Gross Margin Tool

VegTool 1.1: A grower-friendly tool for comparing management and profitabilitu

A simple computer program has been developed to assist vegetable growers with making decisions about what to grow based on an analysis of potential income and likely operating costs.

This grower-friendly tool is being distributed to the vegetable industry by the VegBIZ project VG08021

The vegetable industry's Information and Technology Advisory Group identified a strong need for this type of project. The Project Steering Committee includes grower members Jeff McSpedden and Danny De Ieso, who have provided valuable guidance on meeting grower needs and have emphasised that for the tool to gain maximum adoption, it must be as simple and straightforward as possible.

The program allows growers to enter estimated yields, prices and input costs in familiar units, e.g. without having to convert everything into "per hectare" values, to arrive at a gross margin. Users can decide on the level of accuracy, but it is envisaged that the main use of the tool will be to conduct relatively simple comparisons of different crop production "Scenarios".

In the interest of "keeping it simple", the Steering Committee suggested that no more than 10 input cost categories be included. They are Seed & Plants, Fertiliser, Fuel, Chemicals, Water, Labour, Electricity/Gas, Packaging, Freight/Transport and Other Operating Costs.

The program can be downloaded from this website (see links below).

To learn more about the program and what is involved in downloading it, double-click on the "VegTool Manual" link below. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the manual. If your computer does not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can download it free here : http://get.adobe.com/reader/

Alternatively, a copy of the VegTool 1.1 program can be ordered on CD-ROM by contacting Gerard Kelly, VegBiz Project Leader, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Vegetable Industry Centre, Dareton office, Phone: 03 5019 8406. Email: gerard.kelly@industry.nsw.gov.au/

Download Files;
• VegTool for full or runtime version of Access 2007 at;
http://ausveg.com.au/resources/statistics/Veg%20tool%20manual/VegTool.msi

• VegTool Manual at;
http://ausveg.com.au/resources/statistics/Veg%20tool%20manual/VegTool%20Manual.pdf

Installation instructions;
1. Click the Veg Tool for full or runtime version of Access 2007 link

2. Save the zip file and after it downloads, "extract" the files to your computer with WinZip (most computers with the Windows operating system should have this program but if not, it can be downloaded free here. Further instructions on this process can be found in the manual.

3. Run the setup file and follow installation instructions.

R & D Provider: NSW Department of Primary Industries

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