# Agricultural Economics Curriculum <br> For Use in Oklahoma High Schools 

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## Note to Instructors

The materials in this document can be used as a stand-alone section on agricultural economics or integrated into a course/section on animal science. Materials focused on crop production and horticulture will be available in future training sessions. A companion CD is available with PowerPoint slides which can be used in the classroom. Copies of this CD are available by contacting Eric DeVuyst, 405-744-6166, eric.devuyst@okstate.edu.

Each section of this document contains a problem set. These problem sets are based on a common case study. An answer key is provided with each problem set. The keys can be distributed to students if desired or withheld for use by the instructor. Supplemental problems and answer keys for each section are provided at the end of this document. The supplemental problems can be used in class, as take-home assignments, or as quiz and exam questions.

## Agricultural Economics Case Study: Farm Business Planning

## Objectives

Students will:

- Develop an enterprise budget and compute breakeven production and price;
- Develop a cash flow budget;
- Develop and analyze a balance sheet.


## Introduction

Megan is a freshman taking agriculture in an Oklahoma high school. A year ago, her grandparents gave her a weaned heifer. Megan would like to build a small breeding herd. She showed her heifer at several shows and saved her premium checks. By combining with money from part-time summer jobs and her premium checks, she has saved $\$ 500$ to put toward the purchase of a bred cow. Megan's parents let her graze her heifer at no cost, so she has avoided paying most production expenses. Now, she will have to pay for feed and veterinary expenses on her cattle Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Her FFA advisor, Mr. Blake, recommended that she start keeping financial and production records. He gave her a copy of the SAE Record Keeping Activity booklet as a starting point.

To finance the investment in a bred cow, Megan will need to take out a youth farmer loan. She will also need to take out an operating loan to pay for feed and veterinary expenses. The bank's loan officer told Megan that she will need to provide 1) an enterprise

> You can find more information on the Oklahoma Beginning Farmer Loan Program in this packet. See Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Publication AGEC-244 or download for free from www.agecon.okstate.edu/extension/ Information on FSA Beginning Farmer Loans can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov
budget, 2) a cash flow budget, and 3) a balance sheet.

## Enterprise budgets and breakeven analysis

An enterprise budget projects all revenues and expenses that can be allocated to a given economic activity such as cow-calf production, wheat stockers, meat goats, wheat, corn, soybeans, etc. Enterprise budgets are used to project the economic advisability (or returns to unpaid labor, management, and equity capital) of a given enterprise, production practice or marketing plan. An example enterprise budget form for cow-calf production is presented in table 1. Additional budgets for other Oklahoma commodities are included in this packet.

A budget is usually built on an annual basis-that is, it includes all revenues and expenses that are expected to be incurred in a calendar year. Revenues include product sales, such as calves sold or bushels of wheat sold, but also include the increase (or decrease) in the value of inventories of salable products and the increase in value of gifted or raised breeding livestock. So, some revenues are "non-cash." Similarly, expenses include cash purchases of feed and veterinary

You can find more information on enterprise budgeting in this packet. Oklahoma
Cooperative Extension Service Publications AGEC 139 and AGEC 243 provide more details on how to use budgets for your farm business. You can also access these and other farm business planning publications at or download for free from
www.agecon.okstate.edu/extension/
supplies, but also the decrease (or increase) in value of feed and supply inventories. An additional non-cash expense is depreciation. Depreciation is the loss in economic value of durable (long-lived) assets due to use and obsolesce.

Enterprise budgets can be used to compare the returns to unpaid labor, management and capital from competing enterprises. Enterprise budgets are used to determine if an activity appears to be profitable or economically advisable. Enterprise budgets can also be used to
compute the level of production needed to breakeven. That is, how much must be produced so that total revenue equals total expenses (returns to unpaid labor, management and capital equals zero)? Breakeven production or output is computed as:

## Breakeven output = Total Expense/sale price.

Breakeven sale price is the sale price that equates total revenue to total expense.
Breakeven sale price is computed as:

## Breakeven sale price $=$ Total Expense/output.

## Table 1. Cow-calf enterprise budget

## Revenue

Calf sales
Gain (loss) on cull cow and bull sales
Change in accounts receivable
Increase in base value of raised breeding livestock

## Total revenue

$\qquad$

## Expenses

Feed purchases
Grazing expenses
Veterinary expenses
Utilities
Hired labor
Other cash expenses
Depreciation
Change in supply inventory and prepaid expenses
Operating interest
Interest on long-term debt
Total Expenses
Returns to Unpaid Labor, Management and Equity Capital

## Exercise 1.

To demonstrate how an enterprise budget is constructed, return to Megan's SAE project. She currently owns a heifer and is looking to purchase a bred three-year-old cow. Because her parents let her graze her cattle at no charge, she will only be paying for purchased feeds and veterinary supplies. She plans to purchase a bred cow in January that will calve in February. The calf will be weaned in October and sold in December. The calf will need an ear tag (\$1), two rounds of vaccinations ( $\$ 4 \times 2$ ), and 45 days of feed after weaning. (This 45 -day period is called preconditioning.) During preconditioning, the calf will receive 4 pounds per day of a mixed ration (\$0.12 per pound) and graze native pasture. After preconditioning, Megan expects to sell a 630 -pound calf at $\$ 1.10$ per pound.

