

Advancing Wheat Fiber Through Policy

NAWG | NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF WHEAT GROWERS

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VP Policy and
Communications



Overview

- Who is NAWG
- What is the Farm Bill
- Current state of play and NAWG's priorities
- How can the industry advance wheat fiber in a future farm bill
- Existing nutritional incentives in the farm bill (and other places)
- The prospects and process to securing changes in a future farm bill





NAWG Overview

- NAWG is the primary representative in Washington D.C. for wheat growers, working to ensure a better future for America's growers, the industry and the general public.
- NAWG works with a team of 20 state wheat grower organizations to benefit the wheat industry at state and national levels.
- Our mission is “uniting wheat farmers to promote policy efforts that create an environment that is conducive to the success of wheat farming in the United States.”

What is the Farm Bill ?


- The farm bill is an omnibus, multi-year law that consists of twelve titles – commodity programs, conservation, nutrition, research, crop insurance, energy, forestry, etc.
- The omnibus nature helps create a broad coalition for policies that individually might not have projection and support in Congress.
- Farm bills have both a 5-year and 10-year budget projection and include both mandatory and discretionary spending categories.
- The 2018 farm bill was extended through Sept. 30 and has not been extended to date.





2024 CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR CQ Roll Call

 Both chambers in session

 Senate only in session

 House only in session

July

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 GOP National Conv.	16 GOP National Conv.	17 GOP National Conv.	18 GOP National Conv.	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Dem National Conv.	20 Dem National Conv.	21 Dem National Conv.	22 Dem National Conv.	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3 Rosh Hashana (begins)	4 Rosh Hashana (ends)	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Yom Kippur (begins)	12 Yom Kippur (ends)
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30

December

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Hanukkah (begins)	27	28
29	30	31				



Table I. Legislative Action on the 2018 Farm Bill

	House		Senate		Conference Report Approval			
	Cmte.	Passage	Cmte.	Passage	Report	House	Senate	Public Law
2018 farm bill Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 Covers 2019-2023 crops or until 9/30/2023	4/18/2018 H.R. 2 Vote of 26-20 5/3/2018 H.Rept. 115-661	5/18/2018 H.R. 2 Initial vote failed by 198-213 Reconsidered under H.Res. 905 6/21/2018 Passed by vote of 213-211	6/13/2018 S. 3042 Vote of 20-1	6/28/2018 H.R. 2 Vote of 86-11	12/10/2018 H.Rept. 115-1072	12/12/2018 H.R. 2 Vote of 369-47	12/11/2018 H.R. 2 Vote of 87-13	12/20/2018 P.L. 115-334

Source: CRS Report R45210, *Farm Bills: Major Legislative Actions, 1965-2018*.

Policy Setting

NAWG Farm Bill Priorities and Obstacles Ahead

- NAWG Priorities
 - Protect and Enhance Crop Insurance
 - Securing a MEANINGFUL PLC Reference Price Increase [*Currently \$5.50*]
 - Trade Title – Doubling Funding for MAP/FMD [*Currently funded at \$200m and \$34.5m respectively*]
 - Conservation
 - Continuing support for conservation financial and technical assistance resources
 - Keeping programs voluntary and recognizing the different production systems in wheat country
 - Opposing increased conservation compliance on farmers.
- Obstacles Ahead in the Process
 - Politicking and the 2024 Elections
 - Budget Realities and Congressional Budget Office Scoring re CCC
 - Redlines re Conservation and Nutrition Dollars
 - Climate Smart Guardrails
 - SNAP
 - The Legislative Calendar (in the 118th and 119th Congress)



How can we advance wheat fiber via policy?

- A future farm bill may provide an opportunity
- A concept could be to look at providing funding for increased-fiber certified wheat seed
- It would be a novel concept, but not without a legislative president

The 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334), by Title

Title I, Commodity Programs: Provides support for major commodity crops, including wheat, corn, soybeans, peanuts, rice, dairy, and sugar, as well as disaster assistance.

Title II, Conservation: Encourages environmental stewardship of farmlands and improved management through land retirement and/or working lands programs.

Title III, Trade: Supports U.S. agricultural export programs and international food assistance programs.

Title IV, Nutrition: Provides nutrition assistance for low-income households through programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Title V, Credit: Offers direct government loans to farmers/ranchers and guarantees on private lenders' loans.

