SWEET POTATOES: FRESH MARKET
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						
US #1	275	box	$ 11.00	$3,025.00	a,b	
US #2	150	box	$ 6.00	$ 900.00	a,b	Boxes harvested/hour 17.5
Sweet Potatoes	425	boxes		**$3,925.00**		
VARIABLE COSTS						**Your Numbers**
Production						
Lime	0.5	ton	$ 20.00	$ 10.00		
Fertilizer: Bulk Spread	10	cwt	$ 35.00	$ 350.00		
Sweet potato Plants	13.4	thousand	$ 60.00	$ 804.00		
Fertilizer: Starter	50	lbs	$ 1.50	$ 75.00		
Transplant Labor	10	hrs	$ 12.50	$ 125.00		
Herbicides	1	acre	$ 31.70	$ 31.70	d	
Insecticides	1	acre	$ 36.14	$ 36.14	d	
Fungicides	1	acre	$ 93.40	$ 93.40	d	
Irrigation		hrs		$ -	c	
Machinery Variable Costs	1	acre	$ 56.90	$ 56.90	e	
Total Preharvest Variable Costs				**$1,582.14**		
HARVESTING AND MARKETING						
Machine Fuel, Oil, Lube / Or Rent	1	acre	$ 35.00	$ 35.00	e	
Boxes	425	boxes	$ 1.40	$ 595.00		
Hired Labor: Wash/Pack	24.3	hrs	$ 12.50	$ 303.57	f	
Curing and Storage	425	boxes	$ 1.25	$ 531.25		
Marketing Costs (10% of Gross)	10.0%	gross		$ 392.50		
Total Harvesting and Marketing Cost				**$1,857.32**		
Interest on Variable Costs				$ 75.32		
TOTAL VARIABLE COST				**$3,514.79**		
RETURN ABOVE VARIABLE COSTS				**$ 410.21**		
FIXED COSTS						
Machinery and Equipment				$ 125.17		
Taxes on Land				$ 5.00		
Insurance				$ 39.25		
TOTAL FIXED COSTS				**$ 169.42**		
TOTAL EXPENSES				**$3,684.21**		
RETURN TO OPERATOR LABOR, LAND, CAPITAL, & MGT.				$ 240.79		
Operator and Unpaid Family Labor	10	hrs.	$ 15.00	$ 150.00		
RETURN TO LAND, CAPITAL, AND MANAGEMENT				**$ 90.79**		

a Average yields in nearby states.
b Price based on 2016 terminal market prices and season average prices in nearby states.
c Growers may elect to irrigate in some instances.
d Pesticide costs based on recommended applications of various products using 2017 product costs.
e Machinery cost calculator updated for KY vegetable production in 2017.
f Assumes 17.5 boxes harvested per acre. Curing cost of $1.25 per box used in 2016 Clemson University budgets.
* Farm has 5 or more acres total in trickle-irrigated crops