

GROWING A NEW GENERATION OF ILLINOIS FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMERS

KEEPING GOOD FARM RECORDS FOR BETTER FARM DECISIONS

Andy Larson
Local Foods & Small Farms Educator
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Objectives

- As they start their farms, beginning fruit and vegetable growers will:
 - Understand the reasons to keep good records
 - Be aware of the types of records need to be kept
 - Utilize available tools to assist in their recordkeeping systems
 - Use the records they have kept to perform farm financial analysis and make sound decisions





Why Keep Farm Records?



Why Keep Farm Records?

- To determine farm profitability (or lack of)
- To determine breakeven prices, showing which crops were winners and losers
- To determine which market channels are providing acceptable returns
- To pay appropriate taxes
- To provide some peace of mind







- Greenhouse production
 - Activities, labor hours, inputs, and supplies by crop
- Field production
 - Activities, labor hours, equipment, and inputs by crop
- Harvest & pack
 - Labor hours, equipment, yield, handling, supplies, and storage by crop



```
1 = Greenhouse TP seeding/watering
 2 = Apply Inputs (fertilizer/pesticide)
 3 = Harvesting
 4 = Irrigation (field)
 5 = Mulch
 6 = Pruning
7 = Staking/Trellis
 8 = Thinning
9 = Hand Weeding / Cultivating
- tools/ by hand
 10 = Soil Work (primary tillage)
 11 = Mechanical Cultivation
- Stale Seed Bedding
12 = Other (specify)
```

 Activity codes at Student Sustainable Farm on campus

Credit: Zack Grant, Illinois Extension





- Administration/management
 - Labor hours, office expenses
- Marketing/distribution
 - Labor hours for loading, driving, setup, selling, breakdown, and backhaul
 - Mileage/depreciation for vehicle and marketing equipment
 - Load list, sales, and price





Anything else?

Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 32f. If line 32f is negative, see instructions .

ALL income and expenses related to farm

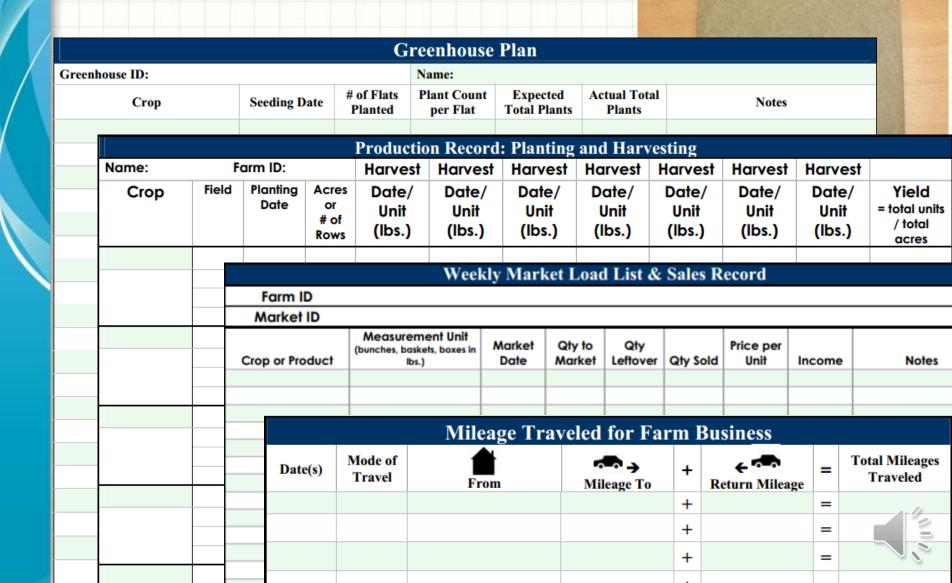
Farm Expenses - Cash and Accrual Method. Do not include personal or living expenses (see instructions).