The bred cow will cost $\$ 750$. Megan expects to own the cow for another seven years. After seven years, the cow will be culled with an expected value of $\$ 470$. The cow will need to be fed prairie hay and $20 \%$ protein range cubes for 90 days. On a daily basis, the cow will consume 30 pounds of hay at $\$ 50$ per ton and two pounds of range cubes at $\$ 230$ per ton.

As she intends to show her heifer at her local, county, and district livestock shows, Megan will need to keep her heifer in very good body condition. So, she will feed her heifer eight pounds of textured or "sweet" feed ( $13.5 \%$ protein and $4 \%$ fat) for 120 days. Sweet feed costs $\$ 9$ per 50 pounds, or $\$ 0.18$ per pound. To assist with preparing the heifer for showing, Megan recently purchased a blower for $\$ 300$. (A blower is basically a large hair dryer/fan.)

Both the bred cow and heifer will need booster vaccinations (\$4 each). Control of parasites will cost $\$ 4$ for each of the breeding animals and $\$ 2$ for the calf.

Use the information discussed above to fill in the enterprise budget (table 1). You will need to compute the annual depreciation on the purchased cow and the blower. (Note, do not
take depreciation on raised or gifted breeding livestock.) Annual depreciation is computed as (purchase cost - salvage value)/useful life. Salvage value is just the value at culling of the bred cow or resale value of the blower at the end of Megan's project. In this case, assume the blower was purchased for $\$ 300$, has a salvage value of $\$ 200$ and has a five-year useful life.

You also will need to know the increase in value for her heifer. The increase in value is equal to the annual feed and veterinary costs for the heifer. Finally, Megan does not carry an inventory of feed or other supplies.

Megan will pay 5\% interest on the note used to purchase the bred cow and 5\% on her operating note. To estimate operating interest, multiply total cash expense (including interest) by the interest rate (5\%) and divide by two, or

## Operating interest $=$ Cash expenses $\times$ Interest rate $/ 2$.

Does Megan's project appear to be profitable?
If Megan expects to sell a 630-pound calf, what price will she need to get to breakeven? If her calf weighs 600 pounds, what is the breakeven price? If her calf weighs 660 pounds, what is the breakeven price?

If Megan expects to receive $\$ 1.10$ per pound for her calf, how much does it need to weigh to breakeven? If the sale price is $\$ 1$ per pound, what is the breakeven price? At $\$ 1.20$ per pound?

To date, Megan has not had to pay for grazing. If her parents charged her $\$ 6$ per month for grazing for both the heifer and cow (a total of $\$ 12$ per month), how would her net return change? Breakeven sale weights and prices?

## Exercise 1. Solution

Megan will have two revenues, one cash and one non-cash. First, she will sell her weaned calf for $\$ 693$ (cash). Second, the base value of her heifer will increase by the heifer's production expenses. Her expenses are $\$ 4$ for vaccinations, $\$ 172.80$ for feed, and $\$ 4$ for parasite control, a total of $\$ 180.80$ (a non-cash revenue). Note these items will also be included as expenses. Both the cash and non-cash revenues are entered in table 2.

Feed expenses include $\$ 172.80$ for the heifer, $\$ 88.20$ for the cow and $\$ 21.60$ for the weaned calf. Veterinary expense includes vaccinations (\$4 for the heifer, $\$ 4$ for the purchased cow and $\$ 8$ for the calf) and parasite control ( $\$ 4$ for the heifer, $\$ 4$ for the cow and $\$ 2$ for the calf). Other cash expense is $\$ 1$ for the calf ear tag. Depreciation is taken on the purchased cow and the blower. The cow depreciation is computed as $(\$ 750-\$ 470) / 7=\$ 40$ per year. The blower depreciation is computed as $(\$ 300-\$ 200) / 5=\$ 20$.

## Table 2. Cow-calf enterprise budget

## Revenue

Calf sales
Increase in base value of raised breeding livestock
Total revenue
Expenses
Feed purchases
Veterinary expenses
Other cash expenses (ear tag)
Depreciation
Operating interest
Interest on long-term debt
Total Expenses
Returns to Unpaid Labor, Management and Equity Capital

| $\$ 693.00$ |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\$ 180.80$ |  |
| $\$ 873.80$ | (A) |

\$282.60
\$ 26.00
\$ 1.00
\$ 60.00
\$ 7.74
\$ 12.50
$\$ 389.84 \quad$ (B)
\$483.96
(A-B)

Megan's project has positive returns to unpaid labor, management and equity capital. So, it is likely to be profitable.

