

# Working with Computer Spreadsheets: Example Applications and Exercises Using Microsoft Excel

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Kansas State University

Using Excel Spreadsheets Effectively

Using Excel for:

- Estimating Machinery Costs
- Budgeting and Enterprise Analysis
- Calculating Principal and Interest Payments
- Analysis of Livestock Economics

As well as:

- Tips and Tricks for Using Excel
- Other Decision Tools on *AgManager.info*

Kansas State University  
Department of Agricultural Economics

## Exercise 1 – Estimating machinery costs based on custom rates

### Situation:

You want to estimate your machinery costs associated for wheat, milo, and soybeans both per acre and total for the farm using the following information:

Field operation	Cost, \$/ac	Machinery cost category	%
Chisel	\$12.99	Fuel and oil	21.2%
Disk	\$11.60	Repairs	16.3%
Field cultivate	\$10.93	Labor	24.8%
Plant/drill		Depreciation	21.5%
Wheat	\$14.93	Interest	12.6%
Milo	\$16.59	<u>Insurance &amp; shelter</u>	<u>3.6%</u>
Soybeans	\$16.96		
NH3 application	\$13.49		
Fertilizer application	\$5.95		
Herbicide application	\$6.01		
Insecticide/fungicide application	\$6.06		
Harvest			
Wheat	\$39.18		
Milo	\$53.12		
Soybeans	\$37.14		

Operations performed by crop are the following:

Wheat – chisel; disk; field cultivate; drill; NH3, herbicide, and fungicide applications; harvest

Milo – plant; NH3, fertilizer, and herbicide (2) applications; harvest

Soybeans – plant; fertilizer and herbicide (3) applications; harvest

Acres planted to each crop: wheat = 800; milo = 400; and soybeans = 400.

### What to do:

1. Determine the total machinery costs per acre for each crop.
2. Calculate the total acres of each operation for the farm.
3. Estimate the costs per acre for each crop by machinery cost category.
4. Estimate the total costs by category for each crop enterprise and the total for the farm.
5. How would the **total** machinery costs for the farm change if the wheat were planted no-till (cost of drilling increases from \$14.93/acre to \$17.70/acre) and the three tillage operations were replaced with three herbicide applications (total of four herbicide applications)?

A1 : Estimate of Per Acre and Farm Total Machinery Costs

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	<b>Estimate of Per Acre and Farm Total Machinery Costs</b>												
2													
3	<b>Breakdown of machinery costs by category</b>					<b>Crop acreage breakdown</b>							
4	Fuel and oil		21.2%			Wheat		800					
5	Repairs		16.3%			Milo		400					
6	Labor		24.8%			Soybeans		400					
7	Depreciation		21.5%			Farm Total		1,600					
8	Interest		12.6%										
9	Insurance and shelter		3.6%										
10	<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0%</b>										
11													
12		<b>Wheat</b>			<b>Milo</b>			<b>Soybeans</b>			<b>Farm</b>		
13	<b>Operation</b>	<b>\$/acre</b>	<b>operations</b>		<b>\$/acre</b>	<b>operations</b>		<b>\$/acre</b>	<b>operations</b>		<b>Total</b>		
14	Chisel	\$12.99	1.0		\$12.99	0.0		\$12.99	0.0		800		
15	Disk	\$11.60	1.0		\$11.60	0.0		\$11.60	0.0		800		
16	Field cultivate	\$10.93	1.0		\$10.93	0.0		\$10.93	0.0		800		
17	Plant/drill	\$14.93	1.0		\$16.59	1.0		\$16.96	1.0		1,600		
18	NH3 app.	\$13.49	1.0		\$13.49	1.0		\$13.49	0.0		1,200		
19	Fertilizer app.	\$5.95	0.0		\$5.95	1.0		\$5.95	1.0		800		
20	Herbicide app.	\$6.01	1.0		\$6.01	2.0		\$6.01	3.0		2,800		
21	Insecticide/fungicide app.	\$6.06	1.0		\$6.06	0.0		\$6.06	0.0		800		
22	Harvest	\$39.18	1.0		\$53.12	1.0		\$37.14	1.0		1,600		
23	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115.19</b>	<b>8.0</b>		<b>\$101.17</b>	<b>6.0</b>		<b>\$78.08</b>	<b>6.0</b>		<b>11,200</b>		
24													
25	<b>Machinery Costs by Category</b>	<b>\$/acre</b>	<b>enterprise</b>		<b>\$/acre</b>	<b>enterprise</b>		<b>\$/acre</b>	<b>enterprise</b>		<b>Total</b>		
26	Fuel and oil	\$24.42	\$19,536		\$21.45	\$8,579		\$16.55	\$6,621		\$34,737		
27	Repairs	\$18.78	\$15,021		\$16.49	\$6,596		\$12.73	\$5,091		\$26,708		
28	Labor	\$28.57	\$22,854		\$25.09	\$10,036		\$19.36	\$7,746		\$40,635		
29	Depreciation	\$24.77	\$19,813		\$21.75	\$8,701		\$16.79	\$6,715		\$35,228		
30	Interest	\$14.51	\$11,611		\$12.75	\$5,099		\$9.84	\$3,935		\$20,645		
31	Insurance and shelter	\$4.15	\$3,317		\$3.64	\$1,457		\$2.81	\$1,124		\$5,899		
32	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115.19</b>	<b>\$92,152</b>		<b>\$101.17</b>	<b>\$40,468</b>		<b>\$78.08</b>	<b>\$31,232</b>		<b>\$163,852</b>		
33													
34													

