

	<b>OMAFRA Crop Budgets</b>	<b>Differences in the OCO COP Model</b>
<b>Crop yields</b>	<p>The OMAFRA organic crop budgets rely on Ontario's 5-year weighted average of the organic yields of the reporting farms, as collected by AgriCorp in the crop insurance program.</p> <p>It is speculated that the AgriCorp crop yield average is diluted by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. farms that are new to organic production and therefore are still building their soil conditions and their yield; and</li> <li>2. a large number of smaller farms that do not have the economies of scale and the yields of larger farms.</li> </ol>	<p>This organic COP model represents an achievable farm scenario with yield potentials that are slightly higher than the average crop yields as represented in the OMAFRA organic crop budget.</p> <p>These yields are higher than the OMAFRA averages since participating farmers in the COP model were applying manure, applying dry soil amendments, and obtaining significantly higher yields. The associated input costs have been included in the COP model.</p>
<b>Crop rotation</b>	<p>The OMAFRA crop budgets typically provide a COP model for one crop in one growing season assuming that all the inputs and field work in that year are wholly assigned to that crop and leave no residual value for the following crop.</p>	<p>This COP model for organic field crops presents a three year rotation of corn, soybeans, wheat (or it could be any cereal) and a legume cover crop in the wheat year. The soil development and cover crop costs are listed in the year of application but present a value for the three years.</p> <p>This COP model chose the example of a three year rotation as a fairly popular rotation. Farmers can insert additional columns or replace a crop in the model to represent their farm situation.</p>
<b>Seed costs</b>	<p>The OMAFRA crop budget specifies certified organic seed, as the organic standards require.</p>	<p>The organic standards also allow saved farm seed, common seed, and untreated conventional seed. Therefore, the model allows reduced seed costs based on input from the participating growers.</p>
<b>Input costs</b>	<p>Input prices for seed, fertilizer, fuel and pesticides in the OMAFRA budgets were based on the survey results reported in the Ontario Farm Input Monitoring Project conducted</p>	<p>Input costs in the organic COP model are based on the feedback from the participating farms. They could be a range of manure, compost, allowed mineral amendments, and foliar feeds. They vary from farm to farm.</p>

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<b>Machinery costs</b>	The estimated costs for machinery in the OMAFRA budgets are derived from agricultural engineering formulas and Ontario average custom rates. The Ontario average custom rates are allocated across the six machinery-related expenses. It is recommended that you use your records to derive your costs.	The OCO organic COP model integrates the equipment amortization, interest or opportunity cost, fuel, lubricants, and labour to perform each field task, based on data from the participating farms.
<b>Labour costs for hand weeding</b>	The OMAFRA organic crop budget allows \$46 (wheat), \$61 (corn), and \$92 (soybeans) in labour costs for hand weeding.	We have eliminated this input cost from our calculations as there is no evidence of consistent hand weeding in the organic crop sector, with only occasional exceptions for problems in certain fields or sections of fields.