and display changes.
- Many news readers available including:
  - Yahoo, GoogleReader, NewzCrawler, FeedDemon, or NewsGator, among others.
- It is also possible to subscribe using Internet Explorer 7.0 (or higher) or Mozilla Firefox 2.0 (or higher).

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13

## Subscribing to RSS Feeds

- If using a reader, the general steps to follow are:
  - 1) Right-click an RSS/XML button on a website, then click Copy Link Location (Firefox) or Copy Shortcut (Internet Explorer).
  - 2) Go to your News reader and choose to add new feed.
  - 3) Paste URL in the appropriate box and click Add.
- Most readers offer various options for organizing the RSS feeds you have signed up for. Experiment with these to organize your material in the most useful way.

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14

## Subscribing to RSS Feeds

- If using Internet Explorer 7 (or 8.0 beta):
  - 1) Click the RSS button in the Internet Explorer toolbar
  - 2) Choose a folder or create a new folder for the feed
  - 3) Click "Subscribe".
- If using Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or 3.0 or 3.5:
  - 1) Click on an RSS/XML button on a site
  - 2) Click "Subscribe Now".
  - 3) Choose a folder or create a new folder for the feed, then click OK.

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15

## Using AgManager

- Left-side menu with topic areas
- "Site Updates" on right side
- "Site Map" on top menu
- "Contributors" link on left side and top menus
- Search tool in upper right corner
- Events graphics in middle and also accessed through "Upcoming Events" link on left
- Four categories of materials:
  - Updates: "Grain Outlook", "In the Cattle Markets"
  - Data and charts: livestock charts, WASDE
  - Research and white papers
  - Decision tools

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16

## Decision Tools on AgManager

- Most tools are in Excel
- Many tools use macros for printing and navigation.
- Need to set macro security settings to moderate, which will cause Excel to ask if you want to enable macros.
- Some tools require inputs from the user. Usually blue cells/font will signify input cells by the user.
- As part of RMA project, selected tools are being set up using a “dashboard”, which operates in the web browser. No need to deal with macros, etc.

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18

## Decision Tools on AgManager

- A few tools to note:
  - **KSU-Lease** and **KSU-LandBuy**: the most popular tools on the site. Helpful in determining equitable crop-share and cash lease rental arrangements. [www.AgManager.info/farmmgmt/land/lease/tools/KSU-Lease.xls](http://www.AgManager.info/farmmgmt/land/lease/tools/KSU-Lease.xls)
  - **KSU-Option Strategies**: tool to determine alternative marketing strategies for livestock using futures, options, and LRP. Developed with funding from RMA. [www.AgManager.info/marketing/decisions/KSU-OptionStrategies.xls](http://www.AgManager.info/marketing/decisions/KSU-OptionStrategies.xls)
  - **AGR-Lite**: Also developed with RMA funding, this tool assists producers in assessing whether AGR-Lite will fit their operation. [www.agmanager.info/crops/insurance/spreadsheets/AGR-Lite.xls](http://www.agmanager.info/crops/insurance/spreadsheets/AGR-Lite.xls)

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19

	Corn	Milo	Soybean	Wht-Rot	Wht-Cont	Total	Per Acre	Per Acre
Planted acres of each crop	3.0	16.0	5.0	38.0	38	100.0	7.97	7.97
Tillable acres per planted acre	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100.0	Planted	Tillable
<b>INCOME PER ACRE</b>								
A. Yield per acre	90.0	80.0	27.0	45.0	45.0	---	---	---
B. Price per unit	\$3.76	\$3.50	\$7.96	\$5.55	\$5.55	\$0.00	---	---
C. Net government payments	\$15.35	\$15.35	\$15.35	\$15.35	\$15.35	\$1,535	\$15.35	\$15.35
D. Indemnity payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
E. Miscellaneous income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
F. Returns/acre (A x B) + C + D + E)	\$354.05	\$295.08	\$230.27	\$265.25	\$265.25	\$27,094	\$270.94	\$270.94
<b>COSTS PER ACRE</b>								
1. Seed	\$47.04	\$9.48	\$33.75	\$19.00	\$11.40	\$1,617	\$16.17	\$16.17
2. Herbicide	26.19	20.03	9.06	2.85	6.43	797	7.97	7.97
3. Insecticide / Fungicide	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	79	0.79	0.79
4. Fertilizer and Lime	113.53	100.88	31.16	105.90	81.48	9,231	92.31	92.31
5. Crop Consulting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
6. Crop Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
7. Drying	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
8. Miscellaneous	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	575	5.75	5.75
9. Machinery Expense	100.86	96.29	59.52	98.87	98.87	9,655	96.55	96.55
10. Non-machinery Labor	11.44	10.52	6.76	11.18	11.18	1,093	10.93	10.93
11. Irrigation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
12. Land Charge / Rent	46.00	46.00	46.00	46.00	46.00	4,600	46.00	46.00
G. SUB TOTAL	\$351.81	\$289.35	\$192.00	\$290.54	\$262.10	\$27,646	\$276.46	\$276.46
13. Interest on 1/2 Nonland Costs	10.88	8.44	5.04	8.46	7.32	792	7.92	7.92
H. TOTAL COSTS	\$362.69	\$297.79	\$197.04	\$299.00	\$269.42	\$28,438	\$284.38	\$284.38
I. RETURNS OVER COSTS (F - H)	(\$8.64)	(\$2.71)	\$33.23	(\$33.75)	(\$4.17)	(\$1,344)	(\$13.44)	(\$13.44)
J. TOTAL COSTS/UNIT (H/A)	\$4.03	\$3.72	\$7.30	\$6.64	\$5.99	---	---	---
K. RETURN TO TOTAL COST ((+13)/G)	0.64%	1.98%	19.93%	-8.71%	1.20%	-4.73%	-4.73%	-4.73%

