

Enterprise ONIONS - MECHANICAL HARVEST 2001
Unit ha Furrow Irrigation

GROSS MARGIN BUDGET:			1 ha	Standard Budget	Your Budget
INCOME:					
1800 bags/ha	@	\$6.50 /bag		\$11,700.00	
			A. Total Income/ha	\$11,700.00	
VARIABLE COSTS:					
Seed					
Creamgold		3.5 kg/ha	\$250.00 /kg	\$875.00	
Tractor costs					
Large equipment including labour, fuel, oil, etc					
2 Cultivation		0.7 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$42.70	
1 Lister		0.5 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$15.25	
1 Drill Fertiliser		0.5 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$15.25	
2 Bedform		0.5 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$30.50	
1 Sidedress		0.5 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$15.25	
1 Inter Row Cult'n		0.5 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$15.25	
11 Boomspray		0.2 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$67.10	
1 Sowing		2.5 hr/ha	\$24.50 /hr	\$61.25	
Irrigation					
Water		6 ML/ha	\$17.36 /ML	\$104.16	
Fertiliser					
Sap Testing				\$15.00	
Starter Fertiliser		400 kg/ha	\$0.45 /kg	\$180.00	
Ammonium nitrate		300 kg/ha	\$0.41 /kg	\$122.10	
Pest control					
2 Insecticide		0.5 L/ha	\$46.00 /L	\$46.00	
1 Insecticide		0.8 L/ha	\$8.75 /L	\$7.00	
4 Fungicide		2.2 kg/ha	\$7.45 /kg	\$65.56	
1 Fungicide		2.5 L/ha	\$62.00 /kg	\$155.00	
Weed Control					
1 Herbicide		2.0 L/ha	\$11.25 /L	\$22.50	
1 Pre-emergent		1.5 L/ha	\$9.45 /L	\$14.18	
1 Post emergent		1.0 L/ha	\$9.45 /L	\$9.45	
1 Post emergent		1.0 L/ha	\$63.70 /L	\$63.70	
1 Post emergent		1.0 kg/ha	\$71.00 /kg	\$71.00	
1 Post emergent		2.0 kg/ha	\$71.00 /kg	\$142.00	
1 Post emergent		1.0 L/ha	\$33.80 /L	\$33.80	
1 Post emergent		2.0 L/ha	\$33.80 /L	\$67.60	
Chipping		5.0 hr/ha	\$14.50 /hr	\$72.50	
Aerial spraying					
3 Applications			\$12.00 /ha	\$36.00	
Harvesting (50 paddock Tonnes to get 36 marketable Tonnes)					
1 Harvester		2.0 hr/ha	\$35.00 /hr	\$70.00	
1 Topper		0.5 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$15.25	
2 Chaser bin		2.0 hr/ha	\$30.50 /hr	\$122.00	
handling					
Pre-grade		50 t/ha	\$4.90 /t	\$245.00	
Curing		36 t/ha	\$2.50 /t/hr	\$90.00	
Packing		1800 bags/ha	\$1.00 /bag	\$1,800.00	
Bags		1800 bags/ha	\$0.26 /bag	\$468.00	
Bin Hire (2 months)		110 Bins/ha	\$9.60 /Bin	\$1,056.00	
Freight					
Markets		1800 bags/ha	\$0.90 /bag	\$1,620.00	
Levy			40 cents/t	\$14.40	
Agents commission			12.00%	\$1,404.00	
			B. Total Variable Costs	\$9,269.75	
			Gross Margin per ha (A-B)	\$2,430.26	
			Gross Margin /ML	\$405.04	

Break-even price	\$5.15 /bag
Break-even yield	1426 bags/ha

PRODUCT TRADE NAMES

The product trade names in this publication are omitted on the understanding that no preference between equivalent products is intended and that the inclusion of a product does not imply endorsement by NSW Agriculture over any other equivalent product from another manufacturer.

Enterprise

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 Furrow Irrigation

2001

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS
TABLE 1- Effect of Yield and Price on Gross Margin /ha

YIELD (bags)	DELIVERED PRICE (\$/bag)					
	4.50	5.50	6.50	7.50	8.50	9.50
1300	-\$1,541	-\$397	\$747	\$1,891	\$3,035	\$4,179
1550	-\$1,139	\$225	\$1,589	\$2,953	\$4,317	\$5,681
1800	-\$738	\$846	\$2,430	\$4,014	\$5,598	\$7,182
2050	-\$336	\$1,468	\$3,272	\$5,076	\$6,880	\$8,684
2300	\$65	\$2,089	\$4,113	\$6,137	\$8,161	\$10,185

TABLE 2- Effect of Yield and Price on Gross Margin /ML

YIELD (bags)	DELIVERED PRICE (\$/bag)					
	4.50	5.50	6.50	7.50	8.50	9.50
1300	-\$257	-\$66	\$125	\$315	\$506	\$697
1550	-\$190	\$37	\$265	\$492	\$719	\$947
1800	-\$123	\$141	\$405	\$669	\$933	\$1,197
2050	-\$56	\$245	\$545	\$846	\$1,147	\$1,447
2300	\$11	\$348	\$686	\$1,023	\$1,360	\$1,698

The weighted average price shown in bold is based on the Flemington Market prices over a recent 12 month period.

NOTES:

Area	- MIA and Jerilderie are the main growing areas.
Production	- Aim for 50-60 plants per square meter on 1.5 to 1.8m beds. Sowing runs from May through to late July. Gladalan types and early hybrids should be sown from 1st to 15th May. Early and late Creamgold should be sown after 15th May. Earlier sowing could cause crop to bolt. Onions for longterm storage should be size graded with disease/damaged bulbs removed.
Pests	- Thrips are the main insect pest with downy mildew the main disease problem in the paddock. - Black mould can be a storage problem.
Harvesting	- Avoid irrigating within 3 weeks of harvest. Commence harvest at 90% tops down. - Harvesting usually commences in November and runs through to the end of February. The growing period depends on variety and time of sowing and ranges from 25 to 30 weeks. - Costs for mechanical harvesters range from \$75,000 to \$110,000.
Curing	- Fan forced curing systems is required with mechanically harvested onions. - Traditional methods may be inadequate.
Yields	- Yields range from 35 to 50 tonnes per hectare. Marketable yields may be lower than hand harvesting due to mechanical damage.
Packaging	- Onions are normally marketed in 20kg netted bags. Avoid long term storage of Gladalan types. - Creamgold for export should have good leaf coverage, at least 1cm neck, uniform in colour, shape and firmness. Avoid delays in harvest which could result in sunburn. Coolstores at low humidity preferable for export onions.
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.