	Turri Experioes Cusir a				e personal de la granda (e co			
10	Car and truck expenses (see			23	Pension and profit-sharing plans	23		
	instructions). Also attach Form 4562	10		24	Rent or lease (see instructions):			
11	Chemicals	11		а	Vehicles, machinery, equipment	24a		
12	Conservation expenses (see instructions)	12		b	Other (land, animals, etc.)	24b		
13	Custom hire (machine work) .	13		25	Repairs and maintenance	25		
14	Depreciation and section 179			26	Seeds and plants	26		
	expense (see instructions) .	14		27	Storage and warehousing	27		
15	Employee benefit programs			28	Supplies	28		
	other than on line 23	15		29	Taxes	29		
16	Feed	16		30	Utilities	30		
17	Fertilizers and lime	17		31	Veterinary, breeding, and medicine	31		
18	Freight and trucking	18		32	Other expenses (specify):			
19	Gasoline, fuel, and oil	19		а	<u> </u>	32a		
20	Insurance (other than health)	20		b		32b		
21	Interest:			С		32c		
а	Mortgage (paid to banks, etc.)	21a		d		32d		
b	Other	21b		e		32e		
22	Labor hired (less employment credits)	22		f		32f		
							1	









Egg Records ☆ Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was 8 hours ago Format

3-Feb-2015

4-Feb-2015

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18-Feb-2015

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Sunday, January 4, 2015

Monday, January 5, 2015

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Saturday, January 10, 2015

Sunday, January 11, 2015

Monday, January 12, 2015

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Thursday, January 15, 2015

Saturday, January 17, 2015

Sunday, January 18, 2015

Monday, January 19, 2015

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Friday, January 16, 2015

Friday, January 9, 2015

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

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f×	Date											
	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J	K	L ◀
1	Date	Julian	Sell by	Eggs Collected	Laying %	Medium	Large	X-Large	Jumbo	Saleable Eggs	Checks	Shrink %
2	Thursday, January 1, 2015	1	31-Jan-2015	240	80.00%	0	34	162	24	220	20	8.33%
3	Friday, January 2, 2015	2	1-Feb-2015	257	85.67%	0	34	162	24	220	37	14.40%
4	Saturday, January 3, 2015	3	2-Feb-2015	240	80.00%	0	36	168	18	222	18	7.50%

256

251

85.33%

83 67%

79.67%

86.33%

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Google Drive

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8.33% 14.40% 7.50% 13.28%

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10.37%

16.28%

9.52%

8.43%

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10.93%

7.95%

15.06%

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24

222

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220

Keep everything. Share anything.

164

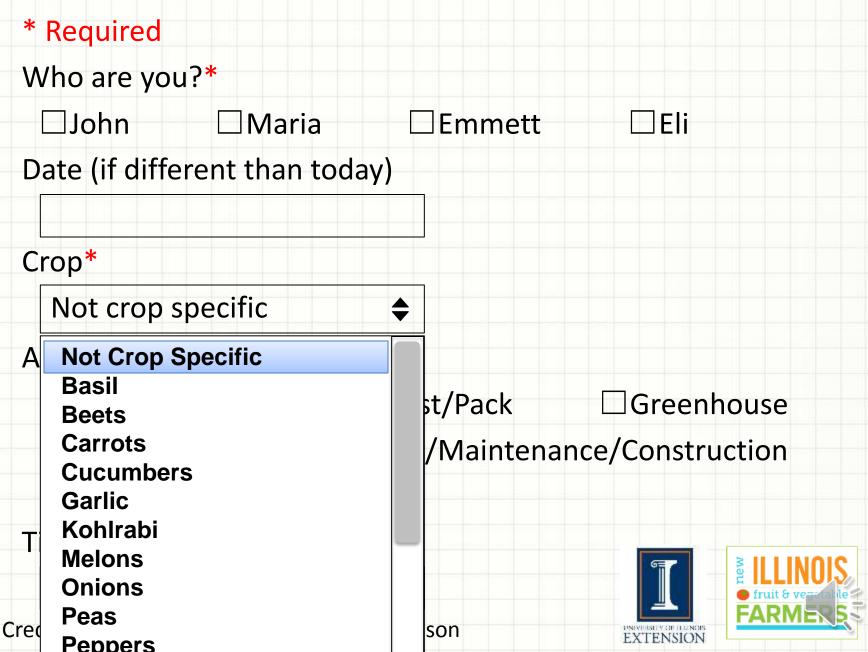
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16



