FAST Tools: Hands-on Computer Applications

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Outline

• FAST Tools overview

• Hands-on Applications
  - Grain inventory management
  - Crop budgeting
  - Grain delivery costs and returns
  - Others
FAST Tools

- **farmdoc** companion project initiated in 1999
- Development of spreadsheet-based tools to aid decisions for producers, lenders, consultants and investors
- Facilitate use, access, distribution of tools and resources through CD and internet distribution
  - Quarterly subscription
  - **farmdoc** download
  - via workshops
- Approximately, 20,000 CDs produced and another 15,000 downloads
- Increased demand for education and training

FAST Tools - Overview

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Financial Analysis
Assist in preparing and interpreting financial information and measuring financial health

- Appraisal of current financial position
- Balance sheet
- Ratio calculator
- Cash flow planning
- Cash to accrual income approximation
- Estimates of deferred taxes
- Repayment capacity analysis
- Net worth allocation

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Investment Analysis
Assist in measuring the economic returns and performance of alternative types of investments.

- Capital budgeting
- Grain bin analysis
- Land purchase analysis
- Lease versus purchase
- Machinery financing
- MACRS calculator
- Savings calculator
- Time value of money calculator
Loan Analysis

- Loan amortization
- Loan comparison
- Revolving loan calculator

Farm Management

- Break even analysis
- Crop budgeting tool
- Crop insurance calculator
- Enterprise allocation and analysis
- Farmland lease analysis
- Machinery lease analysis
Grain Marketing and Management

- Assist in tracking grain inventory and estimating the costs and returns of grain storage and delivery
  - Crop storage analysis
  - Grain delivery model
  - Grain inventory management

Risk Management

- Assist in evaluating the impact of farmland lease types as well as marketing and crop insurance strategies on revenue and income distributions.
  - Crop insurance historical evaluator
  - Farm rent evaluator
  - Marketing and crop insurance risk model
Yield and Land Database Utilities

Assist in analyzing county-level historical crop yields and land prices and assist with common computations related to soil productivity measures and yield predictions

- Illinois crop yield database
- Illinois farmland sales database
- Iowa crop yield database
- Illinois soil productivity index utilities

farmdoc materials

- AgMas
- Crop Insurance
- Proceedings: this workshop
- Farm Management
- Financial Management
- Grain Marketing
- Policy
- Law and Taxation
farmdoc resources: Farm Management

- Farm Economics: Facts and Opinions
- Costs of operating machinery
- Costs of production
- Crop budgets & Crop revenue less variable costs
- Hog budgets
- Farmland index numbers and Soil Productivity Ratings
- Leasing forms
- Share rent leasing characteristics by crop reporting district

farmdoc resources: Financial Management

- Farmers Guide to Agricultural Credit
- Producer preferences for lender attributes
- Getting ready to prepare a balance sheet
- Financial analysis primer
- Credit analysis report
- Family living tables
- Financial characteristics of Illinois Farms: 2002-03
- Financial Characteristics: historical tables
- Machinery Investment per acre
- Time value of money concepts
- Investment analysis and capital budgeting guide
Hands-On Applications: Grain Inventory

With this program, the user can manage and track grain inventories by landowner, production location, storage site and field.

Hands-on Applications Grain Delivery Model

This program aids farmers in comparing net revenues associated with delivering grain to three different locations. It will also compute the chance of obtaining prices above break-even prices.
Hands-On Applications
Crop Budgeting Tool

With this program, the user can budget per-acre returns from different crops. These estimates can be used to determine which crops to plant and how much to pay for cash rent.