To compute breakeven sale price, divide total expenses of $\$ 390$ (rounded to nearest dollar) by the expected sale weight of 630 pounds. Or $\$ 390 / 630$ pounds $=\$ 0.62$ per pound. If the calf weighs 600 pounds, the breakeven price is $\$ 390 / 600=\$ 0.65$ per pound. At $660 \mathrm{lb}, \$ 390 / 660$ $=\$ 0.59$ per pound.

To compute breakeven production or output, divide total expense of $\$ 390$ by the expected sale price of $\$ 1.10$. Or, $\$ 390 / \$ 1.10$ per pound $=355$ pounds. If the sale price is $\$ 1, \$ 390 / \$ 1$ per pound $=390$ pounds. At $\$ 1.20$ per pound, $\$ 390 / \$ 1.20$ per pound $=325$ pounds.

## Cash flow budgets

Next, Megan needs to develop a cash flow budget. The cash flow budget is used to identify time periods where cash is deficit (or surplus). Where the enterprise budget is used to project the economic advisability of an enterprise, cash flow budgets project the feasibility of an enterprise-that is, can this enterprise "work" for the business? The cash flow budget lists all sources of cash, including beginning cash balance, crop sales, livestock sales, and capital asset sales, and all uses of cash, including cash expenses, purchases of land, and purchases of depreciable assets (buildings, equipment, machinery, fencing and breeding stock). Cash flow budgets can be developed with monthly, quarterly and annual time increments. An example of an annual cash flow budget is given in table 3 .

To develop a cash flow budget, start with the enterprise budget. Identify all cash revenues and all cash expenses. For the sale of depreciable assets (buildings, equipment, machinery, cull breeding stock), use the full sale value as a source of cash. For the purchase of depreciable assets, use the purchase price as use of cash. Also, included on the cash flow budget are planned borrowings and principal and interest payments on debt.

Need more information on cash flow planning? See Oklahoma
Cooperative Extension Service publication AGEC-751. It's attached to this packet or can be accessed at www.agecon.okstate.edu/extension/

Even if an enterprise appears to be profitable, it
might not generate a positive cash flow. This is often due to principal payments. Principal payments are the part of a loan payment that reduces the loan balance, where interest payments are "rent" on borrowed money. Principal payments are NOT a business expense, but are a use of cash. (Interest payments are both a business expense and a use of cash.) It is also possible that an
enterprise will have positive cash flow but not be profitable due to non-cash items such as depreciation.

Table 3. Annual Cash Flow Budget Form

| Sources of cash |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Beginning cash balance |  |
| Crop sales |  |
| Livestock sales |  |
| Custom work |  |
| Sale of depreciable assets |  |
| Sale of land |  |
| Proceeds from planned borrowing |  |
| Other sources of cash (e.g., contributed capital) |  |
| Total sources of cash | (A) |
| Uses of cash |  |
| Cash expenses (excluding interest paid) |  |
| Breeding stock purchases |  |
| Purchase of other depreciable assets |  |
| Purchases of land |  |
| Principal payments |  |
| Interest payments on long-term debt |  |
| Interest on operating note |  |
| Other uses of cash |  |
| Total uses of cash | (B) |
| Net cash surplus or deficit | (A-B) |

## Exercise 2.

Again, return to Megan's example above. Megan will borrow $\$ 250$ on a youth loan. She will repay this note over three years at a 5\% interest rate. Principal payments will be $\$ 79$ in the first year. Interest in the first year will be $\$ 12.50$. Megan will also take out an operating note at $5 \%$ to pay for feed and veterinary expenses during the year. The operating note is repaid after the calf is sold in December. To estimate interest on the operating note, use the formula on page 10.

There is an additional source of cash in Megan's example. She will allocate $\$ 500$ of her savings (beginning cash balance) to purchase the bred cow. Utilizing this information and the information provided in the Introduction and Exercise 1, complete the cash flow budget in table 3.

If Megan's project were to have a negative projected cash flow, suggest ways to improve her cash flow.

## Exercise 2. Solution

Table 4. Annual Cash Flow Budget

| Sources of cash |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Beginning cash balance | $\$ 500.00$ |
| Crop sales |  |
| Livestock sales | $\$ 693.00$ |
| Custom work |  |
| Sale of depreciable assets |  |
| Sale of land | $\$ 250.00$ |
| Proceeds from planned borrowing-cow note | $\$ 309.60$ |
| Proceeds from planned borrowing-operating note | $\$ 1,752.60$ |
| Other sources of cash | $\$ 309.60$ |
| Total sources of cash | $\$ 750.00$ |
| Uses of cash |  |
| Cash expenses (excluding interest paid) | $\$ 79.00$ |
| Breeding stock purchases | $\$ 12.50$ |
| Purchase of other depreciable assets | $\$ 309.60$ |
| Purchases of land | $\$ 2.74$ |
| Principal payments | $\$ 1,468.44$ |
| Interest payments on long-term debt | 284.16 |
| Operating note repayment | (A-B) |
| Interest on operating note | (B) |
| Other uses of cash |  |
| Total uses of cash | Net cash surplus of deficit |

First, enter sources of cash. Enter the cash revenue from the sale of the calf. Enter the proceeds from the loan to purchase the bred cow and the proceeds from the operating note. The only other source of cash is Megan's beginning cash balance of $\$ 500$.

