

Glossary

Allocated returns another term used for the opportunity costs for owned inputs identified in the definition of total economic costs.

Conservation tillage any tillage system that maintains 30 percent or more of the soil surface with crop residue, after planting, to reduce soil erosion by water. Where soil erosion by wind is the primary concern, the term refers to any system that maintains at least 1,000 pounds per acre of flat, small grain residue equivalent on the surface throughout the critical wind erosion period. Two key factors influencing crop residue are: (1) the type of crop, which establishes the initial residue amount and its fragility, and (2) the type of tillage operations before and during planting (Bull, 1993; and Conservation Tillage Information Center, 1996).

Conservation tillage systems:

No-till soil left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for nutrient injection. Planting or drilling is accomplished in a narrow seedbed or slot created by coulters, row cleaners, disk opener, in-row chisels, or roto-tillers. Weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Cultivation may be used for emergency weed control.

Ridge-till soil left undisturbed from harvest to planting except for nutrient injection. Planting, however, is completed in a seedbed prepared on ridges with sweeps, disk openers, coulters, or row cleaners. Residue is left on the surface between ridges. Weed control is accomplished with herbicides and/or cultivation. Ridges are built during cultivation.

Mulch-till soil is disturbed prior to planting. Tillage tools such as chisels, field cultivators, disks, sweeps, or blades are used. Weed control is accomplished with herbicides and cultivation.

Conventional tillage (less than 15-percent residue) any tillage that leaves less than 15-percent residue cover after planting or less than 500 pounds per acre of small grain residue equivalent throughout the critical wind erosion period. This generally includes

plowing or other intensive tillage. Weeds are controlled with herbicides and cultivation.

Conventional tillage systems (as defined in the Cropping Practices Survey):

Conventional tillage with moldboard plow any tillage system that includes the use of a moldboard plow.

Conventional tillage without moldboard plow any tillage system that has less than 30 percent remaining residue and does not use a moldboard plow.

Crop rotation alternating production of winter or spring wheat with another crop or fallow.

Debt-asset ratio calculated by dividing total liabilities by total assets.

Durum wheat the hardest of all U.S. wheats, seeded in the spring, and contains a high amount of protein, which is good for pasta products (macaroni, spaghetti, and other noodles), grown in the same northern area as Hard Red Spring wheat—mainly in North Dakota. Subclasses are Hard Amber Durum, Amber Durum, and Durum wheats.

Economic class an economic classification of farm size. The classification is based on the farm operator's gross receipts, including gross annual sales of crops; livestock, poultry, and products; miscellaneous agricultural products; and all Government payments.

Enterprise size one of four categories: farms with fewer than 50 wheat acres, 50 to 199 wheat acres, 200 to 399 wheat acres, and 400 or more wheat acres.

Expected yield a term designating wheat yield per acre that farmers report that they expect on their operation at the time of planting. Most operators budget for the crop season based on an expected yield per acre for each crop they grow (FCRS Interviewer's Manual, in the survey package).

Farm structure no single, widely accepted definition. Concept involves many components. Land, labor, capital, and management collectively are the fundamentals around which farm structure is constructed and the basic mechanisms through which structural change occurs (Stanton, 1993). "Structure" in this report simply refers to how farms of different

sizes, incomes, assets, and locations organize and manage their natural, financial, labor, and other resources.

Hard Red Spring wheat contains the highest percentage of protein, making it an excellent bread wheat, with superior milling and baking characteristics; chiefly grown in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota; seeded in the spring, and may have a hard or soft endosperm. Subclasses are Dark Northern Spring, Northern Spring, and Red Spring wheats.

Hard Red Winter wheat the class of wheat used mostly for bread and all-purpose flour; seeded in the fall; ranges from medium to high in protein; may have either a hard or soft endosperm; accounts for more than 40 percent of the U.S. wheat crop and more than half of U.S. wheat exports; produced in the Great Plains, a large interior area extending from the Mississippi River west to the Rocky Mountains, and from Dakotas and Montana down to Texas. Wide range of protein, good milling and baking characteristics. Used to produce bread, rolls and, to a lesser extent, sweet goods and all-purpose flour.

Hard White wheat the newest white class of wheat to be grown in the United States. Closely related to red wheats (except for color genes), this wheat has a milder, sweeter flavor, equal fiber, and similar milling and baking properties. Used in yeast breads, hard rolls, bulgur, tortillas, and oriental noodles. Used in domestic markets, and exported in limited quantities. No subclasses.

High-cost producers the 25 percent of U.S. wheat producers with the highest per-bushel total variable cash expenses.

Low-cost producers the 25 percent of U.S. wheat producers with the lowest per-bushel total variable cash expenses.

Major occupation the occupation that the operator identified as his/her major occupation. Operators were asked to select from farm and ranch work, hired manager, or some other occupation.

Previous crop crops planted in 1993 on wheat land.

Production specialty the farm production classification that represents the largest portion of gross commodity receipts from the farm operation.

Protein any of a large class of naturally occurring complex combinations of amino acids. In wheat, protein is important in determining baking and nutritional qualities.

Reduced tillage (15 to 30 percent residue) tillage types that leave 15 to 30 percent residue cover after planting, or 500 to 1,000 pounds per acre of small grain residue equivalent throughout the critical wind erosion period. Weeds are controlled with herbicides and cultivation.

Soft Red Winter wheat seeded in the fall, has low to medium protein content, with a soft endosperm; and is used in making cakes, pastries, flat breads, and crackers. Grown in the eastern third of the United States, east of the Mississippi River. It has a high yield, but relatively low protein. No subclasses.

Soft White wheat used in much the same way as Soft Red Winter (for bakery products other than bread). Grown mainly in the Pacific Northwest, and to a lesser extent in California, Michigan, Wisconsin, and New York, of low protein, but high yield. Produces flour for cakes, crackers, cookies, pastries, quick breads, muffins, and snack foods. Subclasses are Soft White, White Club, and Western White wheats.

Spring wheat a general term for wheat that is planted in the spring and harvested in summer or fall.

Total economic costs long-term costs that account for all production inputs, without regard to the ownership or equity position of farm operators. These costs are variable cash expenses, general farm overhead, taxes and insurance, and capital replacement, as well as opportunity costs for owned inputs (operating capital, nonland capital, land, and unpaid labor).

Variable cash expenses the amount of money spent during wheat production for inputs used. Variable cash expenses consist of seed, fertilizer, chemicals, custom operations, fuel, lubrication, electricity, repairs, hired labor, purchased irrigation water, and baling.

Value of production an estimate of the total value of all farm products produced on a farm, excluding the value of intermediate products, such as corn fed to livestock. For the wheat operation, the value of production is wheat grain, wheat straw, and grazing.

Wheat farms farm operations that planted wheat with the intention of harvesting grain, particularly those

selected in the 1994 Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Wheat Costs of Production version.

Wheat production regions groups of States with common cultural practices in wheat production. The North Central consists of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio; Southeast is Arkansas, Georgia, and North Carolina; Northern Plains contains

Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Central and Southern Plains is Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas; Pacific region is California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Winter wheat a general category describing wheats seeded in the fall, lie dormant in the winter, and are harvested the following spring or summer.