### KSU-Lease: Share input page

http://www.agmanager.info/farming/land/lease/tools/KSU-Lease.xls - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.agmanager.info/farming/land/lease/tools/KSU-Lease.xls

Landowner =====> Average landowner, South Central KS, 555-987 6543 01/15/09  
 Operator =====> Average farmer, South Central KS, 555-423-4567 5:14 PM  
 Basis for equitable share calculations: For the entire rotation (L4 = 0), Crop-by-crop (L4 = 1) L4 ==> 0

**OPERATOR'S share of production inputs (enter -100% if equitably shared)**

Crop/System	Corn	Milo	Soybean	Wht-Rot	Wht-Cont	Total
Planted acres	3.0	16.0	5.0	38.0	38.0	100.0
Seed	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Fertilizer:						
82.0.0	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
N (dry/liquid)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
P	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
K	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Lime	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Herbicide						
Bicep Lite II Magnum (PRE)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Atrazine 4L + crop oil	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Bicep II Magnum (PRE)	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Glyphosate	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
+ 2% Ammonium Sulfate	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Ally	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
+ Banvel	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Glean	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
xxx	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
xxx	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Insecticide / Fungicide						
Seed treatment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Seedbox treatment	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
xxx	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
xxx	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Crop consulting	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Crop insurance	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Drying cost	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%
<b>Operator's equitable share (OS%)</b>	<b>75.2%</b>	<b>67.4%</b>	<b>63.6%</b>	<b>70.9%</b>	<b>69.5%</b>	<b>69.7%</b>

Print operator's shares

### KSU Option Strategies – Inputs and output

http://www.agmanager.info/marketing/decisions/KSU-OptionStrategies.xls - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.agmanager.info/marketing/decisions/KSU-OptionStrategies.xls

**Comparison of Futures and Options Market Strategies**

Buying or selling (buy=1, sell=2) ..... ?  
 Futures price at time of trade ..... \$11.81  
 Expected basis ..... -\$1.20  
 Interval for futures price change to consider ..... \$0.50

**Futures and Options Gain/Loss**

Futures Prices	Cash	Hedge	Put	Hedge & Call
\$9.31	\$0.00	\$2.49	\$1.61	\$1.80
\$9.81	\$0.00	\$1.99	\$1.11	\$1.30
\$10.31	\$0.00	\$1.49	\$0.61	\$0.80
\$10.81	\$0.00	\$0.99	\$0.11	\$0.30
\$11.31	\$0.00	\$0.49	\$0.39	\$0.20
\$11.81	\$0.00	-\$0.02	-\$0.88	-\$0.70
\$12.31	\$0.00	-\$0.52	-\$0.88	-\$1.20
\$12.81	\$0.00	-\$1.02	-\$0.88	-\$1.31
\$13.31	\$0.00	-\$1.52	-\$0.88	-\$1.31
\$13.81	\$0.00	-\$2.02	-\$0.88	-\$1.31
\$14.31	\$0.00	-\$2.52	-\$0.88	-\$1.31

