

Comparison of Three Crop Rotations

| Average costs of production, 2003-05 (dollars per acre) | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Type of rotation | | |
| | 2-yr C-SB | 3-yr C-SB-T | 4-yr C-SB-T-A |
| Machinery | 69 | 72 | 73 |
| Seed | 30 | 34 | 32 |
| Chemical | 54 | 14 | 11 |
| Fertilizer | 14 | 7 | 4 |
| Misc. | 18 | 14 | 12 |
| Total | 185 | 141 | 132 |
| Average yields, 2003-05 (bushels per acre) | | | |
| Corn | 199 | 207 | 207 |
| Soybean | 52 | 56 | 56 |
| Triticale | | 63 | 64 |
| Triticale straw | | 0.76 | 0.77 |
| Alfalfa | | | 0.33 |
| Alfalfa (first year) | | | 4.3 |
| Labor (hours per acre) | | | |
| Corn | .66 | 1.73 | 1.74 |
| Soybean | .84 | 1.03 | 1.03 |
| Triticale | | .81 | 1.06 |
| Triticale/alfalfa | | | 1.6 |
| Alfalfa (first year) | | | |
| Average (all years) | .75 | 1.19 | 1.36 |
| Return to land and management (dollars per acre) | | | |
| Corn | 173 | 208 | 216 |
| Soybean | 142 | 180 | 184 |
| Triticale | | 44 | |
| Triticale/alfalfa | | | 32 |
| Alfalfa (first year) | | | 272 |
| Rotation | 158 | 144 | 176 |
| <p>Based on field data, ISU Marsden Farm Crop Rotation Experiment, averages of crop years 2003, 2004 and 2005. Prepared by Matt Liebman, ISU Agronomy; and Craig Chase, ISU Extension. Funded by the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. July 2006 C = corn; SB = soybean; T = triticale; and A = alfalfa.</p> | | | |