Title VI, Rural Development: Supports rural business and community development programs.

Title VII, Research, Extension, and Related Matters: Supports agricultural research and extension programs.

Title VIII, Forestry: Supports forestry management programs run by USDA's Forest Service.

Title IX, Energy: Encourages the development of farm and community renewable energy systems through various programs, including grants and loan guarantees.

Title X, Horticulture: Supports the production of specialty crops, USDA-certified organic foods, and locally produced foods and authorizes establishing a regulatory framework for the cultivation of industrial hemp.

Title XI, Crop Insurance: Enhances risk management through the permanently authorized federal crop insurance program.

Title XII, Miscellaneous: Covers other programs and assistance, including livestock and poultry production and support for beginning farmers and ranchers.

How has legislation incentivized healthy food?

- SNAP healthy incentives
- Bonus Incentives / Double-up Food Bucks
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Others?



Program	Authorizing Statute	Program Summary	Appropriations (exceptions noted)	Participation
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly, Food Stamp Program)	Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (§1 et seq.)	Provides to low-income households electronic benefits redeemable for SNAP-eligible foods at SNAP-eligible retailers. Benefit amounts vary by household size and benefit calculation rules. Non-benefit SNAP funding for matching states' administrative costs, Employment & Training, nutrition education, and other SNAP-related costs. Operates in 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands.	\$113.8 billion ^a (actual costs) (mandatory)	41.6 million in an average month
Nutrition Assistance Block Grants	Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (§28)	Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands receive capped funding to administer respective nutrition programs under terms negotiated with Memoranda of Understanding with USDA.	\$2.058 billion ^b (mandatory)	868,000 in an average month
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (§27); Emergency Food Assistance Act (§204(a))	Provides food commodities (and cash support for storage and distribution costs) through states to local emergency feeding organizations (e.g., food banks).	\$1.58 billion ^c (actual costs) (mandatory and discretionary)	Not available
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (§4(a))	Provides supplemental monthly food packages to low-income seniors.	\$325 million ^b (discretionary)	662,000 in an average month
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (§4(b)); Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (§4(a))	Provides, in lieu of SNAP benefits, food commodities to low-income households on Indian reservations and to Native American families residing in Oklahoma or in designated areas near Oklahoma.	\$87.8 million ^b (mandatory)	48,000 in an average month
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)	Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (§4002)	Provides vouchers/coupons to low-income seniors to purchase fresh produce at farmers' markets and other direct-to-consumer venues.	\$20.6 million (mandatory)	726,000 (FY2020)
Community Food Projects	Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (§25)	Competitive grants to nonprofit organizations for programs that improve access to locally produced food for low-income households.	\$5 million (mandatory)	Not available
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) program	Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (§4405)	Competitive grants for projects that increase low-income consumers' purchase of fruits and vegetables by providing incentives at SNAP points of purchase and (added by 2018 farm bill) providing produce prescriptions to SNAP/Medicaid participants.	\$45 million ^b (mandatory)	Not available

Source: Participation and actual costs data from August 2022 USDA-FNS Key Data Report, dated November 10, 2022. Appropriations data



	1973 (§4(a))	near Oklahoma.		
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SNAP HEALTHY INCENTIVES

SNAP healthy incentive programs encourage healthy eating by making nutritious food more accessible and affordable through coupons, discounts, gift cards, bonus items, or extra funds.

Research shows that incentive programs are an effective way to promote healthy eating and improve [food and nutrition security](#). Improving what Americans eat can significantly reduce diet-related chronic diseases and disparities.

Interested in starting a SNAP healthy incentive program?

Visit the FNS [website](#) to learn more.



Where are incentives offered?

- Stores: from small, local markets to large national chains
- Farmers markets
- Online SNAP retailers



What are some types of incentives?

- Extra funds (e.g. “double bucks”)
- Percentage discount
- Coupon for future purchases
- Bonus food items



What foods can be incentivized?

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Dairy
- Whole grains

Bonus Incentives/Double-Up Food Bucks

Provide matching dollars in the form of tokens or paper coupons to SNAP customers for purchases of fruits and vegetables.

Increase SNAP customers' purchasing power so that they can afford to buy more fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods at the market.