**Expected Net Selling Price**

Futures Prices	Cash	Hedge	Put	Hedge & Call
\$9.31	\$8.11	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$9.81	\$8.61	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$10.31	\$9.11	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$10.81	\$9.61	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$11.31	\$10.11	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$11.81	\$10.61	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$12.31	\$11.11	\$10.59	\$10.23	\$9.90
\$12.81	\$11.61	\$10.59	\$10.73	\$10.30
\$13.31	\$12.11	\$10.59	\$11.23	\$10.80
\$13.81	\$12.61	\$10.59	\$11.73	\$11.30
\$14.31	\$13.11	\$10.59	\$12.23	\$11.80

Commission to buy AND sell futures, \$/unit (bu, cwt) ..... \$0.015  
 Option commission to buy OR sell an option, \$/unit ..... \$0.009

Total premium paid \$0.000 \$0.000 \$0.870 \$0.680  
 Total premium received \$0.000 \$0.000 \$0.000 \$0.000  
 Total commission \$0.000 \$0.015 \$0.009 \$0.024  
 Net cost per unit \$0.000 \$0.015 \$0.879 \$0.704

### KSU Option Strategies - Output

http://www.agmanager.info/marketing/decisions/KSU-OptionStrategies.xls - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.agmanager.info/marketing/decisions/KSU-OptionStrategies.xls

**Comparison of Various Marketing Strategies**

Futures Price at Expiration	Cash	Hedge	Put	Hedge & Call
\$9.31	\$8.11	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$9.81	\$8.61	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$10.31	\$9.11	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$10.81	\$9.61	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$11.31	\$10.11	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$11.81	\$10.61	\$10.59	\$9.71	\$9.90
\$12.31	\$11.11	\$10.59	\$10.23	\$9.90
\$12.81	\$11.61	\$10.59	\$10.73	\$10.30
\$13.31	\$12.11	\$10.59	\$11.23	\$10.80
\$13.81	\$12.61	\$10.59	\$11.73	\$11.30
\$14.31	\$13.11	\$10.59	\$12.23	\$11.80

### AGR-Lite Decision Tool

http://www.agmanager.info/crops/insurance/spreadsheets/AGR-Lite.xls - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.agmanager.info/crops/insurance/spreadsheets/AGR-Lite.xls

**Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) Farmer Worksheet**

Insurance Year: 2009  
 Coverage Level: 75%  
 Payment Rate: 90%

Base Period Years: 2003-2007

**AFI (Allowable Farm Income)**

Year	AFI
2003	\$0
2004	\$0
2005	\$0
2006	\$0
2007	\$0

Average: \$0  
 Indexed Average: \$0  
 Expected AFI: \$0  
 Approved AGR: \$0  
 AGR Liability: \$0  
 AGR Eligibility: **Not Approved**

Expected AGR Loss Inception Point: **NA**  
 Allowable Farm Income for Current Year (2009): \$0

**AE (Allowable Expenses)**

Year	AE
2003	\$0
2004	\$0
2005	\$0
2006	\$0
2007	\$0


Average: \$0  
 Index Eligibility: Index  
 Factor Eligibility: No Factor  
 Indexed AE: \$0  
 Factored AE: \$0  
 Approved AE: \$0

Allowable Expense for Current Year (2009): \$0

## Cattle-Buy/Sell Decision Tool in Web Dashboard

Introduction Buy Sell


### Cattle Buy/Sell Breakeven Prices Calculator



A tool to calculate the maximum price that can be paid for calves or feeders given an expected selling price and cost of gain (Buy). Additionally, this program also calculates the breakeven selling price needed given a purchase price and an estimated cost of gain (Sell).

Under the "Buy" and "Sell" tabs, results are based on inputs selected. The tool automatically recalculates every time an additional input is entered. Thus, it is important to wait until all the inputs have been entered and reviewed before interpreting any of the calculated results.

Developed by: Kevin C. Dhuyvetter kcd@ksu.edu or 785.532.3527  
Copyright 2009, Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University www.agmanager.info



## Cattle-Buy in Web Dashboard

Introduction Buy Sell

### Inputs

85.00 Expected selling price (\$/cwt)  
50.00 Feeding cost of gain  
0.00 Costs per head (trucking, etc)\*  
20.00 Desired profit per head


Selling weight after shrink (pay-weight) 750  
Average Daily Gain (pay to pay) 2.00  
Minimum Acceptable Purchase Weight 400

Percent Death Loss\*\* Interest rate on feeder  
1.50% 7.50%

\*Do not enter any costs included in feeding cost of gain  
\*\*Enter only if death loss is not included in feeding cost of gain, otherwise keep at 0.

