

Building The Budget Before The Trellis



- Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Conference
 - January 15, 2012

Building The Budgets

➤ Two main budgets to look at:

- Time
- Money

Time Budget – Big Picture

- “One person can handle most of the management (and labor) for 3 to 5 acres, with help seasonally for pruning and harvest.” - Bruce Bordelon, Purdue
- “A trained individual, doing most of the work on weekends and evenings can operate a 5 acre planting.”
 - - T. Wolf, Virginia Tech

Time Budget – The Little Picture

➤ The year of planting and installing the trellis is major:

- Pre-plant 6 hours/acre
- Planting 19 hours/acre
- Trellis 45 hours/acre
70 hours/acre

Time Budget – The Little Picture

➤ The first years of production:

- Year 1 146 hours/acre
 - Year 2 85 hours/acre
 - Year 3 95 hours/acre
- 326 hours/acre

Time Budget – The Little Picture

➤ Year 4:

- Pruning (well trained) 36 hours/acre
 - 4 min/vine X 545 vines
- Harvest 60 hours/acre
 - 20 pounds of grapes per
 - 5 gallon bucket in 1 hour

Now for the Money \$\$

- There are Variable Costs and Fixed Costs
- Cash Costs and Full Economic Costs
- For Example: If you go into your woods and cut black locust posts, peel them and use them for trellis posts, technically they are a fixed cost item that “cash-costed” you nothing (maybe some chainsaw gas)

The Big Money Picture

- By the time that you get to your first small harvest in the fall of the 3rd year after planting, you will have invested around \$14,144 per acre. (Full economic cost)

The Little Money Picture

- Based on 528 vines per acre
 - 48 plants per row w/ 8 ft. between plants
 - 11 rows with 10 feet between rows
 - 6 feet past each end post for the earth anchors

The Little Money Picture

➤ Green treated post option

- 6X6 by 10 ft. end posts 22 @ \$22 = \$484
- 5" round X 8 ft. line posts 165 @ \$10 = \$1650
- 6 inch plate earth anchors 22 @ \$15 = \$330
- 8500 ft hi-tensile wire @ \$0.034 = \$289
- 528 plants @ \$4 per plant = 2112
- Grand total of \$4865

Back To The Big Money Picture

- You will eventually make money growing wine grapes

Back To The Big Money Picture

-The Question is WHEN?
- Anywhere from 6 or 7 years to +15 years