

**2026 PRODUCTION INPUT COSTS
IN KANSAS**

LEAH J. TSOODLE

AND

XIANGHONG LI

Land Use Survey Office (LUSO)
Department of Agricultural Economics
Kansas State University

October 2026

PRODUCTION INPUT COSTS IN KANSAS

The 2026 Kansas Input Costs Survey

The Land Use Survey Office (LUSO) in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University (KSU) conducts one survey each year related directly to the Land Use Value Project. LUSO rotates among four surveys: irrigated farm leases, non-irrigated farm leases, pasture leases, and input costs. In 2026, LUSO, in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Revenue, conducted the Input Costs Survey (ICS) to collect production-cost data for the 2025-2026 crop year. Survey invitations were sent to individuals, cooperatives, and local agribusinesses. Responses were received from all nine crop reporting districts (CRDs). The National Agricultural Statistics Service crop reporting districts in Kansas are Northwest-10, West Central-20, Southwest-30, North Central-40, Central-50, South Central-60, Northeast-70, East Central-80, and Southeast-90 (Figure 1). Northwest-10, West Central-20, and Southwest-30 comprise the western region; North Central-40, Central-50, and South Central-60 comprise the central region; and Northeast-70, East Central-80, and Southeast-90 comprise the eastern region.

The ICS does not cover the same expense categories as the Kansas Custom Rates publication available at AgManager.info. Respondents reported fertilizer, herbicide, insecticide, and seed costs for a typical operation in their area, with irrigated and non-irrigated crops reported separately. The survey is intended to measure production input costs for a typical operation and therefore does not specify a particular planting method. Seven crops were included in earlier surveys: alfalfa, corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, and wheat. Canola was included in the 2022 and 2026 surveys and received only limited responses. Previous ICS surveys were conducted in 2022, 2018, 2013, 2008, 2004, 2001, and 1997. The 2018, 2022, and 2026 surveys were conducted by LUSO; earlier surveys were conducted through the NASS-Kansas office.

Survey results are summarized to expand the information available on production costs across Kansas. Reported input costs varied substantially across respondents. Extremely high and low reported costs were treated as outliers and excluded from the analysis.¹ Average input costs are not shown in the tables when fewer than five responses were received. Statewide results are presented separately for irrigated and non-irrigated crops (Tables 1 and 2), and crop reporting district responses are aggregated into western, central, and eastern regional summaries (Tables 3 and 4).² Comparisons with 2022 and 2018 statewide averages are included where available.³

¹ A reported input cost is considered extremely large or small if it is more than two standard deviations from the reported average cost.

² Crop reporting district assignments differ between irrigated and non-irrigated land in several counties. Irrigated land in Riley and Geary counties is included in North Central-40; non-irrigated land in Riley County is included in Northeast-70, while non-irrigated land in Geary County is included in East Central-80. Irrigated land in Chase and Morris counties is included in Central-50, while non-irrigated land in those counties is included in East Central-80. Irrigated land in Butler and Cowley counties is included in South Central-60, while non-irrigated land in those counties is included in Southeast-90.

³ If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Leah Tsoodle at ltsoodle@ksu.edu.

State Average Input Costs

Overall, the ICS received more responses for non-irrigated crops than for irrigated crops (Tables 1 and 2). Fertilizer and herbicide categories received the most responses, followed by seed costs; insecticide costs received the fewest. Corn and wheat generally received the most responses across the cost categories, while sorghum and soybeans also received substantial numbers of responses. Canola, cotton, and sunflowers received fewer responses. For irrigated crops, most responses came from the western and central regions of Kansas. Irrigated responses in the eastern region were limited and concentrated in alfalfa, corn, soybeans, sorghum, and wheat (Table 3). For non-irrigated crops, western-region responses were concentrated in wheat and corn, followed by sorghum (Table 4). In the central region, wheat, corn, sorghum, and soybeans received many responses. In the eastern region, soybeans and corn received the most responses, followed by wheat.

