

FAST TOOLS: HANDS-ON COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

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Executive Summary

- FAST Tools are a set of spreadsheet-based computer applications designed to assist users with farm economic decisions.
- FAST Tools applications are subdivided into financial analysis, investment analysis, loan analysis, farm management, grain marketing and management, risk management and yield and land database utilities.
- Financial analysis tools assist users in preparing and interpreting financial information and measuring financial health.
- Investment analysis tools assist users in measuring the economic returns and performance of alternative types of investments.
- Loan analysis tools assist users in calculating loan payments and schedules; comparing alternative loans; and measuring the sensitivity of payments to changes in loan parameters.
- Farm management tools assist users in developing enterprise budgets and breakevens levels; estimating costs of machinery operations; and comparing crop insurance and farmland leasing alternatives
- Grain marketing and management tools assist users in developing enterprise budgets and breakeven levels; estimating costs of machinery operations; and comparing crop insurance and farmland leasing alternatives.
- Risk management tools assist users in evaluating the impact of farmland lease types as well as marketing and crop insurance strategies on revenue and income distributions
- Yield and land database utilities assist users in analyzing county-level historical crop yields and land prices and assist with common computations related to soil productivity measures and yield predictions.
- FAST Tools and Resources CD also contain publications and resources in areas of AgMAS, crop insurance, farm management, financial management, grain marketing, policy, law, and taxation.

