**Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, 2014**

**Organic Sweet Potato – Irrigated – Wholesale Market – 40-Pound Case**

**Budget based on 1 acre of sweet potatoes on a 10 acre mixed organic vegetable farm.**

**Estimated Costs and Returns Per Acre.**

UNIT QUANTITY $/UNIT TOTAL $/AC YOUR FARM $/AC

**RECEIPTS**

1. Sweet Potato Case 300 40 12,000 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2. VARIABLE COSTS**

1. Organic Certification Acre 1 80 80 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Transplants Thou. 12 35 420 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Compost Ton 1 40 40 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Cover Crop Acre 1 80 80 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Lime (prorated) Ton 0.33 40 13 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Organic Pest. Sprays Oz. 0 0 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Fuel Gal. 40 4.00 160 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. 40-Lb. Case Each 300 1.50 450 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. Labor Hrs. 60 10 600 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. Irrigation Supplies Acre 1 1070 1070 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
11. Plastic Mulch Acre 1 200 200 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
12. Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Variable Costs 3,113

1. **FIXED COSTS**
2. Machine & Equip. Acre 1 1025 1025 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Irrigation Acre 1 80 80 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Land Charge Acre 1 50 50

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Fixed Costs 1,155 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COSTS** **4,268**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN ABOVE VARIABLE COSTS 8,887** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN ABOVE TOTAL COSTS 7,732** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes – Budget estimates for planning only.**

1. Yield and price extrapolated from Clemson Extension 2011, University of Maryland 2008 enterprise budgets and Internet search of various wholesale produce markets.
2. Variable costs are those costs that a farmer incurs because he/she decided to grow this specific crop.
3. Average organic certification cost from USDA Farm Services Administration.
4. Extrapolated from Mississippi State University 2009 & 2013 and Clemson Extension 2011, enterprise budgets.
5. Average price of 1 ton of compost, chicken litter, or manure found in Internet search.
6. Average of various cover crop seed and planting cost. Estimated from farmer interviews, and Mississippi State University enterprise budgets, 2013.
7. Equals 1 ton of lime per acre every 3 years. Price from Internet search.
8. Used only when mechanical and physical methods are ineffective.
9. Extrapolated from Mississippi State University 2009 & 2013 and Clemson Extension 2011 enterprise budgets.
10. Cost estimate from Internet search of various suppliers.
11. Labor estimates vary widely. This estimate is extrapolated from enterprise budgets developed by Mississippi State University 2013 & 2009.
12. Irrigation supplies include 1.5 rolls of drip tape and 6 acre inches of rural water cost. Derived from the Mississippi State University 2013 enterprise budgets.
13. Plastic Mulch.
14. Purposely left blank for other unspecified farm costs.
15. Fixed costs are costs that a farmer incurs whether or not a crop is grown.
16. See table below.
17. Annual fixed cost for irrigation setup.
18. Average of farm rental values for North and South Carolina. Estimated from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2010 published cropland rents.

Machinery and Equipment Costs\*

Useful

Purchase Salvage Life Acres Repair & Maint. Total\*\*

Item Price $ Value $ Yrs. Used/Yr. $/Ac. $/Ac.

Tractor 17,000 4,000 20 10 3.00 68

Chisel Plow 2,500 600 15 10 0.30 13

Transplanter 2,600 600 20 4 0.20 25

Pest. Sprayer 9,400 1,900 20 10 9.50 47

Trailer 1,100 200 20 10 0.10 5

Disk 4,450 900 15 10 0.20 24

Manure Spreader 3,000 1,500 20 10 0.20 8

Harvester 30,000 6,000 15 2 6.00 806

200 Buckets 1,000 0 5 7 0 29

Total $/ Acre = 1025

\*Estimates derived from Mississippi State University, Traditional Vegetable 2013 Planning Budgets; Why Cows Need Names, and More Secrets of Amish Farms, Randy James, Kent State University Press, 2013 and Internet search of various machinery suppliers.

\*\*Total $/Ac. = Purchase Price – Salvage Value/Useful Life/ Acres Used + Repair & Maintenance.

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