Reported production input costs in Kansas varied widely. Tables 1 and 2 show the minimum and maximum reported costs for each crop. For example, fertilizer costs for irrigated corn ranged from \$72 to \$300 per acre in 2026. Average costs also varied by input type, irrigation status, and crop. Fertilizer was generally the highest-cost input, and seed costs for corn and alfalfa were also relatively high. Herbicide and insecticide costs were generally lower than fertilizer costs. For crops with published averages under both irrigation practices, irrigated costs were generally higher. Exceptions included herbicide costs for sunflowers and wheat and insecticide costs for sorghum and sunflowers, which were higher for non-irrigated crops. Corn had the highest average fertilizer cost on both irrigated and non-irrigated land. Soybeans had the lowest irrigated fertilizer cost, while alfalfa had the lowest non-irrigated fertilizer cost. Cotton and soybeans had the highest herbicide costs, and cotton had the highest insecticide cost, under both irrigation practices. Seed costs were highest for alfalfa and corn and lowest for wheat and sorghum under both irrigation practices.

Table 3 presents average regional input costs for irrigated crops in the 2026 survey. Input costs in western and central Kansas vary by crop and input type.⁴ Among crops with published averages in both regions, fertilizer costs for corn and sorghum were higher in western Kansas, whereas fertilizer costs for soybeans and wheat were higher in central Kansas. Western Kansas also reported higher herbicide, insecticide, and seed costs for irrigated corn, as well as higher herbicide costs for irrigated sorghum and wheat.

Table 4 shows average 2026 regional input costs for non-irrigated crops. For crops with published averages in all three regions, fertilizer and seed costs were generally highest in eastern Kansas and lowest in western Kansas. Herbicide costs showed the opposite pattern: among crops with published averages in all three regions, costs were highest in western Kansas and lowest in eastern Kansas. For insecticide, non-irrigated corn and wheat had the highest average costs in western Kansas, while corn, sorghum, and wheat had the lowest average costs in eastern Kansas.

Agricultural production expenses have been highly volatile because of supply-chain disruptions, inflation, and other economic factors. The 2026 ICS collected production-cost information for the 2025-2026 crop year, while the 2022 ICS covered the 2021-2022 crop year. Both surveys

⁴ Input costs for irrigated crops in eastern Kansas are not discussed because relatively few responses were received.

were conducted from January through June of the survey year. Fertilizer prices were particularly volatile during both periods. The Middle East conflict that escalated in late February 2026 and the Russia-Ukraine war beginning in February 2022 contributed to sharp increases in international fuel and fertilizer prices. U.S. fertilizer prices also increased (Figure 2). These conditions may have affected the costs reported in the surveys and should be considered when interpreting the 2026 and 2022 results.

Average input costs in 2026 differed from 2022, with changes varying by crop and input. For every crop with published values in both 2026 and 2018, fertilizer costs were higher in 2026 under both irrigation practices. Among irrigated crops with published 2022 values, 2026 fertilizer costs were lower except for cotton; irrigated corn averaged \$177.24 per acre in 2026 versus \$192.61 in 2022. Among non-irrigated crops, fertilizer costs rose for alfalfa, corn, soybeans, and wheat and fell for cotton and sorghum. Herbicide costs exceeded 2018 levels for all comparable crops except cotton. Relative to 2022, irrigated herbicide costs rose for corn and sorghum and fell for alfalfa, soybeans, sunflowers, wheat, and fallow; non-irrigated costs rose for alfalfa and sorghum and fell for canola, corn, cotton, soybeans, wheat, and fallow. Insecticide costs received fewer responses than the other input categories. Compared with 2022, irrigated insecticide costs fell except for alfalfa; non-irrigated costs rose for alfalfa, canola, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat and fell for corn and cotton. Seed costs generally rose; the only exception among comparable 2022 values was irrigated sorghum, which fell from \$29.00 to \$26.89 per acre.

Fuel and fertilizer prices spiked during the January-June 2026 survey period. Table 5 presents average fertilizer costs by reporting period: January 15-March 31 and April 1-June 30. Among crops with published averages in both periods, fertilizer costs reported during April 1-June 30 were higher than those reported during January 15-March 31 for both irrigated and non-irrigated crops, except non-irrigated soybeans. For non-irrigated soybeans, the average reported cost decreased from \$65.84 per acre in the earlier period to \$59.59 per acre in the later period.