## Exercise 2 – Constructing crop budgets and calculating breakeven prices and yields on crop share rented land

### Situation:

You plant wheat (80 ac), milo (40 ac), and soybeans (40 ac) on 160 acres of rented land with a crop share lease. The following table lists your per acre expected costs, yields, prices, and government payments for the next several years. Your crop share arrangement is 2/3 – 1/3 on wheat (sharing fertilizer and fungicide) and is 60 – 40 on the row crops (sharing fertilizer, herbicide, and insecticide – and seed on soybeans). Crop insurance costs are also shared as each party only insures their share of the crop. The landowner pays 100% of the lime expense. Assume you are the tenant (producer), thus receiving 2/3 of the wheat and 60% of the milo and soybeans.

	Wheat	Milo	Soybeans
Seed	\$16.00	\$18.90	\$61.60
Herbicide	4.19	49.30	35.79
Insecticide/fungicide	14.84	0.00	19.20
Fertilizer	70.14	83.36	20.18
Lime	5.00	5.00	5.00
Crop insurance	5.17	7.05	6.26
Crop consulting	0.00	0.00	0.00
Machinery costs	115.19	101.17	78.08
Non-machinery labor	15.00	15.00	15.00
Miscellaneous	6.50	6.50	6.50
Yield	56	88	36
Price	\$5.10	\$3.45	\$9.05
Government payment	\$4.00	\$7.00	\$0.00

### What to do:

1. Calculate your total cost per acre and the expected returns per acre on each crop for the coming year as well as the total costs for the 160 acres.
2. Given your costs, prices and government payment, calculate the yield needed at harvest where you would breakeven (i.e., net return = 0). Given the costs, yields, and government payment, calculate your breakeven price.
3. Identify the maximum amount you could pay for cash rent based on the costs, yields, prices, and government payments given (i.e., the returns over costs if you paid 100% of costs and received 100% of income).