Stone Circle Farm Work Log



Stone Circle Farm Work Log

Credit: John Hendrickson, CIAS at UW-Madison

* Required	
Who are you?*	
□John □Ma	ria 🗆 Emmett 🔷 Eli
Date (if different tha	This is an example of how you can use Google Doc
Crop*	Forms for farm labor tracking.
Not crop specific	For more on this, see: http://youtu.be/6AXO9vnoJns
Activity*	
□Growing	☐ Harvest/Pack ☐ Greenhouse
□Office/Admin	☐ Repair/Maintenance/Construction
□Other	
Time*	₹ ILLINOIS • fruit & very like





Seeds, Plants, and Rootstocks

COG Pro

Record-keeping for Organic Certification



VER EN ESPAÑOL

Overview

My Account

Client Resources

Site Map

Log Out

Certified Organic Business Solutions CONTACT US

You are currently logged in as "Guest." Content in the Guest account is periodically reset. To begin using COG-Pro for your records, please click here to log out of Guest and go to the signup page.

My Field Work Records

Output Options

Filter by Work Date

Format: 2015-02-24

Add Record

From date:
Format: 2015-02-24
To date:

Filter by Field <Any>

Filter by Row/Section ID

Filter by Crop <Any>

Filter by Type of Work Done <Any>

Filter by Type of Work Done (Text Search)

Apply Filters Reset Filters

		Field ID	Row/Section ID	Crop	Work Date▼	Type of Work Done	Equipment	Otl Equip
/	•			Onion, Sweet	01/09/2015	Seedbed Prep		
1	•			Cover Crop	06/03/2014	Field Cultivation		
<u></u>	•	East Coldframe	Bed 2	Almond	03/15/2014	Harrowing	Rodent Trap South Field	
J.	•				02/10/2014	Rototilling	tractor	
No.	•			Beets	02/05/2014	Mowing	tractor	
<i>></i>	•	North Field		Corn	02/03/2014	Field Cultivation	tractor	
P	•			Corn	02/03/2014	Subsoiling	tractor	subso
								Used



For Small Business

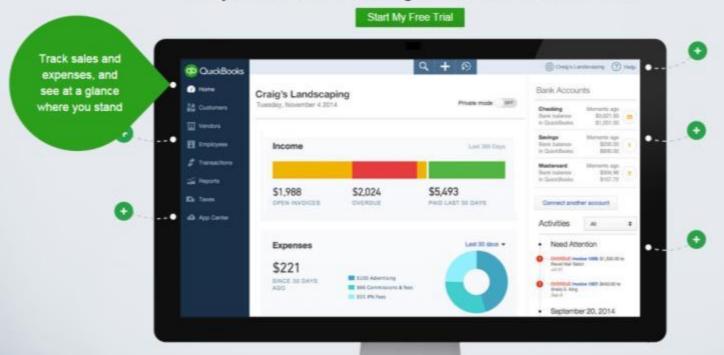
For Accountants

Learn & Support

Free Trial

Sign In

Run your business starting at less than \$10 a month.









Employees

Transactions



Reports Profit and Loss

\$1,280 NET INCOME

\$9,289 INCOME

\$8,008 **EXPENSES**



Reports

Sales Tax

Apps

Turn On Payroll



Frequently Run

My Custom Reports

Management Reports

All Reports

Recommended Reports



Profit and Loss

Shows money you earned (income) and money you spent (expenses) so you can see how profitable you are. Also called an income statement.

Run Customize



Company Snapshot

Displays your income and expenses in year-over-year comparisons using pie charts and bar graphs.

Run



Expenses by Vendor Summary

This report shows your total expenses for each vendor.

Run Customize



Balance Sheet

Lists what you own (assets), what your debts are (liabilities), and what you've invested in your company (equity).

Run Customize



A/R Aging Summary

Shows unpaid invoices for the current period and for the last 30, 60 and 90+ days so you can see how long they've been open (outstanding).