Figure 1. Kansas Agricultural Statistics Crop Reporting Districts

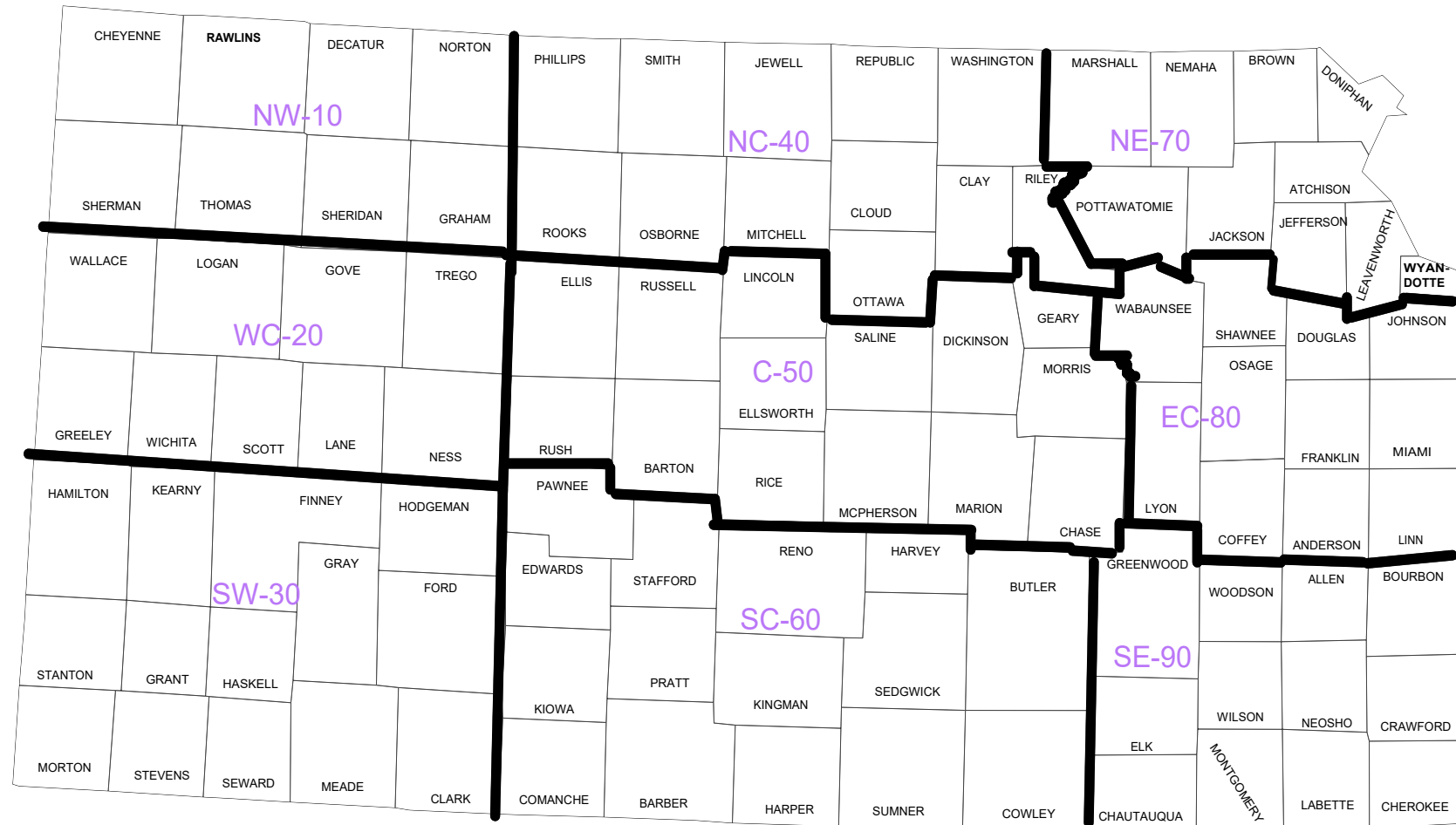


Table 1: Average Input Costs in Kansas, Irrigated Crops 2026

Fertilizer	2026 Irrigated Crops Input Costs				2022 Survey	2018 Survey
	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	Max (\$/Acre)	Min (\$/Acre)	Average (\$/Acre)	Average (\$/Acre)
Alfalfa	28	99.36	150	65	100.50	51.63
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn	106	177.24	300	72	192.61	103.46
Cotton	7	139.29	150	125	80.00	76.44
Sorghum	53	133.81	200	56	164.65	70.33
Soybeans	49	72.49	150	40	79.31	35.57
Sunflowers	1/	1/	1/	1/	140.00	33.91
Wheat	70	95.13	150	30	103.08	47.46
Herbicide	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	Max (\$/Acre)	Min (\$/Acre)	Average (2022)	Average (2018)
Alfalfa	26	27.85	55	5	31.95	21.41
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn	87	67.26	135	35	62.20	44.98
Cotton	11	69.09	85	60	-	71.25
Sorghum	57	60.49	90	29	59.29	34.78
Soybeans	55	69.87	100	30	79.67	54.22
Sunflowers	11	31.36	40	20	50.00	22.79
Wheat	64	21.16	55	5	30.28	12.25
Fallow	21	37.10	65	20	66.25	-
Insecticide	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	Max (\$/Acre)	Min (\$/Acre)	Average (2022)	Average (2018)
Alfalfa	27	25.48	50	5	21.57	25.63
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn	45	24.67	80	5	38.38	22.05
Cotton	7	37.86	40	35	-	41.25
Sorghum	28	19.86	35	5	28.29	25.67
Soybeans	29	16.93	30	5	18.33	19
Sunflowers	13	11.08	12	8	25.00	15.68
Wheat	20	13.08	23	5	22.44	15.84
Seed	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	Max (\$/Acre)	Min (\$/Acre)	Average (2022)	Average (2018)
Alfalfa	14	114.29	150	90	82.50	106.38
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn	73	108.74	175	54	108.38	92.36
Cotton	1/	1/	1/	1/	-	83.92
Sorghum	40	26.89	60	7	29.00	19.5
Soybeans	51	65.59	98	40	63.64	63.12
Sunflowers	1/	1/	40	40	56.88	33.32
Wheat	52	25.62	52	12	23.24	14.73