Purchase Weight	Selling Price				
	80.00	82.50	85.00	87.50	90.00
400	96.19	100.64	105.10	109.56	114.01
450	91.49	95.47	99.45	103.44	107.42
500	87.76	91.37	94.97	98.57	102.17
550	84.74	88.03	91.32	94.61	97.90
600	82.25	85.28	88.31	91.34	94.37
650	80.16	82.97	85.79	88.60	91.41
700	78.39	81.02	83.64	86.27	88.89

### Breakeven Purchase Price



## Spraying Field Crops Decision Tool in Web Dashboard

Economics of Spraying Field Crops

Enter each value in the input box. The output values will display in the results box and correspond with the graph.

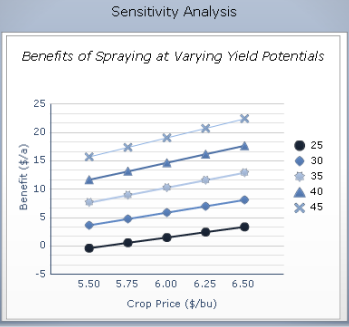
Inputs Notes

35.0 Estimated yield without spraying, bu/ac  
15.0% Estimated yield response with spraying, %  
5.3 Calculated yield response to spraying, bu/ac

Price of crop, \$/bu \$6.00  
Application cost, \$/ac \$5.50  
Chemical cost, \$/ac \$15.00  
Hauling cost, \$/bu \$0.14

### Sensitivity Analysis


Benefits of Spraying at Varying Yield Potentials



Results

\$10.27 Net Benefit of Spraying  
3.5 Yield Response to Breakeven, bu/ac  
10.0% Yield Response to Breakeven, %

Developed by: Kevin Dhuyvetter (kcd@ksu.edu) and Doug Jardine (jardine@ksu.edu)  
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## Crops Decision Tools

AgManager.info Crops: Decision-Making Tools - Windows Internet Explorer

AgManager.info Crops: Decision-Making Tools

### Crops: Decision Tools

Production Economics Decision-making Tools:

Title	Spreadsheet	Author	Excel	Corresponding Paper	PDF
KSU-NPI_CropBudgets.xls	A spreadsheet for analyzing economic optimal fertilizer (N & P) and irrigation (I) input levels	Kastens, Dhuyvetter, Dumlir	Download		Download
Crop Profitability Comparison	2008 Crop Profitability Comparison Worksheet for Northwest Kansas	O'Brien	Download		
KSU-VegetativeBuffer.xls	A spreadsheet for analyzing the economics of vegetative buffers	Smith, Williams	Download		
KSU-StreambankStabilization.xls	A spreadsheet for analyzing the economics of streambank stabilization	Smith, Williams	Download		
KSU-Tillage.xls	A spreadsheet to estimate the costs and returns of alternative tillage management strategies.	Smith, Dhuyvetter, Williams	Download		
Economics of spraying soybeans	Partial budget to analyze the economics of spraying fungicides on soybeans	Dhuyvetter, Jardine	Download		
Wheat Freeze Information and Options	Wheat Freeze Options	Dumlir, O'Brien	Download	Wheat Freeze Information Sheet	Download
CRP Decision	Decision tool to evaluate options for landowners with expiring contracts on CRP acres.	Herbel, Jones	Download	Decision Considerations for Expiring CRP Contracts	Download
KSU-CRP HAYorGRAZE.xls	Tool to estimate the costs of managed haying or grazing of CRP acres	Taylor, Dhuyvetter, Kastens	Download	Extension bulletin discussing haying or grazing CRP acres	Download
KSU Irrigation Energy Cost	Tool to compare the irrigation pumping costs of various energy sources	Dhuyvetter, Dumlir	Download		

## Other Internet Skills and Info

- Navigation
- Searching
- Downloads and software
- Other (malware, passwords, monitoring, filtering, updates).

## Navigation

- Links generally underlined and/or bold
- Use Bookmarks (Favorites) to save sites
- Use “In-Line Auto Complete” in Tools/Options menu to save typing in sites
- Use on-site menus and “recent updates”
- Use the right-click on the mouse:
  - Save, print, move forward or backward, add a shortcut or bookmark the page, or to search for highlighted terms.
- Use the “Back” and “Forward” buttons on the tool bar to save time.

## Searching the Web (1)

- Search directories such as Google or Yahoo have changed searching. Still need skill:
  - Be specific. Use unique terms.
  - Enclose phrases in quotation marks (“”)
  - Word order matters: policy agricultural versus agricultural policy
  - Use ‘OR’ (capital letters) to find pages that include either of two search terms
  - ‘+’ search, where the ‘+’ sign includes common words usually ignored (the, I, for, etc)
  - To search for your term and any synonyms, use ‘~’ sign

## Searching the Web (2)

- Others:
  - To search just one site, use the word ‘site:’ then the website to search following your search term. Example: farm bill site:AgManager.info
  - To search for a number range: use 2 periods (..) between the upper and lower number. Example: DVD player \$50..\$100 to search for a DVD player that costs between \$50 and \$100.
  - Fill in the blank search: use an asterisk (\*) to answer something you don’t know. Example: Kansas State \* will return results for Kansas State University, Kansas State Wildcats, Kansas State Fair, etc.
  - Highlight a word on a website, right-click, and Google-search for it.