A1 : Returns from various crop enterprises on crop share rented acres

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	<b>Returns from various crop enterprises on crop share rented acres</b>											<b>Print</b>			
2															
3	<b>Acres</b>		80.0			40.0			40.0		160.0				
4															
5		<b>Share</b>	<b>Wheat</b>		<b>Share</b>	<b>Milo</b>		<b>Share</b>	<b>Soybeans</b>		<b>Total*</b>				
6	<b>Seed</b>	100.0%	\$16.00		100.0%	\$18.90		60.0%	\$61.60		\$3,514				
7	<b>Herbicide</b>	100.0%	4.19		60.0%	49.30		60.0%	35.79		\$2,377				
8	<b>Insecticide/fungicide</b>	66.7%	14.84		60.0%	0.00		60.0%	19.20		\$1,252				
9	<b>Fertilizer</b>	66.7%	70.14		60.0%	83.36		60.0%	20.18		\$6,226				
10	<b>Lime</b>	0.0%	5.00		0.0%	5.00		0.0%	5.00		\$0				
11	<b>Crop insurance</b>	66.7%	5.17		60.0%	7.05		60.0%	6.26		\$595				
12	<b>Crop consulting</b>	100.0%	0.00		100.0%	0.00		100.0%	0.00		\$0				
13	<b>Machinery costs</b>	100.0%	115.19		100.0%	101.17		100.0%	78.08		\$16,385				
14	<b>Non-machinery labor</b>	100.0%	15.00		100.0%	15.00		100.0%	15.00		\$2,400				
15	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	100.0%	6.50		100.0%	6.50		100.0%	6.50		\$1,040				
16	<b>Total cost</b>		\$216.98			\$225.40			\$185.40		\$33,790				
17															
18	<b>Yield</b>	66.7%	56		60.0%	88		60.0%	36		n/a				
19	<b>Price</b>	100.0%	\$5.10		100.0%	\$3.45		100.0%	\$9.05		n/a				
20	<b>Gov't payment</b>	66.7%	\$4.00		60.0%	\$7.00		60.0%	\$0.00		\$381				
21	<b>Total income</b>		\$193.07			\$186.36			\$195.48		\$30,719				
22															
23	<b>Net return to producer</b>		-\$23.91			-\$39.04			\$10.08		-\$3,071				
24	<b>Breakeven yield</b>		63.0			106.9			34.1		n/a				
25	<b>Breakeven price</b>		\$5.74			\$4.19			\$8.58		n/a				
26	<b>Total returns over total costs</b>		\$37.57			\$24.32			\$78.19		\$7,106				
27	* Total for operator's share only														
28															
29															
30															
31															
32															

### **Exercise 3 – Determining loan payment and sales needed to cover payment**

#### **Situation:**

Two years ago you borrowed \$150,000 at 6.25% for five years. The annual payment on this loan is coming due but you cannot remember the amount of the payment.

You currently have inventories of steer calves (33 head weighing 620 pounds @ \$208/cwt.), wheat (8,500 bushels @ \$5.10/bu.), and milo (13,000 bushels @ \$3.45/bu). Sales of a combination of these commodities will be sold to cover the loan payment.

#### **What to do:**

1. Determine what the annual amortized payment is on your loan.
2. Identify the quantities of calves, wheat, and milo that will need to be sold to cover the entire loan payment. Constraints – at least 20% of the income needed must come from each of the three commodities, but no more than 50% can come from any one commodity and your total sales should not exceed the total loan payment by more than \$2,000. Sales of wheat and milo must be in 500 bushel increments (i.e., 500, 1000, 1500, etc.).
3. Identify the value of your inventories prior to making sales as well as after sales are made. Also, identify what percent of total revenue comes from each commodity.

A1 :

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N

**Determining principal and interest payment and sales needed to cover loan payment**

Principal		\$150,000				<u>Loan payment</u>			
Interest rate		6.25%				\$35,851.98			
Years		5							

	Beginning Inventory			Sales			Ending Inventory	
	Quantity	Value/unit	Total value	Quantity	Value	%	Quantity	Total value
Steer calves	33	\$1,289.60	\$42,556.80	12	\$15,475.20	43.0%	21	\$27,081.60
Wheat	8,500	\$5.10	\$43,350.00	2,000	\$10,200.00	28.3%	6,500	\$33,150.00
Milo	13,000	\$3.45	\$44,850.00	3,000	\$10,350.00	28.7%	10,000	\$34,500.00
<b>Total</b>			\$130,756.80		\$36,025.20	100%		\$94,731.60

Sales of wheat and milo must be in 500 bushel increments  
 Income from any one enterprise must be at least 20% of total, but no more than 50%

**Calculating the value per head of the steer calves**

	Weight	\$/cwt	\$/head
Steer calves	620	\$208.00	\$1,289.60

**Difference between sales and payment** \$173.22

## Exercise 4 – Calculating 205-day adjusted weaning weights for beef calves

### Situation:

It is October 15<sup>th</sup> and you have just weaned and weighed your beef calves. You plan on culling several cows this fall and need to decide which ones. Because all of your cows have great dispositions and are in excellent shape structurally, you need information to assist you in deciding which cows to cull. Your calves are both steers and heifers of varying ages (as are the cows) so you recognize that actual weaning weight is an inappropriate measure. After visiting with your Extension agent you decided you need to calculate 205-day adjusted weaning weights/indexes. You have recording the following information for your calves.

