

## COMPARISON OF PROFITABILITY OF CROP ENTERPRISES

Table 1. Returns per Acre for Annual Field Crops

| Crop                                 | Price                      | Yield /A       | Returns per Acre | Labor Requirements /A |       |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|                                      |                            |                |                  | Operator              | Hired |
| Alfalfa Hay                          | \$84/T                     | 4.5 T          | \$133            | Medium                | Low   |
| Alfalfa Haylage                      | \$39/T                     | 10.5 T         | \$118            | Medium                | Low   |
| Corn Silage                          | \$20/T                     | 16.5 T         | \$71             | Medium                | Low   |
| Soybeans – No-Till                   | \$6.06/bu                  | 40 bu          | \$24             | Low                   | Low   |
| Soybeans – Conservation Tillage      | \$6.06/bu                  | 40 bu          | \$23             | Low                   | Low   |
| Wheat/Soybean Double Crop            | \$3.17/bu<br>\$6.06/bu     | 60 bu<br>20 bu | \$20             | Low                   | Low   |
| Corn – Conventional Tillage          | \$2.39/bu                  | 130 bu         | \$6              | Low                   | Low   |
| Corn – No-Till                       | \$2.39/bu                  | 130 bu         | \$5              | Low                   | Low   |
| Grass Hay                            | \$65/T                     | 3.0 T          | -\$14            | Medium                | Low   |
| High Oil Corn – Conventional Tillage | \$2.39/bu+<br>0.15 premium | 117 bu         | -\$18            | Low                   | Low   |
| High Oil Corn – No-Till              | \$2.39/bu+<br>0.15 premium | 117 bu         | -\$21            | Low                   | Low   |
| Wheat                                | \$3.17/bu                  | 60 bu          | -\$29            | Low                   | Low   |

Table 2. Annual Specialty Crop

| Crop               | Price       | Yield /A | Returns per Acre | Labor Requirements /A |        |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|------------------|-----------------------|--------|
|                    |             |          |                  | Operator              | Hired  |
| Tobacco            | \$1.90/lb   | 2500 lbs | \$1689           | High                  | High   |
| Pumpkins           | \$160/T     | 15 T     | \$881            | Medium                | High   |
| Processing Tomato  | \$80/T      | 28 T     | \$474            | Medium                | Medium |
| Sugarbeet          | \$38/T      | 20 T     | \$181            | Medium                | Medium |
| Processing Cabbage | \$38/T      | 30 T     | \$119            | Medium                | Medium |
| Popcorn            | \$10.00/cwt | 3400 lbs | \$62             | Low                   | Low    |

Table 3. Perennial Specialty Crops

| Crop   | Price       | Yield /A   | Duration (years) | Returns/A (Annual Annuity) | Labor Requirements/A |       |
|--|-------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------|
|  |             |            |                  |                            | Operator             | Hired |
| Black Raspberry – Pick Your Own                                  | \$2.25/lb   | 20,200 lb  | 11               | \$1575                     | Med.                 | High  |
| Christmas Trees – Single Leaf Conifers – Retail Sales/Ready Cut  | \$35/tree   | 800 trees  | 10               | \$1373                     | Med.                 | Med.  |
| Apples   | \$0.24/lb   | 19,200 lbs | 26               | \$1065                     | Med.                 | High  |
| Black Raspberry – Pre-Picked Retail Sales                        | \$3.35/lb   | 20,200 lb  | 11               | \$1063                     | Med.                 | VHigh |
| Black Raspberry – Pre-Picked Wholesale Sales                     | \$2.50/pint | 20,200 lb  | 11               | \$979                      | Med.                 | VHigh |
| Christmas Trees – White and Scotch Pine- Retail Sales /Ready Cut | \$25/tree   | 600 trees  | 10               | \$397                      | Med.                 | Med.  |
| Christmas Trees – Single Leaf Conifers – Wholesale Sales         | \$17/tree   | 800 trees  | 10               | \$289                      | Med.                 | Med.  |
| Strawberries – Pick Your Own                                     | \$0.75/lb   | 7000 lb    | 4                | \$495                      | High                 | High  |
| Strawberries – Pre-Picked  | \$1.00/lb   | 7000 lb    | 4                | \$150                      | High                 | VHigh |
| Grapes – Frnch Hybrid  | \$950/T     | 88 T       | 20               | \$101                      | Med.                 | High  |
| Christmas Trees – White and Scotch Pine- Wholesale Sales         | \$14/tree   | 600 trees  | 10               | -\$12                      | Med.                 | Med.  |
| Peaches  | \$0.42/lb   | 6500 lb    | 13               | -\$24                      | Med.                 | High  |

**Labor Requirements**

Low            0-5 hours/acre  
 Medium       5-20 hours/acre  
 High           20 –200 hours/acre  
 VHigh        200+ hours/acre