## Downloads and Software

- Adobe Reader (PDF), Adobe Flash (animation), Adobe Shockwave (multi-media). [[www.Adobe.com](http://www.Adobe.com)]
- Other multi-media: RealPlayer, QuickTime, Windows Media Player.
- **OpenOffice.org** – free open-source software with word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software. Compatible with MS Office. [www.OpenOffice.org](http://www.OpenOffice.org)
- Telephony: Skype at [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)
- **Good source for misc: Gizmo's at:** [www.techsupportalert.com](http://www.techsupportalert.com)

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33

## Operating Systems

- Microsoft Windows 7 (follows Vista) will come out October 22, 2009. Windows XP no longer sold as of June 30, 2008, but still supported until Windows 7.
- Google Chrome OS: a new operating system by Google, coming out in 2010, primarily for netbooks (small, inexpensive laptop computers).
- Linux: free, open-source, operating system software. Usually requires some technical capabilities.

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34

## Security Issues

- Dealing with malware:
  - Viruses (AVG Anti-Virus at [www.grisoft.com](http://www.grisoft.com))
  - Anti-spyware: Gizmo's at [www.techsupportalert.com](http://www.techsupportalert.com)
  - Use a firewall (Windows has a built-in firewall)
- Be careful of spam and “phishing”
- Creating good passwords:
  - Think of a familiar phrase or sentence and take the first letter of each word.
  - Capitalize letters, like a proper name in the phrase.
  - Substitute numbers/letters for words: 2 =to; 4=for; L8=late; R=are; U=you; etc.
  - Add punctuation where it makes sense (comma, etc)

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35

## Microsoft Office & Office Live Workspace

- Compatibility pack for using MS Office 2007 with Office 2003 (top of the list):  
<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/>
- For MS Office 2007, a useful site with 2003 templates to learn 2007 is:  
<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/help/HA101491511033.aspx>
- Office Live Workspace – allows user to access and share files from anywhere. 5GB of free online storage. Password-protected to limit access.
- Office 2010 released next year. Web-based.

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36

## Miscellaneous

- Hoaxes and urban legends: [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)
- Monitoring and filtering: different functions
  - Monitoring: [www.CovenantEyes.com](http://www.CovenantEyes.com); or [www.SafeEyes.com](http://www.SafeEyes.com). Both have a monthly or annual fee.
  - Filtering: CovenantEyes (above) has limited filtering. Also: [www.NetNanny.com](http://www.NetNanny.com); [www.CyberSitter.com](http://www.CyberSitter.com); [www.CyberPatrol.com](http://www.CyberPatrol.com); or [www.SeeNoEvil.com](http://www.SeeNoEvil.com).
- Old sites or information that has been removed or changed: [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
- Keep programs updated. Microsoft releases updates on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for Windows. Set automatic updates for virus programs.

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37

## Miscellaneous

- Blogs:
  - Sponsored blogs such as the University of Illinois ([www.farmgate.uiuc.edu](http://www.farmgate.uiuc.edu)), or news blogs (almost everywhere)
  - Start your own using one of several blog sites, including Blogspot ([www.blogspot.com](http://www.blogspot.com)), Blogger ([www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com))
- Other fun/useful programs/sites
  - Map programs Mapquest, GoogleMaps, or YahooMaps.
  - Satellite views: GoogleEarth (Now with GoogleOcean)
  - YouTube

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38

## Miscellaneous

- Social networking sites:
  - Facebook
  - MySpace
  - Many more
- Browsers:
  - Internet Explorer version 8 (Microsoft), released March 19, 2009. Better security and ease of use compared to version 7.
  - Mozilla Firefox (version 3.5 per July 1, 2009). Faster and better privacy than 3.0.
  - Google Chrome (October, 2008)
  - Netscape
  - For Apple, Safari browser 3.0

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39

## The Final Word

- Lots of info available on the internet
- AgManager is an important agricultural site
  - Information aggregation: RSS feeds
  - Decision tools
  - Other information
- Efficient internet use:
  - Find a limited number of useful sites
  - Search and navigation skills
  - Appropriate software
  - Be careful



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40