Next, enter uses of cash. Enter the cash expenses (feed and veterinary). The full purchase price of the bred cow is entered. The principal payment and interest on the cow note are entered. The operating note will be repaid when the calf is sold. Then, estimate the interest on the operating note as $(\$ 309.60 / 2) \times 0.05=\$ 7.74$.

Megan's project appears to have positive cash flow for the first year. If she needed to improve cash flow, she might be able to reduce the heifer's feed costs. She might be able to "roll" part of her operating note balance forward into the next year-if she anticipates more cash flow in the coming year. Since she should sell two calves in the coming year, this is a possibility. However, this is not recommended as a standard practice. Carry-over of an operating loan is often the first sign of growing financial stress in a commercial operation. If circumstances are not expected to improve dramatically in the following year, operators can find themselves accumulating debt loads from which they may not be able to recover.

## Balance Sheets

Balance sheets are used to measure the financial position or "health" of an individual or business. A balance sheet is a listing of everything that an individual (or business) owns, everything it owes and net worth. The items that are owned are called assets. The amounts that are owed to someone else are called liabilities. And, assets - liabilities = net worth (or owner's equity). This financial statement is said to balance because assets are listed on the left-hand-side and liabilities and net worth are listed on the right-hand-side. If we sum the right-hand-side (i.e., liabilities + net worth), it is equal to the left-hand-side (assets) and therefore "balances." A general format for a balance sheet is presented in Table 5.

Table 5. General Format of a Balance Sheet

| Current assets |  | Current liabilities |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Cash, near-cash, supplies, <br> accounts receivable, crops <br> held for sale, livestock held <br> for sale, cash invested in <br> growing crops | $\$$ | Accounts payable, accrued <br> taxes (property), operating <br> note balance, accrued <br> interest, current portion of <br> long-term debt | $\$$ |
| Non-current assets |  | Non-current liabilities |  |
| Machinery, equipment, <br> breeding livestock, fencing, <br> land | $\$$ | Non-current portion of <br> machinery and equipment <br> notes, non-current portion of <br> breeding stock notes, non- <br> current portion of mortgages | $\$$ |
| Total assets | $\$$ | Total liabilities |  |
| Owner's equity | $\$$ |  |  |
|  |  | Total liabilities + Owner's <br> equity | $\$$ |

Current assets include all cash and near-cash assets, such as savings accounts, checking accounts, certificates of deposit, bonds, and stocks. Current assets also include all supply inventories, feed, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, etc. Also, crop inventories and feeder livestock are included as current assets. Generally, current assets are assets that will be used or sold within a
year. Finally, cash invested in growing crops (such as applied fertilizer, seed, and chemicals) is considered a current asset.

Non-current assets are durable or long-lived assets. All assets that are expected to be utilized in the business for more than one year are non-current assets. So, farm and ranch machinery and equipment, breeding livestock, buildings, fencing and land are all non-current assets.

Assets can be valued two ways, "market basis"

Find more information on
developing and using balance sheets in Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service publication AGEC-752. You can access at
www.agecon.okstate.edu/extension/ and "cost basis". Using "market basis," the value is equal to their fair market value less disposal costs (advertising, commission, etc,). On "cost basis balance sheets," non-current assets are valued as purchase price less accumulated depreciation except land. Since land does not depreciation it is valued at its purchase price. Under both types of balance sheets, market values are used for current assets. For tracking the performance of the farm over time, cost-basis balance sheets are more useful. However, your loan officer will probably want you to provide a market-basis balance sheet.

Current liabilities are obligations which are due within one year. Accounts payable (such as charge accounts at the feed store or chemical dealer) are current liabilities. Accrued property taxes (taxes due) are also a current liability. Property taxes are typically paid in the year following the date that they are assessed. Calendar year 2010 taxes are often due at the end of 2010 or early 2011. Since property taxes are due within a year, they are current liabilities. Operating notes are typically paid off or renewed annually, making them current liabilities. Accrued interest (interest due) on loans is usually paid within a calendar year, so it is a current
liability. Finally, principal payments on long-term loans are made during the calendar year. The principal payments due within a calendar year are current liabilities.