Calf ID	Date of Birth	Birth Weight (BW)	Sex	Age of dam	Weaning Weight (WW)
10-1	2/19/15	93	S	6	610
10-2	3/18/15	78	S	2	575
10-3	3/18/15	81	H	2	540
10-4	3/24/15	85	S	5	585
10-5	3/29/15	68	H	7	510
10-6	4/2/15	74	H	4	505
10-7	4/2/15	83	S	12	520
10-8	4/2/15	69	S	8	490
10-9	4/11/15	76	H	3	505
10-10	4/15/15	73	S	6	495

Your Extension agent has also shared the following information with you:

205 day adjusted weight =  $(WW - BW) / \text{days of age} \times 205 + BW + \text{age of dam/sex of calf adj.}$

Adjustment for age of dam and sex of calf is the following:<sup>1</sup>

<u>Age of dam</u>	<u>Male calves</u>	<u>Female calves</u>
2	+60	+54
3	+40	+36
4	+20	+18
5-10	0	0
11+	+20	+18

### What to do:

1. Calculate the age at weaning (days) for each calf, ADG, 205-day weight, and 205-day weight adjusted for age of dam and sex of calf and index (see footnote 1).
2. Calculate the average, minimum, maximum and range for all date, age, and weight variables. Also, calculate the percent of calves that are steers.
3. Construct a graph that compares the actual versus the 205-day adjusted weaning weights for your calves.