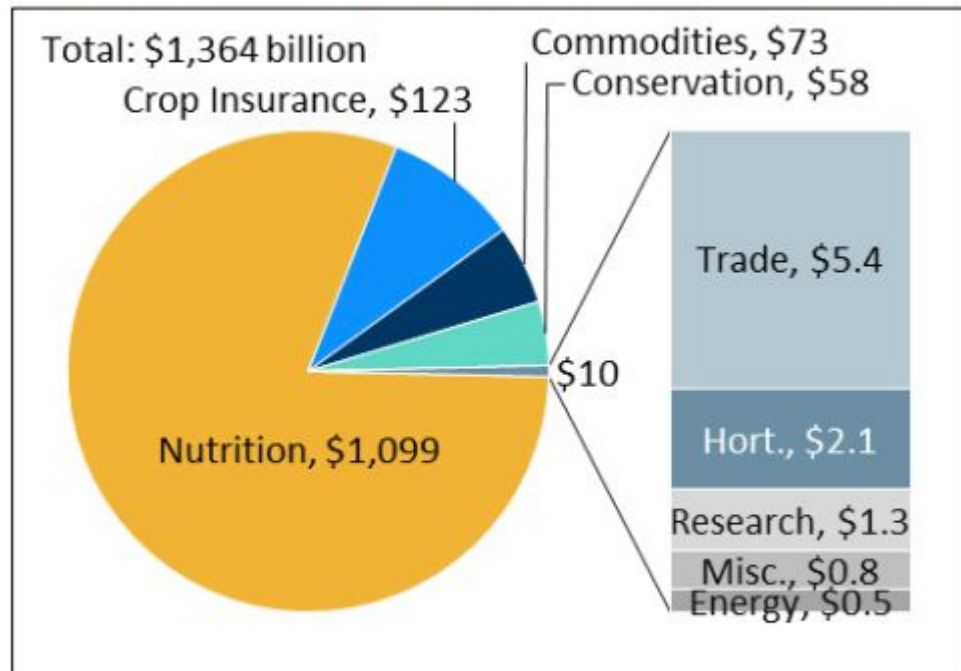
These projects are usually funded by private foundations, non-profit organizations, or local government entities.



Prospects and Process

- Farm Bill Resources – current 10-year CBO outlook is \$1.36 trillion
- Ability to coalition build
 - Nutrition groups
 - Health community
 - Other commodity organizations
- Identifying lawmakers to champion such a proposal
- What is the interplay between existing incentive programs
- Thinking through implementation process within USDA

Figure 1. Farm Bill Titles with Mandatory Baseline
(billions of dollars, 10-year projected outlays, FY2025-FY2034)



Source: Created by CRS using the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) June 2024 baseline for the five largest titles and amounts indicated in law for programs in other titles.

Polycymaking at NAWG

NAWG Process for Identifying Farm Bill Priorities

- Farm Bill Implementation
 - Working with RMA, FSA, NRCS (and others) to implement legislative and regulatory changes
 - Some changes may require a public comment period, and others may be more easily implemented
- Working to Identify Future Farm Bill Priorities
 - NAWG's policy committees will evaluate the effectiveness of the current farm bill
 - Survey wheat growers on the effectiveness of the farm bill and what the needs are in wheat country
 - Conduct policy reviews and studies as needed
 - The policy committees will put proposals to the full board for consideration
 - The board will collectively identify the top priorities for the organization
- Present the Policy Priorities to the Four Corners of the Ag Committee
 - Written and in-person meetings
 - Testifying before the committees
 - Building board coalitions and/or identifying legislative champions





Upcoming Meetings

- NAWG/USW Fall Conference from November 12-14, Phoenix, AZ
- NAWG Annual Conference/USW Winter Meeting from January 13-15, Washington, DC
- Commodity Classic from March 2-4
- NWIC Hill Days in mid-March