Non-current liabilities are obligations that are due beyond at least one year. Machinery and equipment note balances, breeding stock loan balances and mortgage balances are noncurrent liabilities. It is important to remember that part of the loan principal is current-that is, some of the note is due in the coming year and must be treated as a current liability. The principal payment paid in the coming year is subtracted from the loan balance to find the noncurrent portion of long-term debts.

Owner's equity or net worth is computed as total assets less total liabilities. Owner's equity represents the amount of the owner's capital invested in the business. Owner's equity has three sources: contributed capital, retained earnings and market value changes (only on a marketbasis balance sheet). Contributed capital is the amount (or value) of cash and assets that the owner has put into the business. While these contributions usually occur at the business start up, infusions of capital can occur at any point in the business' life. Retained earnings are profits that have not been withdrawn by the owner(s). The profits have been re-invested in the business for the purpose of generating future profits. Finally, on market-basis balance sheets, the value of long-term assets usually varies over time. For example, land usually increases in market value over time (but it also has declined as in the 1980s agricultural land market). A statement of owner's equity can be prepared to report these three sources of owner's equity.

## Exercise 3.

Megan will need to provide her lender with a market-basis balance sheet. Currently, she owns a heifer with a value of $\$ 1,000$ at the start of the year, a blower valued at $\$ 300$, and has $\$ 500$ cash. She has no debt. Prepare a balance sheet for the beginning of the year.

Next, prepare an end of year (December 31) market-basis balance sheet for Megan given that she will purchase a bred cow for $\$ 750$. She will need to borrow $\$ 250$ to complete the purchase. The principal payment on the note will be $\$ 83$ next year with interest of $\$ 9$. Note, in December she expects to make a payment of $\$ 79$ on the cow note. Her show heifer's value will be $\$ 1,200$ at the end of the year. She will need to take out an operating loan equal to her production expenses for the year. This note will be paid off in December. Her blower will be worth $\$ 250$ at the end of the year.

Describe the sources of change in Megan's net worth.

## Exercise 3 Solution.

Megan has no liabilities. So, the beginning-of-year balance sheet (table 6) has only her three assets (as of January 1): cash, blower and heifer.

Table 6. Beginning Of Year Balance Sheet

| Current assets |  | Current liabilities |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Cash | $\$ 500$ | -- | $\$ 0$ |
| Total current assets | $\$ 500$ | Total current liabilities |  |
| Non-current assets |  | Non-current liabilities |  |
| Blower | $\$ 300$ | -- | $\$ 0$ |
| Show heifer | $\$ 1,000$ | Total non-current liabilities | $\$ 0$ |
| Total non-current assets | $\$ 1,300$ | Total liabilities | $\$ 1,800$ |
| Total assets | $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 8 0 0}$ | Owner's equity | $\$ \mathbf{\$ 1 , 8 0 0}$ |

At the end of the year, Megan will have added a cow (valued at $\$ 800$ at the end of the year) to her assets and her show heifer's value will increase to $\$ 1,200$. While she will spend her $\$ 500$ of cash on the purchase of a cow, her sale of a calf partially rebuilt her cash balance. From the cash flow budget, a cash balance of $\$ 287$ is projected. Her blower will decrease in value to $\$ 250$ by the end of the year. In net, her assets increased to $\$ 2,537$.

Her liabilities will also increase. A payment of $\$ 79$ on the cow note was made in December. So, the total principal owed on the note is $\$ 171$. Since she will make another principal payment of $\$ 83$ in the next year, that portion of the cow note is a current liability. Additionally, she will need to pay interest on the note in the next 12 months, so the $\$ 9$ of interest
is also a current liability. The remainder of the cow note is due in more than 12 months, so it is a non-current liability. In aggregate, her liabilities increased to $\$ 182$. NOTE: Megan will pay off the operating debt in December, so the end of year balance is $\$ 0$.

To compute her equity, compute assets - liabilities or $\$ 2,537-\$ 182=\$ 2,537$. So,
Megan's net worth increased by $\$ 555$ during the year.
Table 7. End-of-Year Market-Basis Balance Sheet

| Current assets |  | Current liabilities |  |
| :---: | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Cash | $\$ 284$ | Operating note | $\$ 0$ |
|  |  | Cow note payment | $\$ 83$ |
| Total current assets | $\$ 284$ | Interest on cow note | $\$ 9$ |
| Non-current assets |  | Total current liabilities | $\$ 92$ |
| Blower | $\$ 250$ | Non-current liabilities | $\$ 88$ |
| Show heifer | $\$ 1,200$ | Cow note | $\$ 88$ |
| Cow | $\$ 800$ | Total non-current liabilities | $\mathbf{\$ 1 8 0}$ |
| Total non-current assets | $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 2 5 0}$ | Total liabilities | $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 3 5 4}$ |
| Total assets | $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 5 3 4}$ | Owner's equity | $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 5 3 4}$ |

Megan's change in net worth is due to the increased value of the heifer and cow, the decrease in blower value, and the positive net return from her cow-calf enterprise.