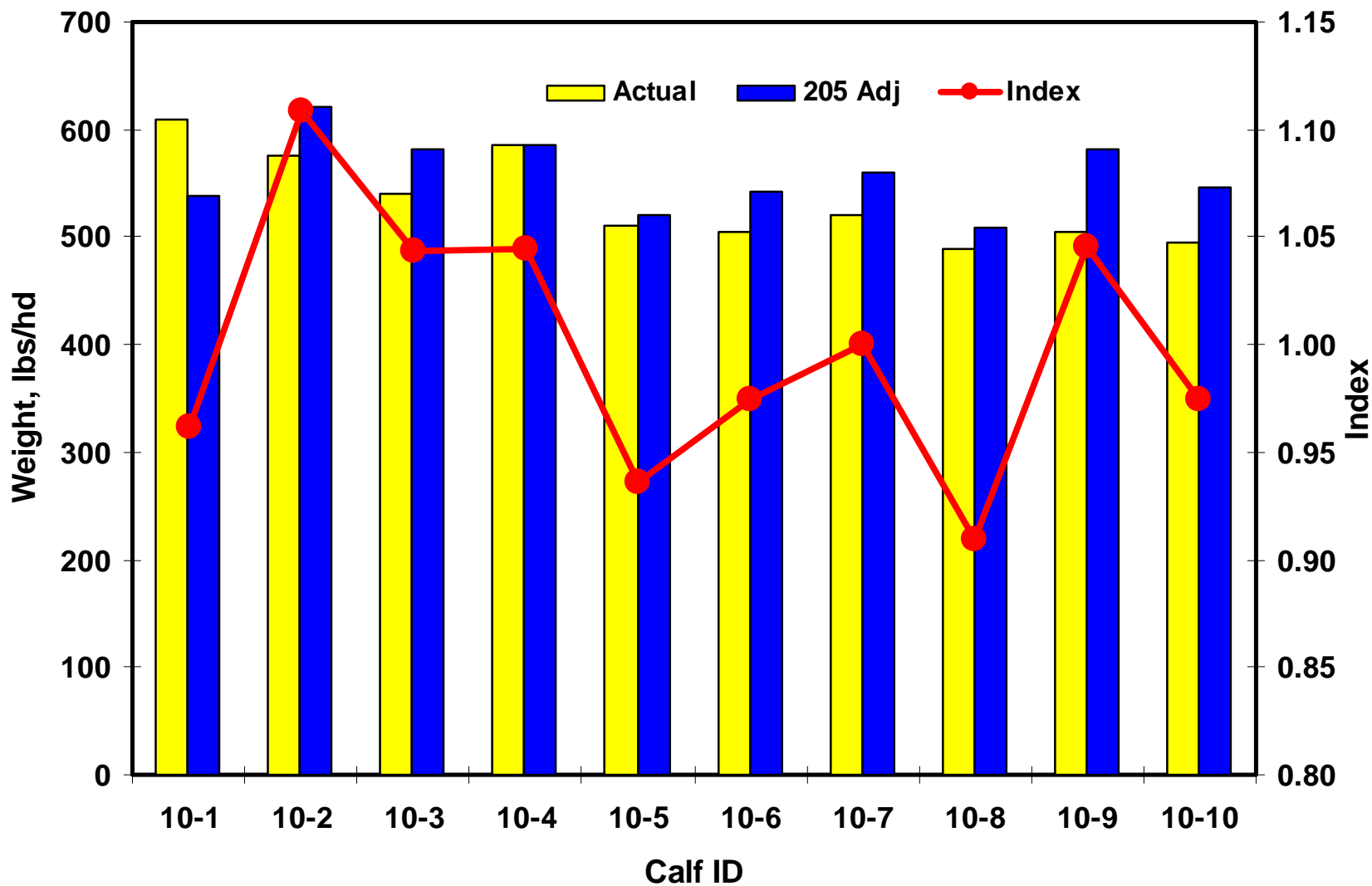
<sup>1</sup> Note that the adjustment for sex of calf is not a true sex-adjustment such that 205-day adjusted weaning weights of male and female calves can be compared directly. In order to compare male and female calves, the 205-day adjusted weight of each animal should be divided by the average adjusted 205-day weight for that sex group creating an index value that can then be compared across sexes.



A1 : Calculating 205-day adjusted weaning weight of beef calves

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	<b>Calculating 205-day adjusted weaning weight of beef calves</b>															
2																
3	<b>Weaning date</b>	10/15/15														
4												205-day				
5		<b>Date of</b>	<b>Birth</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Age of</b>	<b>Weaning</b>	<b>Age at</b>		205		205-day	205-day		<b>Age of</b>		
6	<b>Calf ID</b>	<b>birth</b>	<b>weight</b>	<b>M=1, F=0</b>	<b>dam</b>	<b>weight</b>	<b>weaning</b>	<b>ADG</b>	<b>day wt.</b>	<b>Dam adj.</b>	<b>Adj. WW</b>	<b>Index</b>		<b>dam</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
7	10-1	02/19/15	93	1	6	610	238	2.17	538	0	538	0.961		2	60	54
8	10-2	03/18/15	78	1	2	575	211	2.36	561	60	621	1.109		3	40	36
9	10-3	03/18/15	81	0	2	540	211	2.18	527	54	581	1.043		4	20	18
10	10-4	03/24/15	85	1	5	585	205	2.44	585	0	585	1.045		5	0	0
11	10-5	03/29/15	68	0	7	510	200	2.21	521	0	521	0.936		6	0	0
12	10-6	04/02/15	74	0	4	505	196	2.20	525	18	543	0.975		7	0	0
13	10-7	04/02/15	83	1	12	520	196	2.23	540	20	560	1.000		8	0	0
14	10-8	04/02/15	69	1	8	490	196	2.15	509	0	509	0.910		9	0	0
15	10-9	04/11/15	76	0	3	505	187	2.29	546	36	582	1.046		10	0	0
16	10-10	04/15/15	73	1	6	495	183	2.31	546	0	546	0.975		11	20	18
17														12	20	18
18	<b>Average</b>	03/26/15	78.0	0.60	5.5	534	202	2.25	540	18.8	559	1.000		13	20	18
19	<b>Minimum</b>	02/19/15	68.0	0.00	2.0	490	183	2.15	509	0.0	509	0.910		14	20	18
20	<b>Maximum</b>	04/15/15	93.0	1.00	12.0	610	238	2.44	585	60.0	621	1.109		15	20	18
21	<b>Range</b>	55	25.0	1.00	10.0	120	55	0.29	76	60.0	112	0.199				
22																
23	<b>Average for male calves</b>										559.9					
24	<b>Average for female calves</b>										556.8					
25																
26	<b>Comparison of Actual and 205-Day Adj. Weaning Weights</b>															
27																
28	700															1.15

