CANTALOUPE, FRESH MARKET, TRICKLE IRRIGATED
Kentucky Estimated per Acre Costs and Returns for 2017
Large Scale (5 or more acres trickle irrigated)*
NOT TO BE CONSIDERED CROPPING RECOMMENDATIONS OR PROFITABILITY PROJECTIONS. FOR COMPARISON AND PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

CENTER FOR CROP DIVERSIFICATION

	Quantity	Unit	$/Unit	Total		
GROSS RETURNS	**500**	cwt				
Cantaloupes	80	bins	$100.00	$8,000.00	a,b	**Cwt picked & field graded/hour** **3.85**
				$ -		
Total Returns				**$8,000.00**		
VARIABLE COSTS						**Your Numbers**
Production						
Muskmelon Seeds & Plants	4356	plants	$ 0.18	$ 784.08		
N Fertilizer: Urea	100	lbs	$ 0.40	$ 40.00		
K Fertilizer: Potash (0-0-60)	80	lbs	$ 0.30	$ 24.00		
N Fertilizer: Fertigation (Calcium Nitrate)	544	lbs	$ 0.45	$ 244.80	g	
Plastic Mulch	1	acre	$ 191.00	$ 191.00		
Drip Lines & Irrigation Fittings	1	acre	$ 284.00	$ 284.00		
Pollination	1	hive	$ 75.00	$ 75.00		
Herbicides (Row Middles)	1	acre	$ 12.69	$ 12.69		
Insecticides	1	acre	$ 78.51	$ 78.51	d	
Fungicides	1	acre	$ 152.29	$ 152.29	d	
Irrigation	1	acre	$ 50.00	$ 50.00	c	
Hired Labor (Planting)	20	hrs.	$ 12.50	$ 250.00		
Machinery Variable Costs	1	acre	$ 43.61	$ 43.61	e	
Total Preharvest Variable Costs				**$ 2,229.98**		
HARVESTING AND MARKETING						
Plastic Disposal	18	hours		$ 12.50		
Hired Labor						
Harvest & Field Grading	$ 3.25	cwt		$ 1,624.00	f	
Bins (90-count)	80	bins	$ 10.00	$ 800.00		
Marketing Costs (10% of Gross)	10.0%	gross		$ 800.00		
Hauling Variable Costs	500	cwt	$ 0.50	$ 250.00	e	
Total Harvesting and Marketing Cost				**$ 3,486.50**		
Interest on Variable Costs				$ 119.20		
TOTAL VARIABLE COST				**$ 5,835.68**		
RETURN ABOVE VARIABLE COSTS				**$ 2,164.32**		
FIXED COSTS						
Machinery and Equipment				$ 74.49	e	
Irrigation System Capital Recovery				$ 331.20	c	
Taxes on Land				$ 5.00		
Insurance				$ 58.36		
TOTAL FIXED COSTS				**$ 469.05**		
TOTAL EXPENSES				**$ 6,304.72**		
RETURN TO OPERATOR LABOR, LAND, CAPITAL, & MGT.				$ 1,695.28		
Operator Labor (machinery and irrigation)	15	hrs.	$ 15.00	$ 225.00		
RETURN TO LAND, CAPITAL, AND MANAGEMENT				**$ 1,470.28**		

a Yields based on UK variety trials and grower yield estimates.
b Price based on shipping point prices from MO and NC and terminal market price trends in Atlanta, 2016.
c Fuel and power for irrigation system. Assumes established well or water source. Depreciation fixed costs in capital recovery line.
d Pesticide costs based on recommended applications of various products using 2017 product costs.
e Machinery costs generator (ISU, 2002) using updated fuel, purchase price and replacement cost estimates.
f Based on state budgets with revisions by Kentucky vegetable experts.
g Fertilizer assumption: 15 lbs 9 oz calcium nitrate per week per 1,000 plants.
* Farm has 5 or more acres total in trickle-irrigated crops
Budget based on 8712 row feet (5 ft between rows, 2 ft between plants)