POTATOES: FRESH MARKET, Overhead 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						
Potatoes	275	cwt	$ 12.00	$ 3,300.00	a,b	**Wash/Pack 5.5 cwt/hr**
						Grade/Bag 13.75 cwt/hr
VARIABLE COSTS						**Your Numbers**
Production						
Lime	0.5	ton	$ 20.00	$ 10.00		
Fertilizer: Bulk Spread	10	cwt	$ 35.00	$ 350.00		
Sidedressing	150	lbs	$ 0.40	$ 60.00		
Seed	15	cwt	$ 20.00	$ 300.00		
Seed Treatment/Cutting	15	cwt	$ 3.00	$ 45.00		
Herbicides	1	acre	$ 23.17	$ 23.17	d	
Insecticides	1	acre	$ 91.02	$ 91.02	d	
Fungicides	1	acre	$ 95.07	$ 95.07	d	
Irrigation	8	hrs	$ 7.50	$ 60.00	c	
Machinery Variable Costs	1	acre	$ 49.80	$ 49.80	e	
Total Preharvest Variable Costs				**$ 1,084.06**		
HARVESTING AND MARKETING						
Variable Machine Costs	1	acre	28.35	$ 28.35	e	
Bags	1,000	bags	$ 0.16	$ 160.00		
Hired Labor: Wash/Pack	50	hrs	$ 12.50	$ 625.00		
Washer/Grader/Bagger	1	acre	$ 150.00	$ 150.00		
Grading and Bagging	20	hrs	$ 12.50	$ 250.00		
Marketing Costs (10% of Gross)	10.0%	gross		$ 330.00		
Total Harvesting and Marketing Cost				**$ 1,543.35**		
Interest on Variable Costs				$ 55.67		
TOTAL VARIABLE COST				**$ 2,683.08**		
RETURN ABOVE VARIABLE COSTS				**$ 616.92**		
FIXED COSTS						
Machinery and Equipment				$ 104.17		
Depreciation on Irrigation System				$ 125.00	c	
Depreciation on Bagging Equipment				$ 150.00		
Taxes on Land				$ 5.00		
Insurance				$ 33.00		
TOTAL FIXED COSTS				**$ 417.17**		
TOTAL EXPENSES				**$ 3,100.25**		
RETURN TO OPERATOR LABOR, LAND, CAPITAL, & MGT.				$ 199.75		
Operator and Unpaid Family Labor	10	hrs.	$ 15.00	$ 150.00		
RETURN TO LAND, CAPITAL, AND MANAGEMENT				**$ 49.75**		

a Yields based on past UK variety trials and grower yield estimates.
b Price based on terminal market price trends in Atlanta, 2016, and Ky. produce auctions.
c UK estimate for overhead irrigation.
d Pesticide costs based on recommended applications of various products using 2017 product costs.
e Machinery cost calculator updated for vegetable production in 2017.
* Farm has 5 or more acres total in trickle-irrigated crops