

1994 POTATO BUDGET

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As growers look to the 1994 season, expect to see some changes in costs and returns. Increases can be expected in seed and machinery. Fuel costs should be no higher or slightly less than last year. Interest rates should remain low. However, expect increases in other items to increase 1994's production costs.

The budget we're using is not meant to show exactly what a grower's costs are. These figures are meant to be used as a guide. There can be a big difference in costs from one grower to another. For example, some growers may be able to take advantage of volume discounts or special purchases. Others may be able to monitor environmental conditions closely and realize savings.

Land values, taxes, interest and debt will also vary between growers. There's also the cost of fumigation that may be needed on some fields where early dying problems can be expected.

At the time this report was turned in for printing, the final budget was not complete. The budget will be distributed at the Potato Seminar on Tuesday, February 15, during my presentation.

Growers interested in more information for their farms should check into either ABCS (Agricultural Budget Cost Systems) software and/or FINPACK (Financial Package). The ABCS is a crop enterprise analysis program, while FINPACK is a complete farm financial analysis.

Both programs can be checked out at county extension offices or call me (David Ankley) at (715) 346-1316.