Run Customize



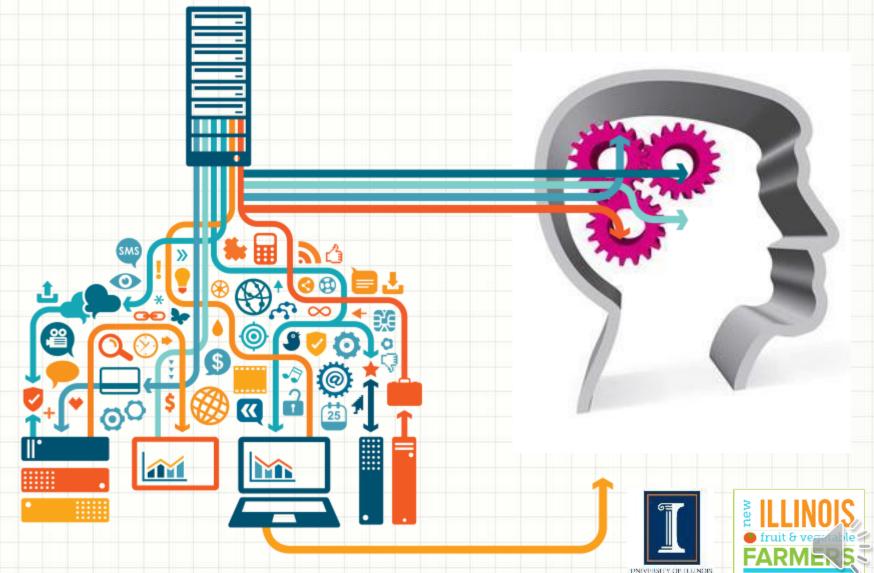
A/P Aging Summary

Shows unpaid bills for the current period and for the last 30, 60 and 90+ days so you can see how long they've been open (outstanding).

Run | Customize



Farm Financial Analysis





whole-farm profit management



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Tools

The Veggie Compass team has created both Data Collection Forms and the Veggie Compass Spreadsheet to help growers determine their cost of production by crop.

The Veggie Compass Spreadsheet

The spreadsheet is designed as an intuitive system for data organization for diversified vegetable farms. It is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with three input pages and three output pages. Expenses are entered on the first spreadsheet page, and sales information on another. A third sheet requires growers to allocate detailed expenses to each crop including production labor hours. The spreadsheet uses the data from the input pages to calculate each crop's cost per pound (\$/ib), breakeven price, and gross margin by market channel. Farmers can then adjust which crops to grow, how much to grow, and pricing to increase profits as well as make more informed farm management decisions.

Financial data needed for the tool can come from accounting programs, checkbooks, receipts and invoices. Sales data can be gathered from sales receipts, harvest logs, and from the weekly sales chart available on the Forms page. Labor data will need to be recorded by crop and activity through the growing season, and growers will enter their labor totals into the spreadsheet at the end of the season. Downloadable Labor data collection forms and other options to record this information are discussed below.

To download the Veggle Compass spreadsheet, click on the link below. In earlier versions of Veggle Compass, the User Manual was a separate file but for ease of use, it is now contained within the spreadsheet file.

Veggie-Compass-2015

Important notes

1. Because we continue to update and improve Veggie Compass, we highly recommend that people who download the Veggie Compass spreadsheet sign up to receive email updates when a new version has been posted. You will only receive notices when a new version of Veggie Compass is available and your email address will not be shared with others. To sign up, use the box on the right

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Veggie Compass News

- » Recent Website Problems
- » Expanded and Improved Veggie Compass!
- >> Updated 2014 Veggie Compass

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Veggie Compass

Inputs



- Farm Expenses
- Farm Sales
- Growing area of each crop
- Crop specific expenses
- # of plants in greenhouse
- Total greenhouse labor hours
- Labor hours by crop field growing, harvest & packing
- Not Crop Specific (NCS) hours

Outputs



- The cost of a crop up to harvest
- Total cost of a crop through harvest & packing
- Cost to produce each crop in \$/lb
- Break even prices
- Total labor costs by crop
- Gross margin by market channel