Note: '-' indicates no response. '1/' indicates a value suppressed because fewer than five responses were received.

Table 2: Average Input Costs in Kansas, Non-Irrigated Crops 2026

2026 Non-Irrigated Crops Input Costs					2022 Survey	2018 Survey
Fertilizer	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	Max (\$/Acre)	Min (\$/Acre)	Average (\$/Acre)	Average (\$/Acre)
Alfalfa	47	61.85	105	35	45.00	37.29
Canola	1/	1/	1/	1/	100.00	-
Corn	193	126.69	350	30	118.55	67.16
Cotton	11	90.09	150	55	105.00	48.16
Sorghum	141	90.28	200	25	94.05	47.87
Soybeans	105	63.34	160	8	54.49	30.99
Sunflowers	12	76.42	90	55	-	25.48
Wheat	191	78.47	180	20	73.21	39.33
Herbicide	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	Max (\$/Acre)	Min (\$/Acre)	Average (2022)	Average (2018)
Alfalfa	43	24.31	61	5	23.63	18.99
Canola	5	25.00	65	15	30.00	-
Corn	173	55.65	150	20	56.03	40.93
Cotton	11	60.09	80	50	86.00	63.65
Sorghum	122	53.92	120	11	47.90	37.59
Soybeans	119	57.27	125	5	60.39	46.51
Sunflowers	17	44.94	75	27	-	31.21
Wheat	152	23.47	85	5	24.49	13.73
Fallow	44	33.44	65	8.12	46.53	-
Insecticide	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	Max (\$/Acre)	Min (\$/Acre)	Average (2022)	Average (2018)
Alfalfa	47	23.28	38	5	19.71	18.03
Canola	5	14.00	30	10	12.00	-
Corn	79	16.51	55	3	20.23	12.74
Cotton	15	26.33	35	10	28.75	28.36
Sorghum	53	20.75	40	8	19.25	17.8
Soybeans	84	13.08	37	4	11.91	11.04
Sunflowers	23	21.09	50	8	-	19.1
Wheat	56	12.52	30	3	10.31	9.36
Seed	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	Max (\$/Acre)	Min (\$/Acre)	Average (2022)	Average (2018)
Alfalfa	33	106.97	200	50	100.00	87.58
Canola	5	36.00	60	30	26.60	-
Corn	164	80.35	250	16	67.67	62.79
Cotton	8	75.00	110	50	72.57	70.85
Sorghum	115	23.64	90	7	17.70	16.16
Soybeans	115	57.37	95	10.5	51.42	53.9
Sunflowers	19	38.53	50	28	-	31.38
Wheat	157	20.46	45	6	17.66	12.86

Note: '-' indicates no response. '1/' indicates a value suppressed because fewer than five responses were received.