## Analyzing the Balance Sheet

There are two measurements of financial "health" that can be computed from the balance sheet. Solvency measures the ability of an individual or business to pay off all of his/her/its financial obligations. Liquidity measures the ability of a business to meet all of its short-term financial obligations without disrupting future business operations.

Solvency measures include debt-to-asset ratio (D/A), equity-to-asset ratio (E/A) and debt-to-equity ratio (D/E). Debt and liability are interchangeable terms in this context. Each of these ratios is computed directly from the balance sheet. A D/E ratio greater than 1 indicates that creditors have more money invested in the business than the owner(s). Conversely, a ratio less than 1 indicates that the owner(s) has more invested in the business than creditors. It is not uncommon during the startup years of a business that this ratio is greater than 1 . The $\mathrm{D} / \mathrm{E}$ ratio, also called leverage ratio, compares the portion of creditor financing versus equity financing. Large values indicate a highly leveraged position. This ratio is also used to indicate credit worthiness. Lenders want to see smaller values for D/E.

The D/A ratio reports the portion of assets "owed" to creditors. As a business owner moves closer to retirement, it is usually recommended that he/she work to reduce this ratio.

The E/A asset ratio reports the portion of assets financed by owner equity. A ratio greater than 1 indicates that the owner(s) has more invested in the business than creditors. Mathematically, it is easy to show that $\mathrm{D} / \mathrm{A}+\mathrm{E} / \mathrm{A}=1$. Rewriting, $(\mathrm{D}+\mathrm{E}) / \mathrm{A}=1$. Recalling that debt $=\operatorname{liabilities~}(\mathrm{D}=\mathrm{L})$ and that $\mathrm{A}=\mathrm{L}+\mathrm{E}$, replace the numerator with $\mathrm{A} . \mathrm{So}, \mathrm{A} / \mathrm{A}=1$. This relationship is often used in agricultural economics competitions to test contestants' knowledge of financial ratios. Problems at the end of this section provide examples.

The D/E ratio, also called leverage ratio, compares the portion of creditor financing versus equity financing. Large values indicate a highly leveraged position. This ratio is also used to indicate credit worthiness. Lenders want to see smaller values for D/E.

Liquidity is measured using two measures, working capital and current ratio. Working capital is computed as current assets - current liabilities. In words, if all current assets were liquidated, could all current debts be paid off? So, positive values are preferred. Because businesses of different sizes will have different liquidity needs, this measure lacks a relative scale. For example, is working capital of $\$ 1,000$ sufficient? In Megan's example above, $\$ 1,000$ of working capital is more than sufficient. However, for a large, multinational company, it is woefully inadequate. (Think about BP and its working capital requirements, especially after the May 2010 oil leak.)

The current ratio is computed as current assets divided by current liabilities. A value greater than two is preferred as it indicates an ability to cover all current obligations without sacrificing long-term assets. Businesses with frequent sales often have a high current ratio.

## Exercise 4.

Using the end-of-year balance sheet created in Exercise 3, compute D/A, E/A, D/E, working capital and current ratio. Will Megan's project be liquid at the end of the year? Will she be solvent?

## Exercise 4 Solution.

$\mathrm{D} / \mathrm{A}=180 / 2,534=0.07$.
$\mathrm{E} / \mathrm{A}=2354 / 2,534=0.93$.
$\mathrm{D} / \mathrm{E}=180 / 2,354=0.08$.
Working capital $=\$ 284-\$ 92=\$ 192$.
Current ratio $=284 / 92=3.09$.
Megan's business is projected to be both solvent and liquid.

## Supplemental problems

## Enterprise Budgets and Analysis

1. The cost of producing winter wheat is $\$ 120$ per acre and wheat yields 35 bushels per acre.
a. Find the breakeven selling price ( $\$ /$ bushel) for wheat.
b. If wheat price is $\$ 3.80$ per bushel, find the breakeven yield (bushels/acre).
2. The cost of producing a fat hog is $\$ 125$.
a. If a hog sells at 260 pounds, what is the breakeven sale price?
b. If the market price is $\$ 0.58$ per pound, what is the breakeven sale weight?

## Cash Flow Budgeting

Use the information below to develop a cash flow budget for a corn enterprise.
Expected corn yield $=100$ bushel per acre.
Expected corn price $=\$ 3.40$ per bushel.
Production costs (\$ per acre)
Seed $\$ 62$
Fertilizer \$33
Pesticides \$23
Crop insurance $\$ 8$
Labor $\$ 10$
Fuel, oil, lube $\quad \$ 58$
Rent \$30
Repairs \$ 5
Fixed costs (\$ per acre)
Depreciation $\$ 24$
Interest \$16
Taxes \$ 4
An operating note will be taken out to cover cash expenses. Corn will be planted in April and harvested in November. Interest rate on the operating note will be $7 \%$. Assume a $\$ 0$ beginning cash balance.