Credit: John Hendrickson, CIAS at UW-Madison

Cost of Production by Crop

	Veggie Compass - Whole Farm Profit		Harvesting & Packing								То	tal
	Cost of Production by Crop	Crop-S	and Packin Specific Exp ithout Labo	enses	Harves	Harvest and Packing Expenses Allocated to Crops by Labor hours \$1,125 H&P Total Expenses (without labor) \$1,150						
١	Yellow = input data (Steps 1,2,3)		Actual Labor (Costs (\$/hr) →	\$13.63						Total Cost of Production	
	Tan = calculations			Ha	arvest & Pack	ing Labor Cos	sts	H&P NonLa	bor Costs	D	A+B+C+D	
	Crop	Total Amount Sold	Unit of Measure	Harvest & Pack Crop- Specific Labor Hours	Harvest & Pack Crop- Specific Labor Cost	NonCrop- Specific Labor Allocated by H&Pack Hours	Harvest & Pack Labor Cost per Unit	Crop Specific NonLabor H&Pack Cost	NonLabor Allocated by H & Pack Labor Hours	Crop's Share of Total H&Pack Cost	Total Crop Cost to Produce, Harvest & Pack	Total Unit Cost to Produce, Harvest & Pack
	broccoli	520	pound	15	\$204	\$100	\$0.59		\$6	\$310	\$3,522.28	\$6.77
	lettuce	4,200	head	120	\$1,635	\$801	\$0.58		\$44	\$2,480	\$6,477.13	\$1.54
	tomatoes, hybrid	575	pony	170	\$2,316	\$1,135	\$6.00	\$0	\$62	\$3,514	\$16,895.03	\$29.38
	tomatoes, heirloom	180	crate	85	\$1,158	\$567	\$9.59		\$31	\$1,757	\$7,979.47	\$44.33
	herbs	7,500	bunch	100	\$1,363	\$667	\$0.27	\$0	\$37	\$2,067	\$4,646.19	\$0.62
	flowers	100	bucket	40	\$545	\$267	\$8.12	\$25	\$15	\$852	\$1,301.39	\$13.01
	arugula	118	bushel	35	\$477	\$234	\$6.02	\$0	\$13	\$723	\$1,793.69	\$15.20
	basil	4,000	bunch	120 75	\$1,635	\$801	\$0.61	\$0 \$0	\$44	\$2,480 \$1,550	\$4,701.01	\$1.18
	beans beets	132 4,720	pony bunch	200	\$1,022 \$2,725	\$501 \$1,335	\$11.53 \$0.86	\$0	\$28 \$73	\$1,550 \$4,134	\$7,585.08 \$8,087.82	\$57.46 \$1.71
	cabbage	950	head	15	\$2,725	\$1,335	\$0.32	\$0	\$6	\$310	\$2,523.69	\$2.66
	carrots	3,250	bunch	150	\$2,044	\$1,001	\$0.94		\$55	\$3,100	\$6,969.90	\$2.00
	cauliflower	39	crate	20	\$273	\$133	\$10.41	\$0	\$7	\$413	\$2,134.00	\$54.72
	chard	2,650	bunch	100	\$1,363	\$667	\$0.77	\$0	\$37	\$2,067	\$5,445.91	\$2.06
	chinese greens	2,100	bunch	72	\$981	\$481	\$0.70		\$26	\$1,488	\$2,598.41	\$1.24
	cilantro	2,650	bunch	40	\$545	\$267	\$0.31	\$0	\$15	\$827	\$3,053.19	\$1.15
	celeriac	23	pony	20	\$273	\$133	\$17.65	\$0	\$7	\$413	\$2,620.52	\$1:3.94
	celery	1,650	each	75	\$1,022	\$501	\$0.92	\$0	\$28	\$1,550	\$4,299.33	\$2.61
	collard	800	bunch	25	\$341	\$167	\$0.63	\$0	\$9	\$517	\$1,323.12	\$1.65
	cucumber	142	pony	50	\$681	\$334	\$7.15	\$0	\$18	\$1,033	\$7,523.70	\$52.98
	dill	1,300	bunch	20	\$273	\$133	\$0.31	\$0	\$7	\$413	\$2,631.83	\$2.02