Table 3: Average Regional Input Costs in Kansas, Irrigated Crops 2026

Irrigated Crops (\$/Acre)						
Fertilizer	Western		Central		Eastern	
	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average
Alfalfa	1/	1/	20	102.35	7	95.71
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn	43	186.37	52	166.40	11	192.73
Cotton	-	-	7	139.29	-	-
Sorghum	23	141.61	23	120.65	7	151.43
Soybeans	7	54.57	31	70.97	11	88.18
Sunflowers	-	-	-	-	1/	1/
Wheat	32	86.22	31	100.32	7	112.86
Herbicide	Western		Central		Eastern	
	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average
Alfalfa	1/	1/	18	23.28	7	40.71
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn	34	71.14	46	65.28	7	61.43
Cotton	1/	1/	10	70.00	-	-
Sorghum	21	68.43	29	54.52	7	61.43
Soybeans	6	57.67	42	71.35	7	71.43
Sunflowers	1/	1/	6	27.50	1/	1/
Wheat	24	23.54	33	16.33	7	35.71
Fallow	10	39.10	7	44.00	1/	1/
Insecticide	Western		Central		Eastern	
	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average
Alfalfa	1/	1/	19	21.37	7	38.57
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn	18	35.11	20	16.40	7	21.43
Cotton	-	-	7	37.86	-	-
Sorghum	6	18.67	18	22.00	1/	1/
Soybeans	1/	1/	24	17.63	1/	1/
Sunflowers	1/	1/	8	10.50	1/	1/
Wheat	5	13.50	11	13.27	1/	1/
Seed	Western		Central		Eastern	
	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average
Alfalfa	-	-	10	112.00	1/	1/
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn	30	113.37	38	101.63	5	135.00
Cotton	-	-	1/	1/	-	-
Sorghum	15	18.30	21	26.71	1/	1/
Soybeans	7	63.86	39	65.21	5	71.00
Sunflowers	-	-	-	-	1/	1/
Wheat	21	23.00	27	28.48	1/	1/

Note: '-' indicates no response. '1/' indicates a value suppressed because fewer than five responses were received.

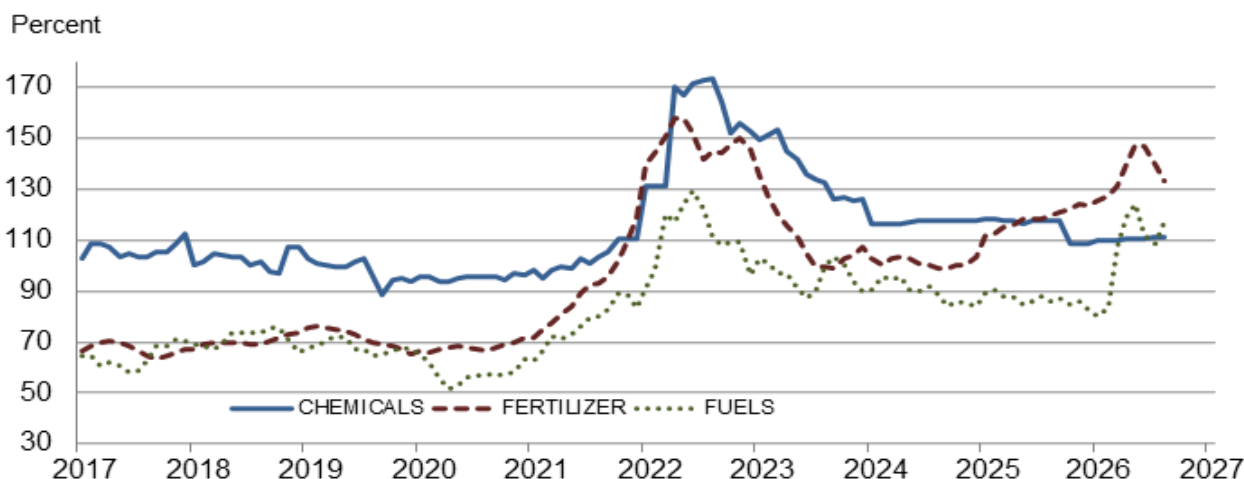
Table 4: Average Regional Input Costs in Kansas, Non-Irrigated Crops 2026