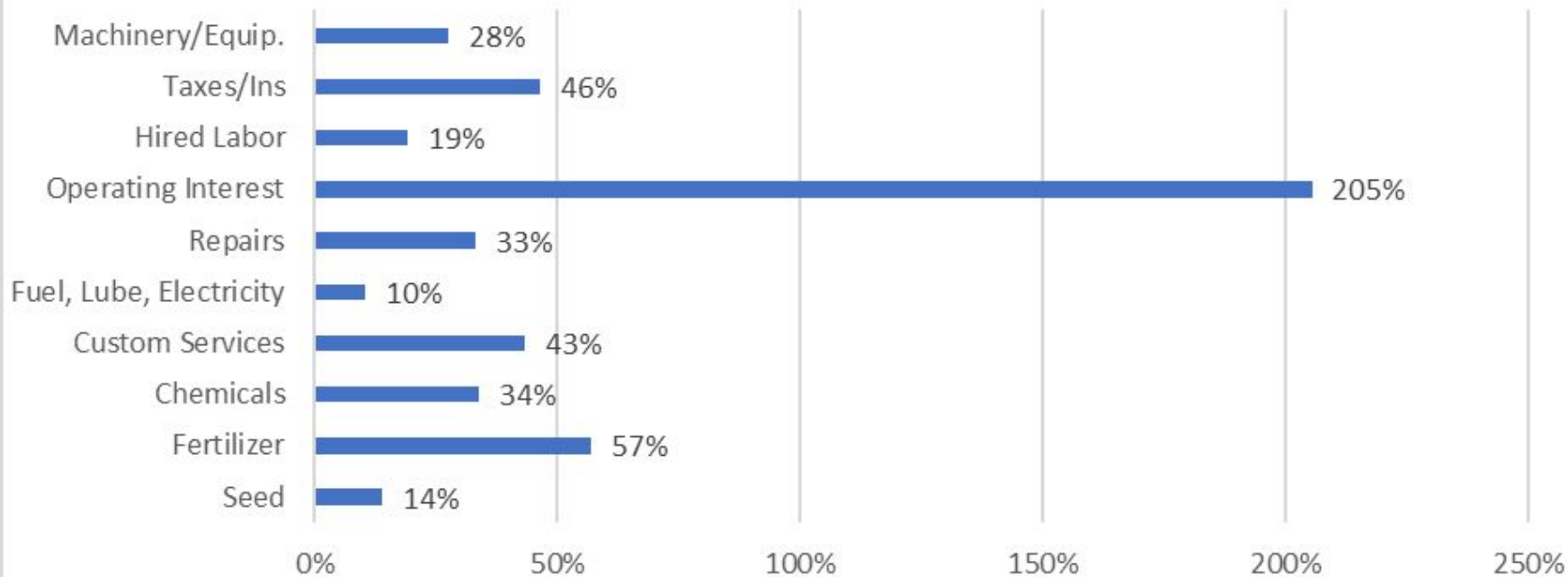
Questions and Discussion

- ✓ Facebook @WheatWorld
- ✓ Twitter @WheatWorld
- ✓ Instagram @WheatGrowers
- ✓ LinkedIn