### Comparison of Actual and 205-Day Adj. Weaning Weights



## **Exercise 5 – Create a print macro for the spreadsheet from Exercise 2 (Crop budgets)**

### **Situation:**

You would like to be able to print the budget easily each time you change values or crops. Create a macro with a button in the upper right corner which allows you to simply click the button to print the spreadsheet.

Some instructions on recording a macro:

A macro is a small program within Excel which functions as a shortcut to do a specific task, such as printing a range of cells.

A macro can be easily recorded using the Macro Recorder. In the Developer tab, click “Record Macro”, provide a name for it, assign a short-cut key, then press OK. Do whatever task you are wanting to create a macro for, in order, then click the “Stop Recording” button.

To run the macro, use Ctrl and the short-cut key you selected; or click on Macros in the Developer tab. This brings up a list of macros in the spreadsheet. Click on one and press Run.

The macro can also be associated with a button for ease of use. On the Developer tab, click “Insert”, then select a button and locate it where you would like it in the spreadsheet. Record the macro by doing the task you would like to do with the button, then “Stop Recording”.

## Example 6 – Working With Date Formulas

### Description:

Using dates can greatly enhance and make a variety of calculations easier. There are a number of formulas and ways to use dates. Create the following spreadsheet using dates and associated formulas. Hints for appropriate formulas are shown on the right side. As usual, the blue cells are for data entry (numbers) and the black cells are for formulas. Enter your own dates for birth month, day and year.

Working with date formulas			
<b>Hint for formula</b>			
Birth month	8		
Birth day	24		
Birth year	1959		
Birthdate	8/24/1959		Use DATE function
Today's date	9/30/2014		Use NOW or TODAY function
Days since birth	20,126		No function; subtract today's date from birthdate.
Day of week of birth	Monday		Use VLOOKUP table & WEEKDAY function
Age in years	55.10		Use YEARFRAC function
Years	55		Use INT function
Months	1		Use INT function
Days	7		Use ROUND function
<b>Weekday lookup table</b>			
Day of week	Weekday		
1	Sunday		
2	Monday		
3	Tuesday		
4	Wednesday		
5	Thursday		
6	Friday		
7	Saturday		

## Example 7 – Cattle Feeding Budget

### Description:

You wish to develop a cattle feeding budget and determine net return, cost of gain, and breakeven selling and purchase prices. There are four primary sections to this spreadsheet: Cattle Information, Cost Information, Feed Information, and the Projected Budget.

### What to do:

1. Enter cattle information and determine number of head sold, ending weight, gain (including death loss), value of gain per head and per cwt. Be sure to include death loss in these calculations. Hint: include “=Round” function in the calculation for number of head sold.
2. Enter cost information as shown. As always, blue cells represent data (numbers) entered from the keyboard.
3. Enter feed information as shown and set up formulas to calculate cost per pound, pounds of feed fed, and total units required.
4. Create the projected budget, per head, and per pen, as shown. All of these cells will include formulas. Do not enter the values directly.
5. Calculate the Net return, Cost of gain, Breakeven selling price, and Breakeven purchase price, as shown at the bottom, using appropriate calculations.
6. How does the cost of gain and breakeven prices change as you increase the price of all feeds by 30% due to the drought?