Non-Irrigated Crops (\$/Acre)						
Fertilizer	Western		Central		Eastern	
	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average
Alfalfa	1/	1/	37	57.30	7	83.14
Canola	-	-	1/	1/	-	-
Corn	67	89.49	75	122.08	51	182.33
Cotton	-	-	11	90.09	-	-
Sorghum	52	79.92	69	83.16	20	141.75
Soybeans	5	25.00	52	49.27	48	82.58
Sunflowers	-	-	8	77.13	1/	1/
Wheat	72	61.72	88	77.63	31	119.74
Herbicide	Western		Central		Eastern	
	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average
Alfalfa	3	1/	30	23.82	10	22.60
Canola	1/	1/	1/	1/	-	-
Corn	56	67.07	67	56.35	50	41.93
Cotton	-	-	11	60.09	-	-
Sorghum	45	60.79	59	54.31	18	35.47
Soybeans	6	71.48	60	66.22	53	45.52
Sunflowers	-	-	13	46.46	1/	1/
Wheat	54	26.76	70	23.66	28	16.62
Fallow	22	40.21	14	33.87	8	14.06
Insecticide	Western		Central		Eastern	
	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average
Alfalfa	3	1/	31	23.06	13	23.23
Canola	1/	1/	1/	1/	-	-
Corn	18	22.78	30	17.75	31	11.68
Cotton	1/	1/	14	26.79	-	-
Sorghum	10	21.90	33	22.18	10	14.90
Soybeans	1/	1/	39	12.55	43	13.59
Sunflowers	1/	1/	17	23.24	1/	1/
Wheat	15	14.37	26	13.52	15	8.93
Seed	Western		Central		Eastern	
	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average	# of Responses	Average
Alfalfa	1/	1/	19	101.84	11	113.64
Canola	1/	1/	1/	1/	-	-
Corn	54	62.52	65	75.28	45	109.07
Cotton	-	-	8	75.00	-	-
Sorghum	44	19.60	63	23.94	8	43.50
Soybeans	7	51.42	61	54.38	47	62.15
Sunflowers	1/	1/	13	38.00	1/	1/
Wheat	62	16.97	71	21.49	24	26.42

Note: '-' indicates no response. '1/' indicates a value suppressed because fewer than five responses were received.

Figure 2. U.S. Historical "Prices Paid" Data for Chemicals, Fertilizer, and Fuels, 2017-2026

**Paid Indexes by Non-farm Origin and Month,
Chemicals, Fertilizer, and Fuels –
United States: 2011=100**



USDA – NASS
09/29/2026

Source: USDA NASS Quick Stats. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/Agricultural_Prices/prod1.php.

Table 5. Average Fertilizer Costs in Kansas by Reporting Period, 2026

Fertilizer	Irrigated Crops				Non-irrigated Crops			
	Reported 01/15-03/31		Reported 04/01-06/30		Reported 01/15-03/31		Reported 04/01-06/30	
	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)	# of Responses	Average Cost (\$/Acre)
Alfalfa	13	94.00	15	104.00	24	60.33	23	63.43
Canola	-	-	-	-	1/	1/	-	-
Corn	67	169.81	39	190.00	119	123.81	74	131.33
Cotton	-	-	7	139.29	3	1/	8	93.75
Sorghum	26	133.73	27	133.89	91	89.51	50	91.67
Soybeans	29	67.24	20	80.10	63	65.84	42	59.59
Sunflowers	-	-	1/	1/	8	77.13	1/	1/
Wheat	39	93.23	31	97.52	115	75.44	76	83.04

Note: '-' indicates no response. '1/' indicates a value suppressed because fewer than five responses were received.