



Industry & Investment

POTATO - Fresh (Winter) - Sprinkler Irrigation

Farm Enterprise Budget Series

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area 2009

1. GROSS MARGIN BUDGET:

INCOME:

20 t/ha	@	\$600.00 /tonne
10 t/ha	@	\$450.00 /tonne

Standard Budget \$/ha	Your Budget \$/ha
\$12,000	
\$4,500	
\$16,500	

A. TOTAL INCOME \$/ha:

VARIABLE COSTS:

See following page for detail

Seed.....	\$2,220	
Tractor costs.....	\$179	
Irrigation.....	\$626	
Fertiliser.....	\$2,547	
Pest control.....	\$103	
Weed control.....	\$42	
Casual labour.....	\$264	
Harvesting (packed in paddock).....	\$1,158	
Marketing.....	\$6,563	

B. TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS \$/ha:

C. GROSS MARGIN (A-B) \$/ha

D. GROSS MARGIN \$/ML

\$13,702	
\$2,798	
\$350	

2. SENSITIVITY TABLES

2.1 EFFECT OF YIELD AND PRICE ON GROSS MARGIN PER HECTARE

YIELD (top grade) t/ha	Price for top grade \$/tonne				
	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650	\$700
10	-\$1,693	-\$1,256	-\$818	-\$381	\$57
15	-\$421	\$235	\$892	\$1,548	\$2,204
20	\$852	\$1,727	\$2,798	\$3,477	\$4,352
25	\$2,124	\$3,218	\$4,312	\$5,405	\$6,499
30	\$3,397	\$4,709	\$6,022	\$7,334	\$8,647

2.2 EFFECT OF YIELD AND PRICE ON GROSS MARGIN PER MEGALITRE

YIELD (top grade) t/ha	Price for top grade \$/tonne				
	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650	\$700
10	-\$212	-\$157	-\$102	-\$48	\$7
15	-\$53	\$29	\$111	\$193	\$276
20	\$106	\$216	\$350	\$435	\$544
25	\$266	\$402	\$539	\$676	\$812
30	\$425	\$589	\$753	\$917	\$1,081

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CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:						
Operation	Machinery			Inputs		
	Hrs/ha	Cost \$/hr	Total \$/ha	Rate/ha	Cost	Total \$/ha
Deep rip	1.18	\$100.00	\$118.00			
Disc plough	0.42	\$22.85	\$9.60			
Broadcast fertiliser <i>eg: Lime</i>	0.1	\$24.91	\$2.49	2500kg	\$0.07	\$181.82
Lister	0.86	\$27.95	\$21.80			
Bedform	0.66	\$25.05	\$19.54			
Apply pre-emergent <i>eg: Roundup 360</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	1.5L	\$13.20	\$19.80
Planter	0.29	\$31.12	\$9.02			
Apply starter fertiliser <i>eg: Starterfos DAP</i>	0.1	\$24.91	\$2.49	600kg	\$1.62	\$969.00
<i>eg: Sulphate of Potash</i>				300kg	\$1.68	\$502.50
Potato Seed				3000kg	\$0.67	\$2,010.00
Potato seed dusting				6kg	\$30.00	\$180.00
Potato seed storage				6 bins	\$5.00	\$30.00
Apply post-emergent <i>eg: Sencor SC</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	0.4L	\$56.00	\$22.40
Target spot control <i>eg: Bravo 720</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	1.8kg	\$20.44	\$36.79
Potato moth & aphid control <i>eg: Nitofol</i>				0.7L	\$39.00	\$27.30
Apply sidedressing fertiliser <i>eg: Urea</i>	0.1	\$24.91	\$4.98	400kg	\$0.98	\$390.80
Apply <i>Sulphate of potash</i>				300kg	\$1.68	\$502.50
Target spot control <i>eg: Score</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	0.5kg	\$123.00	\$61.50
Target spot control <i>eg: Bravo 720</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	1.8kg	\$20.44	\$36.79
Potato moth control <i>eg: Axe</i>				0.2L	\$73.00	\$14.60
Irrigation				8ML	\$32.80	\$262.39
Pumping costs				8ML	\$45.50	\$364.00
Contract harvest				30tonnes	\$33.00	\$990.00
Harvest labour				12hours	\$22.00	\$264.00
Tractor and bin trailer	0.42	\$21.78	\$9.15			
Bin hire (14 days)				75 bins	\$0.16	\$168.00
50kg hessian bags				600bags	\$1.00	\$600.00
Pack and grade (labour)				600bags	\$4.00	\$2,400.00
Freight				600bags	\$2.50	\$1,500.00
Levy				0.50%		\$70.00
Commission				120%		\$1,680.00

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AGRONOMIC NOTES

Tractor costs: Tractor costs are calculated using a 66 KW engine (90 HP) tractor plus the cost of the implement.

Irrigation: The cost of irrigation water will vary depending on where it is obtained. River water obtained from Murrumbidgee Irrigation is about \$32.80/ML based on a 50% allocation. If purchasing a temporary transfer, the cost of water can increase considerably.
The cost of pumping varies depending on a number of factors including the type of pump and its efficiency, meters of head, flow rate required and cost of electricity.

Production: Plants are spaced 220 to 250mm apart on rows 810 to 910mm apart. The winter crop is the main income crop in most districts. It has lower yields than the summer crop due to a shorter growing season and a higher incidence of disease. Coliban is the main white skin and Desiree is the main red skin variety.

Harvesting: Potatoes are sown in February for a Mid June to Late October harvest.

Yields: Paddock yields vary from 25 to 35 tonnes per hectare. Production in the tablelands can expect 20% higher yields than in the Riverina.

Economic note: **This budget is ONLY A GUIDE** and should be altered for movements in crop and input prices, changes in seasonal conditions and the farm characteristics.
This budget does not include overhead costs or GST.