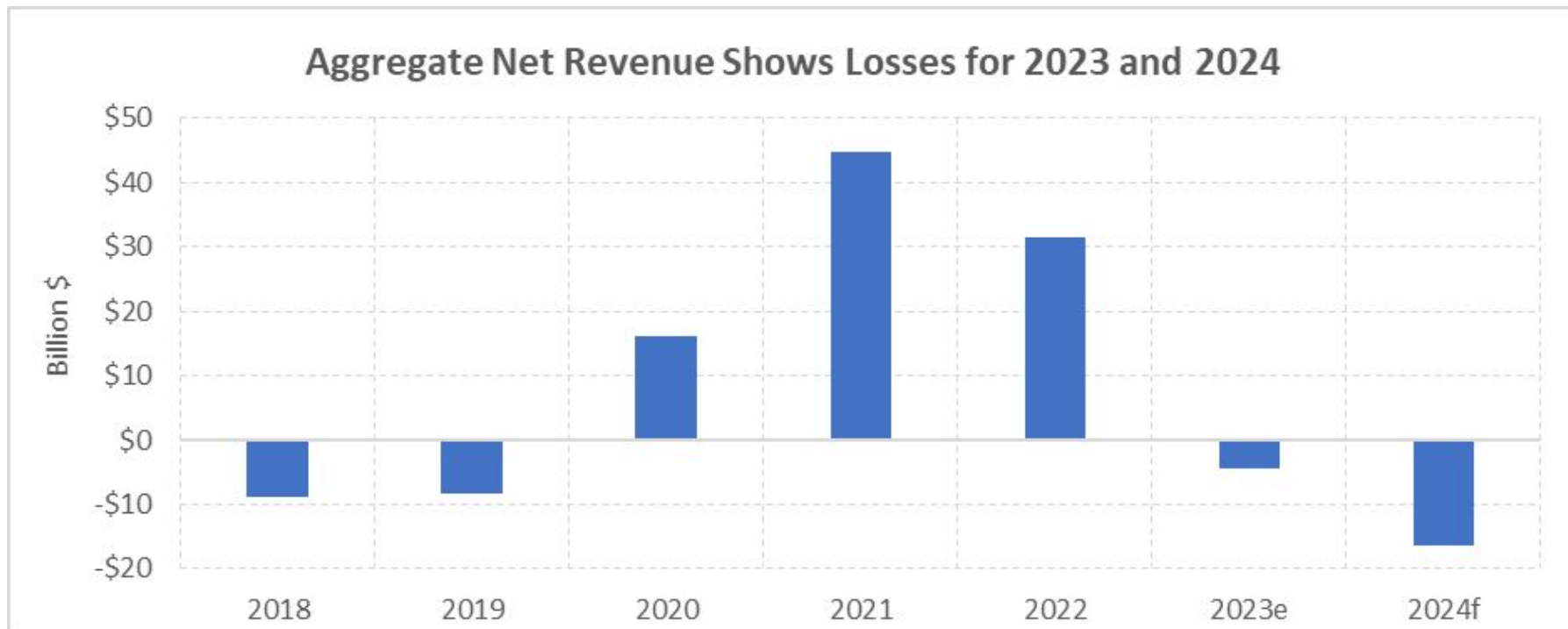


2024 Input Costs Significantly Higher than 2018





Aggregate Net Revenue Shows Losses for 2023 and 2024



Net Revenue = Total Revenue – Total Costs for Corn, Cotton, Peanuts, Rice, Sorghum, Soybeans, and Wheat

Total Revenue = (USDA/NASS MYA Price * USDA/NASS Production) + ARC/PLC Payments + MLG/LDP Payments + Net Crop Insurance Indemnities

Total Costs = USDA/ERS Costs of Production * USDA/NASS Harvested Acres



“The commodity, crop insurance, and trade programs play an important role in preserving rural economies, keeping food supplies stable, and keeping farmers on their family land”

— Brent Cheyne

Policy Issues

Laps in the 2018 Farm Bill – what it means for growers

- The timing and consequences of the farm bill expiring vary by program across the breadth of the act.
- Congress can either pass another extension of the 2018 Farm Bill or enact a new long-term farm bill during the lame duck work session.
- There are two new principal expiration dates: September 30, 2024, and December 31, 2024.
- Some programs, such as **crop insurance, are permanently authorized**, do not expire, and would not be affected by farm bill expiration
- For the **commodity programs** (ARC/PLC) that expire after the 2024 crop year, the consequences of expiration begin on January 1, 2025, when inactive and outdated laws—commonly called “permanent law”—would be restored when its marketing year begins.
- Some programs had their expiration dates extended beyond the expiration of the farm bill by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, extended some—but not all—**conservation programs through FY2031**.
- Enrollments in the **Conservation Reserve Program** will end but exiting contract holders will continue to receive payments.



Programs with a fiscal year authorization that are funded with discretionary appropriations (**US Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative**) an appropriations act or continuing resolution could allow operations to continue.



Policy Issues and The Farm Bill

Title I – Commodity Title

Commodity	Current SRP	New House SRP	% Increase
Rice	\$ 14.00	\$ 16.90	20.71%
Dry Peans	\$ 11.00	\$ 13.10	19.09%
Large Chickpeas	\$ 21.54	\$ 25.65	19.08%
Soybeans	\$ 8.40	\$ 10.00	19.05%
Small Chickpeas	\$ 19.04	\$ 22.65	18.96%
Lentils	\$ 19.97	\$ 23.75	18.93%
Other oilseeds	\$ 20.15	\$ 23.75	17.87%
Peanuts	\$ 535.00	\$ 630.00	17.76%
Wheat	\$ 5.50	\$ 6.35	15.45%
Seed Cotton	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.42	13.51%
Sorghum	\$ 3.95	\$ 4.40	11.39%
Corn	\$ 3.70	\$ 4.10	10.81%
Oats	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.65	10.42%
Barley	\$ 4.95	\$ 5.45	10.10%