Sales Output by Market Channel

Veggie Compass -
Whole Farm Profit
Management

Sales Output

١		Unit of Measure			Total Sale	es		
	Crop	(lbs, bunch, head, etc.)	Sales (\$)	# of Units	Crop Cost of Production	Crop Gross Profit (%)	Total Unit Net Profit	Total Crop Net Profit
١	broccoli	pound	\$1,560.00	520	\$3,522.28	-126%	-\$4.90	-\$2,550.42
	lettuce	head	\$12,000.00	4,200	\$6,477.13	46%	\$0.24	\$1,006.12
	tomatoes, hybrid	pony	\$41,025.00	575	\$16,895.03	59%	\$15.33	\$8,816.00
ı	tomatoes, heirloom	crate	\$14,970.00	180	\$7,979.47	47%	\$6.84	\$1,231.04
ı	herbs	bunch	\$18,300.00	7,500	\$4,646.19	75%	\$0.91	\$6,857.36
ı	flowers	bucket	\$2,400.00	100	\$1,301.39	46%	\$1.56	\$156.41
ı	arugula	bushel	\$11,400.00	118	\$1,793.69	84%	\$45.81	\$5,405.94
ı	basil	bunch	\$9,600.00	4,000	\$4,701.01	51%	\$0.33	\$1,317.67
ı	beans	pony	\$6,270.00	132	\$7,585.08	-21%	-\$28.42	-\$3,751.76
	beets	bunch	\$14,760.00	4,720	\$8,087.82	45%	\$0.29	\$1,390.80
	cabbage	head	\$3,550.00	950	\$2,523.69	29%	-\$0.27	-3253_74
	carrots	bunch	\$12,325.00	3,250	\$6,969.90	43%	\$0.24	\$7.84.82
	cauliflower	crate	\$3,225.00	39	\$2,134.00	34%	-\$1.50	-\$58.64

Profit & Loss by Market Channel

Veggie Compass - Whole Farm Profit Management

Farm Profit & Loss by Market Channel

	From Management							
		CSA	<u>Farmer's</u> <u>Market</u>	Wholesale	<u>Stand</u>	Total From On-Farm Production	Buy-Resell	Grand Total
V	Sales - by Market Channel	\$39,000	\$210,490	\$91,100	\$26,610	\$367,200	\$29,370	\$396,570
	Market Channel sales as % of Total sales	9.83%	53.08%	22.97%	6.71%	93%	7.41%	
	All Production Expenses	\$20,681	\$109,184	\$58,706	\$14,501	\$203,072	\$16,280	\$219,352
	Production Expense as % of Mkt Channel	53.03%	51.87%	64.44%	54.49%	55.30%	55.43%	55.31%
	Gross Profit	\$18,319	\$101,306	\$32,394	\$12,109	\$164,128	\$13,090	\$177,218
	Gross Profit as a % of Mkt Channel sales	46.97%	48.13%	35.56%	45.51%	44.70%	44.57%	44.69%
è	Market Channel Expenses	\$7,065	\$27,444	\$4,331	\$8,895	\$47,735	\$8,884	\$56,619
	General Mgnt. & Admin. Expenses Allocated to Market Channel	\$9,431	\$50,899	\$22,029	\$6,435	\$88,793	\$7,102	\$95,895
	Total Market Channel plus General Mgnt & Admin Expenses	\$16,496	\$78,343	\$26,360	\$15,330	\$136,528	\$15,986	\$152,514
	Total MC & GM Exp as % of Mkt Channel	42%	37%	29%	58%	37%	54.4%	38%
	NET PROFIT BY MARKET CHANNEL	\$1,823	\$22,963	\$6,034	-\$3,220	\$27,600	-\$2,896	\$24,704
	Net Profit as % of Mkt Channel Sales	5%	11%	7%	-12%	8%	-9.9%	6%
	Net Profit as % of Total Net Profit	7%	93%	24%	-13%	112%	-11.7%	100%
	Non Operating Income							
	USDA Program Payments							\$0
	Patronage Dividends							\$0
	Interest Income							\$0 2
	Other Income							\$12,000
	TOTAL NET PROFIT							\$36,704

Summary

- Record keeping is the only way to know if you're making money, what is making you money, and how your farm should change
- If you're doing it for the farm, write it down
- Choose the suite of tools that is going to help you make keeping good records a habit
- Data is only of value when you turn it into information that helps make decisions



Resources: Templates

- Veggie Compass
- Southern SAWG's Growing Farm Profits
- FLAG's Recordkeeping Instructions and Templates for Small-Scale Fruit and Vegetable Growers
- Vermont Farm Viability Financial Workbooks
- Iowa Fruit & Vegetable Production Budgets





Resources: Books & Publications

- The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook: A
 Complete Guide to Managing Finances,
 Crops, and Staff and Making a Profit
- <u>Fearless Farm Finances: Farm Financial</u>
 <u>Management Demystified</u>
- MOSES Financial Management Resources
- IRS Farmer's Tax Guide





To reach us

Contacts	Contact information
Contacts	Contact information

Rick Weinzierl <u>weinzier@illinois.edu</u>

Andy Larson <u>andylars@illinois.edu</u>





RECORD-KEEPING IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE FUNCTIONAL...



