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# AGRICULTURAL ALTERNATIVES

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## Instructions for using the interactive budgets

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to use these forms. If you do not have this program installed on your computer, you can download a free version [here](#).

You can make changes to the interactive PDF budget files for this publication by inputting your own prices and quantities in the green-outlined cells for any item. You will need to click on and add your own estimated price and quantity information to all of the green-outlined cells to complete your customized budget.

The cells outlined in red automatically calculate your revised totals based on the changes you made to the cells outlined in green.

When you are finished, you can print the budget using the green **Print Form** button at the bottom of the form.

You can use the red **Clear Form** button to clear all the information from your budget when you are finished.

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**[extension.psu.edu/ag-alternatives](http://extension.psu.edu/ag-alternatives)**

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# Sample Fresh-Market Bell-Type Pepper Budget

Summary of estimated costs and returns per acre

Item	Quantity	Your Quantity	Unit	Price	Your Price	Total	Calculated Estimate
<b>Receipts</b>							
Peppers (25 pound cartons)	1,300		cartons	\$ 10.00		\$ 13,000.00	
<b>Variable costs</b>							
Custom hire (1)	1		acre	\$ 80.50		\$ 80.50	
Fertilizer	1		acre	\$ 162.36		\$ 162.36	
Fungicides	1		acre	\$ 149.98		\$ 149.98	
Herbicides	1		acre	\$ 92.93		\$ 92.93	
Insecticides	1		acre	\$ 90.53		\$ 90.53	
Black plastic mulch	7,920		feet	\$ 0.04		\$ 316.80	
Drip tape	15,840		feet	\$ 0.03		\$ 475.20	
Stakes	2.38		thousand	\$ 100.00		\$ 238.00	
Twine	16,000		feet	\$ 0.001		\$ 16.00	
Trickle operating	18		inch	\$ 20.00		\$ 360.00	
Transplants	11,910		each	\$ 0.10		\$ 1,191.00	
<b>Labor</b>							
Seasonal labor	10		hour	\$ 12.00		\$ 120.00	
Operator labor	8.63		hour	\$ 15.00		\$ 129.45	
Equipment labor	0.573		hour	\$ 13.50		\$ 7.74	
Hand harvesting	80		hour	\$ 12.00		\$ 960.00	
Packaging and grading	30		hour	\$ 12.00		\$ 360.00	
Marketing and advertising	1		acre	\$ 1,560.00		\$ 1,560.00	
Cartons	1,300		cartons	\$ 1.61		\$ 2,093.00	
Pest scouting	1		acre	\$ 15.00		\$ 15.00	
Fuel	12.9		gallon	\$ 3.10		\$ 39.99	
<b>Repair and maintenance</b>							
Tractors and implements	1		acre	\$ 24.62		\$ 24.62	
Additional inputs	1		acre				
Additional inputs	1		acre				
Interest on operating capital	1		acre	\$ 126.38		\$ 126.38	
<i>Total variable costs</i>						\$ 8,609.48	
<b>Fixed costs</b>							
Tractors	1		acre	\$ 15.86		\$ 15.86	
Implements	1		acre	\$ 12.32		\$ 12.32	
Land charge	1		acre	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00	
Drip irrigation (2)	1		acre	\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00	
Additional inputs	1		acre				
<i>Total fixed costs</i>						\$ 378.18	
<b>Total costs</b>						\$ 8,987.66	

**Returns**

Net returns over variable costs	\$ 4,390.52	_____
Net returns	\$ 4,012.34	_____

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These budgets are developed for one acre; however, your scale of production should be based on market considerations.

1. Custom-hire expenses include soil testing, lime application, land preparation, and bee rental.
  2. Irrigation installation includes filter and mainline to the drip line and is calculated to have a 7-year useful life.
- You should monitor local markets and contact suppliers to determine current prices for all items contained in this sample budget.