

Utah State University
Extension Economics

Costs and Returns per acre from growing onions, 2004
Box Elder County

Receipts	Quantity per acre	Unit	Price/cost per unit	Value/Cost per acre	Your farm's Value
Payable onions	497	cwt	\$8.57	\$4,254.78	_____
	-	cwt	\$0.00	\$0.00	_____
Subtotal				\$4,254.78	_____
Operating costs					
Land Preparation					
Plowing	1	acre	\$10.07	\$10.07	_____
Discing	2	acre	\$4.93	\$9.86	_____
Landplaning	2	acre	\$4.90	\$9.80	_____
Bedding	1	acre	\$6.06	\$6.06	_____
Roller harrow	1	acre	\$4.87	\$4.87	_____
Planting	1	acre	\$8.90	\$8.90	_____
Seed	2	pounds	\$67.50	\$135.00	_____
Fertilization					
Nitrogen (34-0-0)	272	pounds	\$0.14	\$38.08	_____
Phosphate (11-50-2)	160	pounds	\$0.15	\$24.00	_____
Micro Nutrients	1	acre	\$5.00	\$5.00	_____
Custom application	1	acre	\$5.00	\$5.00	_____
Pesticides/herbicides					
Roundup	1	quart	\$9.76	\$9.76	_____
Goal	1	pint	\$13.40	\$13.40	_____
Ammo	20	ounce	\$2.48	\$49.60	_____
Buctril	1.37	pint	\$8.30	\$11.37	_____
Penncap	5	quart	\$8.00	\$40.00	_____
Prowl	2	quart	\$6.00	\$12.00	_____
Warrior	10	ounce	\$5.22	\$52.20	_____
Custom application	14	acre	\$5.00	\$70.00	_____
Cultivation					
1st Cultivating	1	acre	\$19.60	\$19.60	_____
2nd and 3rd Cultivating	2	acre	\$19.60	\$39.20	_____
Hand Weeding	1	acre	\$67.00	\$67.00	_____
Irrigation (siphon)	8	irrigations			
Labor	2.67	hours	\$10.00	\$26.67	_____
Water assessment	1	share	\$10.00	\$10.00	_____
Repairs/maintenance	1	acre	\$2.30	\$2.30	_____
Pumping	35	acre inch	\$0.00	\$0.00	_____
Harvesting					
Undercutting	1	acre	\$15.09	\$15.09	_____
Topping	1	acre	\$37.34	\$37.34	_____
Loading	1	acre	\$28.68	\$28.68	_____
Trucking	3	loads/acre	\$4.11	\$12.33	_____
Grading	497	cwt	\$2.00	\$993.33	_____
Interest on operating capital			8.00%	\$17.29	_____
Subtotal				\$1,783.80	_____
Ownership costs (excludes cost of land)				\$185.61	_____
Farm insurance	1	acre	\$2.00	\$2.00	_____
Machinery ownership costs	1	acre	\$175.36	\$175.36	_____
Irrigation ownership costs	1	acre	\$8.25	\$8.25	_____
Total costs				\$1,969.41	_____
Net returns to owner for unpaid labor, management, equity and risk					
Above operating costs				\$2,470.98	_____
Above total listed costs				\$2,285.37	_____

Assumptions

- Onions planted in late March and harvested in September.
- Interest computed on land preparation and planting costs for 6 months and fertilization/herbicide/irrigation/cultivation costs for 3 months.
- Machinery operating costs include: fuel, oil, repairs and labor.
- Onion equipment ownership costs are allocated to onion acreage only.
Ownership costs for equipment used for multiple enterprises is allocated on a per acre basis.
- Machinery ownership costs include depreciation, interest, insurance, and housing.

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with input from producers in Box Elder county