ExcelWorkshops(2013-2014)--examples\_Complete [Compatibility Mode] - Excel

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Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

A1

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	
1															
2		<b>Cattle Feeding Budget</b>													
3									Cost	Level	% applies to				
4		<b>Cattle information</b>				<b>Cost information</b>			(\$/unit)	of cost*	DL calves		* Cost levels		
5		Number of head purchased (pen)	100			Feed		N/A	N/A	25%		1 = \$/head/day			
6		Beginning weight, lbs/head	550			Labor		\$0.20	1	25%		2 = \$/head/period			
7		Purchase price, \$/cwt	\$210.00			Processing/vet		\$15.00	2	100%		3 = \$/pen/day			
8		Feeding days (period)	90			Marketing/hauling		\$10.00	2	0%		4 = \$/pen/period			
9		Average daily gain, lbs	2.20			Fuel and oil		\$17.50	3	0%					
10		Death loss (DL), %	1.50%			Utilities		\$600.00	4	0%					
11		Number of head sold	99			Repairs		\$500.00	4	0%					
12		Ending weight, lbs/head	748			Dep & int on equipment		\$1,000.00	4	0%					
13		Projected selling price, \$/cwt	\$152.00			Dep & int on facilities		\$500.00	4	0%					
14		Gain (including death loss), lbs/head	187			Miscellaneous		\$5.00	2	100%					
15		Value of gain, \$/head	-\$35.09			Other		\$0.00	0	0%					
16		Value of gain, \$/cwt	-\$18.79			Interest rate		7.75%	NA	NA					
17															

Machinery costs Crop budgets Loan payment 205-day weight Date formulas **Cattle feeding budget**

READY 100%

ExcelWorksheets(2011-12)--examples (7-22-12) [Compatibility Mode] - Microsoft Excel

Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer

Normal Page Break Preview Custom Views Full Screen Workbook Views Ruler Gridlines Message Bar Formula Bar Headings Show/Hide Zoom 100% Zoom to Selection New Window Arrange All Freeze Panes Split Hide Unhide Save Workspace Switch Windows Macros

Feed Information									
		Cost			Pounds of feed fed (as fed) per...				Total units
Feed ingredient	(\$/unit)	Lbs/unit	Cost/lb	hd/day	hd/period	pen/day	pen/period	required	
Brome hay	\$90.00	2000	\$0.05	5.00	450	500	45,000	22.50	
Rolled corn	\$6.50	56	\$0.12	8.65	779	865	77,850	1,390.18	
Soybean meal	\$375.00	2000	\$0.19	1.70	153	170	15,300	7.65	
Mineral	\$600.00	2000	\$0.30	0.25	23	25	2,250	1.13	
Other	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	
Other	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	
<b>Total</b>					<b>15.60</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>140,400</b>	

Crop budgets Loan payment 205-day weight Date formulas Cattle feed

ExcelWorksheets(2011-12)--examples (7-22-12) [Compatibility Mode] - Microsoft ...

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Projected Budget		\$/head	\$/pen
<b>Income</b>			
Market animal (sales)		\$935.71	\$93,571
Less cost of animal (purchase)		770.00	77,000.00
<b>Gross return</b>		<b>\$165.71</b>	<b>\$16,571</b>
<b>Costs</b>			
Feed		\$144.41	\$14,441
Labor		17.80	1,780
Processing/vet		15.00	1,500
Marketing/hauling		9.85	985
Fuel and oil		15.51	1,551
Utilities		5.91	591
Repairs		4.93	493
Dep & int on equipment		9.85	985
Dep & int on facilities		4.93	493
Miscellaneous		5.00	500
Other		0.00	0
Interest on feeder and 1/2 op costs**		16.71	1,671
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$249.88</b>	<b>\$23,318</b>
<b>Net return</b>		<b>-\$84.17</b>	<b>-\$8,417</b>
<b>Cost of gain, \$/cwt (excludes interest)</b>			<b>\$124.84</b>
<b>Breakeven selling price, \$/cwt</b>			<b>\$138.42</b>
<b>Breakeven purchase price, \$/cwt</b>			<b>\$124.98</b>
** Op costs = feed, labor, processing/vet, fuel and oil, utilities, repairs, miscellaneous, and other			

Crop budgets Loan payment 205-day weight Date formulas Cattle feed