Using the information below:

1. Determine if each of the accounts is a current asset (CA), a non-current asset (NCA), a current liability (CL), a non-current liability (NCL), or none of the above (N).
2. Create a balance sheet. Hint: You will need to compute owner's equity.
3. In class, several measures of liquidity and solvency were discussed. List and compute any two of those measures.

| Current portion machinery debt | 15,000 | Land debt | 115,000 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Cash | 8,000 | Machinery | 45,000 |
| Fuel inventory | 2,000 | Cash invested in growing crops | 5,000 |
| Land | 300,000 | Machinery debt | 45,000 |
| Accrued interest (int. payable) | 3,000 | Feeder livestock | 23,000 |
| Breeding stock | 35,000 | Current portion mortgage | 20,000 |

4. Classify each of the following as either a current liability (CL), a non-current liability (NCL), a current asset (CA), a non-current asset (NCA) or NONE. Note: check only ONE category for each. (20 points)
CL
NCL
CA
NCA NONE
a. Cash
b. Raised breeding livestock
c. Farm mortgage
d. Machinery
e. Land
f. Operating loan
g. Taxes payable
h. Feeder livestock
i. Prepaid expense
j. Feed expense
k. Accounts payable
5. Given the account information below, generate a balance sheet. (70 points)

| Land | $? ? ? ? ? ? ?$ | Change in cash account | $\$ 4,500$ |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Accounts payable | 3,000 | Machinery note | 45,000 |
| Operating loan | 24,000 | Current portion Machinery note | 12,000 |
| Machinery | 80,000 | Current portion Land note | 15,000 |
| Buildings | 35,000 | Cash | 15,000 |
| Supplies | 4,000 | Accrued Interest (payable) | 13,500 |
| Prepaid expense | 3,000 | Grain inventory | 63,000 |
| Mortgage | 102,500 | Crop Expenses | 45,000 |
| D/A ratio | 0.4 |  |  |

Figure 1. Balance sheet information.

## Supplemental Problems Key

Enterprise Budgets and Analysis

1. The cost of producing winter wheat is $\$ 120$ per acre and wheat yields 35 bushels per acre.
a. Find the breakeven selling price ( $\$ /$ bushel) for wheat.

Find the cost per bushel $=\$ 120 / 35$ bushel $=\$ 3.43$, which is the breakeven selling price
b. If wheat price is $\$ 3.80$ per bushel, find the breakeven yield (bushels/acre).

BE yield $=$ cost per acre/selling price $=\$ 120$ per acre $\$ 3.80$ per bushel $=31.6$ bushel
per acre.
2. The cost of producing a fat hog is $\$ 125$.
a. If a hog sells at 260 pounds, what is the breakeven sale price?
$B E \$=\$ 125 / 260$ pounds $=\$ 0.48$ per pound.
b. If the market price is $\$ 0.58$ per pound, what is the breakeven sale weight?

BE weight $=\$ 125 / \$ 0.58$ per pound $=216$ pounds.

## Cash Flow Budgeting

The only difficult part of this exercise is finding the expected interest on cash expenses. First, sum up cash expenses that are paid DURING the growing season. In this case, all expenses EXCEPT depreciation are cash. However, interest on fixed assets is probably not paid during the growing season. Also, taxes are not usually paid during the growing season. So, the grower will be paying interest on $\$ 229$. This amount is paid out over the growing season, 8 months. Over the 8 months, the grower has an average of $\$ 114.50(=\$ 229 / 2)$ invested - he starts with $\$ 0$ on April 1 and ends with $\$ 229$ on November 30. He pays interest on the average amount for 8 months or for $8 / 12$ of the year. The $7 \%$ interest rate is an annual rate and must be adjusted to an 8 -month equivalent. So, the expected interested paid is $\$ 114.50 \times 0.07 \times 8 / 12=\$ 5.34$. The rest of the cash flow is straightforward.

Cash flow budget for corn enterprise (per acre)
Sources of cash
Corn sales (100 bu $\times \$ 3.40 / \mathrm{bu}) \quad \$ 340.00$
Total sources of cash $\$ 340.00$

Uses of cash
Seed
\$ 62.00
Fertilizer
\$ 33.00
Pesticides
\$ 23.00
Crop insurance $\$ 8.00$
Labor
Fuel, oil, lube \$58.00
Rent
Interest on fixed assets
\$ 30.00
Taxes on fixed assets
Repairs
Interest on operating
Total uses of cash
Expected net cash flow
\$ 16.00
\$ 4.00
\$ 5.00
$\$ \quad 5.34$
$\$ 254.34$
\$85.76

## Balance Sheet

1. Determine if each of the accounts is a current asset (CA), a non-current asset (NCA), a current liability (CL), a non-current liability (NCL), or none of the above (N).

Current portion machinery debt=CL
Mortgage=NCL (although part of it is a CL)
Cash=CA
Machinery $=$ NCA
Fuel inventory=CA
Cash invested in growing crops=CA
Land=NCA
Machinery debt=NCL (although part of it is a CL)
Accrued interest (int. payable)=CL
Feeder livestock=CA
Breeding stock=NCA
Current portion mortgage $=$ CL
2. Create a balance sheet. Hint: You will need to compute owner's equity.

BALANCE SHEET

| Current Assets | Current Liabilities |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Cash | 8,000 | Accrued interest | 3,000 |
| Fuel | 2,000 | Current portion: | 15,000 |
| Cash invested in growing crops | 5,000 | Machinery debt | 20,000 |
|  | 23,000 | Mortgage | $\mathbf{3 8 , 0 0 0}$ |
|  | $\mathbf{3 8 , 0 0 0}$ | Total Current Liabilities |  |
| Non Current Assets |  | Non-Current Liabilities | 30,000 |
| Machinery | 45,000 | Machinery debt | 95,000 |
| Breeding livestock | 35,000 | Mortgage | $\mathbf{1 2 5 , 0 0 0}$ |
| Land | 300,000 | Total Non-Current Liabilities | $\mathbf{1 6 3 , 0 0 0}$ |
| Total Non-Current Assets | $\mathbf{3 8 0 , 0 0 0}$ | Total Liabilities | $\mathbf{2 5 5 , 0 0 0}$ |
| Total Assets | $\mathbf{4 1 8 , 0 0 0}$ | Owner's Equity |  |
|  |  | Total Liabilities + Owner's | $\mathbf{4 1 8 , 0 0 0}$ |

Figure 2. Create Balance Sheet

Note, to find the non-current portion of the machinery debt and mortgage, subtract the current portion from the principal balance. So, for example, $\$ 15,000$ is the current portion of the machinery debt (out of a total of $\$ 45,000$ owed). Then, the difference $(\$ 30,000)$ is non-current.

To find owner's equity, subtract total liabilities from total assets (\$418,000-\$163,000).
3. In class, several measures of liquidity and solvency were discussed. List and compute any two of those measures.

Liquidity measures:
Working capital $=$ current assets - current liabilities $=\$ 38,000-\$ 38,000=0$.
Current ratio $=$ current assets $/$ current liabilities $=1$.
Solvency measures:
D/A $=163,000 / 418,000=0.39$
$\mathrm{E} / \mathrm{A}=255,000 / 418,000=0.61$
$D / E=163,000 / 255,000=0.64$.
4. Classify each of the following as either a current liability (CL), a non-current liability (NCL), a current asset (CA), a non-current asset (NCA) or NONE. Note: check only ONE category for each. (20 points)
a. Cash

CL $\quad \underline{\text { NCL }} \quad \underline{\text { NCA }}$ NONE
b. Raised breeding livestock
c. Farm mortgage

X
d. Machinery
e. Land
f. Operating loan X
g. Taxes payable X
h. Feeder livestock
i. Prepaid expense
j. Feed expense

X
k. Accounts payable

X
5. Balance Sheet

| Current Assets | Current Liabilities |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Cash | 15,000 | Accounts payable | 3,000 |
| Supplies | 4,000 | Operating note | 24,000 |
| Prepaid expense | 3,000 | Current portion: |  |
| Grain inventory | 63,000 | Machinery note | 12,000 |
| Total Current Assets | $\mathbf{8 5 , 0 0 0}$ | Mortgage | 15,000 |
|  |  | Accrued interest | 13,500 |
|  |  | Total current liabilities | $\mathbf{6 7 , 5 0 0}$ |


| Noncurrent Assets |  | Noncurrent Liabilities |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Machinery | 80,000 | Machinery note | 30,000 |
| Buildings | 35,000 | Mortgage | 102,500 |
| Land | 300,000 |  |  |
| Total Noncurrent |  |  | $\mathbf{1 3 2 , 5 0 0}$ |
| Assets | $\mathbf{4 1 5 , 0 0 0}$ | Total Noncurrent Liabilities | $\mathbf{2 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ |
| Total Assets | $\mathbf{5 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ | Total Liabilities | $\mathbf{3 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ |
|  | Owner's equity | $\mathbf{5 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ |  |
|  |  | Liabilities + Owner's equity |  |

## Figure 3. Balance Sheet

The value of land must be computed using the available information. Total liabilities (D)
can be found. So, using the D/A ratio, total assets can be found. As follows,

$$
\mathrm{D} / \mathrm{A}=0.4
$$

$$
200,000 / \mathrm{A}=0.4
$$

So, 200,000 = 0.4 A. Or, A = 200,000/0.4 = 500,000 (=Total Assets). The other assets have a combined value of $\$ 200,000$. So, land must be valued at $\$ 300,000$.

Owner's equity is computed by subtracting total liabilities from total assets. Or, $\$ 500,000-\$ 200,000=\$ 300,000$.

