

The Impact of the Use of Agricultural Accounting on the Financial Performance of Broiler Industry: A Comparative Evaluation Approach on Broiler Industry in Jordan

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Abstract

The main objective of this study was to introduce a comparative analysis to demonstrate the impact of the use of agricultural accounting on the financial performance of broiler farms in Jordan. Broiler farmers in Jordan constituted the study's population. A sample size of 65 broilers farms was randomly selected. Simple random sampling (SRS) procedure was followed. A structured questionnaire was used to obtain data from the interviewed farmers. Returns, costs (fixed and variable), net income and other related financial items were the main items covered in the survey. Data were collected during the period from March 15th 2014 to January 30th 2015. The financial performance of the investigated broiler farms was assessed using financial indicators related to benefit-cost analysis procedure. To achieve study objectives, the Net Present Value (NPV), the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) and the Benefits-Costs ratio (B/C) were used. The sample was divided into two categories, the first category consisted of 33 farmers who were adopting agricultural accounting procedures, and the second category consisted of 32 farmers who were not adopting any agricultural accounting procedures or they were adopting minimum level of these procedures. The results of this study revealed that broiler farms adopting agricultural accounting procedures were significantly higher in their financial performance. The values of the three financial indicators (NPV, IRR and B/C) for broiler these farms were positive, high and acceptable compared to farms without or with minimum level of agricultural accounting procedures. Agricultural accounting procedures keep farm efficient, so it is recommended to introduce proper strategies to improve broiler farmers agricultural accounting skills for Jordanian broiler producers. Also, a vital issue to be taken in consideration is to develop agricultural accounting procedures to be utilized by broiler farm managers or owners. Effective management of a farming operation today requires that farm accounting records be kept and updated so managers can make informed decisions affecting the profitability of their farms.

Keywords: agricultural accounting, broiler, financial performance, NPV, IRR, BCR

1. Introduction

Agricultural Accounting plays an essential role in the success of the agricultural sector productivity in general and in broiler productivity in particular. The absence of accounting practices in the agricultural enterprisises one of the most important barriers facing the agricultural sector's ability to take advantage of farm management tools to maximize productivity and improve profitability. Agricultural accounting has attracted less attention from researchers and accounting related agencies (Herbohn & Herbohn, 2006). Modern agricultural accounting implies change from the traditional historical cost model and, in most cases, requires biological assets to be measured (Elad & Herbohn, 2011; Lefter & Roman, 2007). This change has been responsible for the debate on agricultural accounting (Argilés, Garcia-Blandón, & Monllau, 2011). Undutimi (2013) reported that agricultural accounting modernization considers importance of keeping accounting records by farmers. Also, Yaaghubi et al. (2009) reported that farmers success in managing their agricultural activities implies the use agricultural accounting principles.

Agricultural accounting is a branch of accounting pertaining to agricultural activities in which the three areas of accounting apply; Financial Accounting, Cost Accounting and Management Accounting. Estimation of production costs that have been paid for agricultural products requires the use of Cost Accounting. The provision

of new data can be obtained from the Financial Accounting. The decision-making process by managers of agricultural enterprises and farmers themselves requires reliance on Management Accounting to get to the right decision. Agricultural accounting is known as a specialist area in the agricultural sector, which recorded primarily financial and monetary transactions in agricultural activities, and classifies these transactions by type, as it is interested in estimating production costs that have been incurred for agricultural products, and then prepare financial reports summarizing these financial and monetary transactions (Yaaghubi et al., 2009).

Farm management methods and tools depended on agricultural accounting considered to be one of the main reasons affecting the financial performance of broiler sector among other livestock enterprises (Mendes et al., 2014). Many researchers considered using a well developed, organized and integrated accounting system in agricultural activities inevitably lead to better farm management and development of work performance (Learning, 1989; Allan, 1994). The presence of accounting procedures in agricultural activities leads to the possibility that the farmers and the decision makers determine the reasons for the failure of these activities with great accuracy compared to the situation with the lack of such a system (Argiles & Slob, 200; Tonea, 2008). Olsson (1988) pointed to the fact that limited use of accounting procedures in any agricultural activity has a close relationship with limited accounting skills to farmers, leading to a negative impact on the financial performance of this activity. Poppe (1991) and Poppe and Breembroek (1992) explained a variety of reasons that may lead to the failure of the agricultural activity, absence of accounting procedures was the core of these reasons. Bronstein (1995) and Crane and Leatham (1995) considered that the use of sound accounting procedures is one of the most important foundations of the success and growth of any agricultural activity. Yaagoubi et al. (2009) showed that the interest in accounting matters in any agricultural activity is one of the most important determinants of the success of farmers. Ahmed and Zabri (2012) reported that there are shortcomings in the use of agricultural accounting principles as an important tool in farm management especially in small and medium-sized farms in most of the developing countries. A similar conclusion was reported by Poppe (1991). Poppe pointed that most of farmers, accountants and decision-makers in most of developing countries are not paying enough attention to agricultural accounting skills as an essential skills needed for successful farm management.

On the other hand, many studies investigated the importance of the adoption of the agricultural accounting principles in farm activities. Luening (1989) and Allen (1994) mentioned that the use of accounting procedures in agricultural activities led to improved production efficiency in these activities. Streeter (1990) concluded that farmers who use accounting systems in their agricultural activity are with highly effective farm management skills, and therefore are with higher degree of right decision-making compared to those who do not use farm accounting systems. In the same context, Sharma (2012) pointed that rely on effective accounting system in any agricultural activity will necessarily lead to improved productivity and thus profitability of the farm. He also reported that the use of updated and sound agricultural accounting procedures in any agricultural activity will provide the foundations that can be relied upon by farmers to adapt their plans to manage this activity properly.

Identifying the reasons that affect the financial performance of any agricultural sector is a very important issue to judge the feasibility of this sector and the possibility of its development for the better to play its role in food security. The process of identifying the reasons that affect the financial performance of broiler production sector in Jordan is one of the most important things to be studied and searched. The present study aimed at demonstrating the impact of the use of agricultural accounting on the financial performance of broiler farms in Jordan by identifying some of the indicators related to this performance.

2. Objectives of Agricultural Accounting

Agricultural Accounting is an indispensable tool for farm management. Agricultural accounting is used to measure and record all the consumed agricultural resources as well as the financial transactions in a systematic way that allows the farmer to determine the income derived from his agricultural activity (Agromisa Foundation, 2006). In general, there are three main functions for agricultural (farm) accounting; registration, classification and interpretation of financial procedures in any agricultural activity (Sevilengül, 2008). Agricultural accounting areas are classified, like other areas of accounting, as; financial accounting, cost accounting and management accounting. The presence of differences in economic production areas was with significant impact on the evolution of specific specialization of accounting in each of these areas, e.g. banking accounting, insurance accounting, accounting for building and road construction, industrial accounting, agricultural accounting, hotels accounting, tax accounting and other accounting systems (Zeki et al., 2013). Agricultural Accounting goals can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Equitable distribution of profits among the partners in the agricultural activity.

- 2) Estimation of profit and loss in the agricultural activity.
- 3) Estimation of tax burden on farmers.
- 4) Monitor the financial and material resources in agricultural projects.
- 5) Monitor and control financial movements related to agricultural commodities in terms of quantity and value.
- 6) Help in adopting preventive measures to counter the risks in agricultural activity.
- 7) Assist in agricultural projects budget planning.
- 8) Provide information in order to facilitate transactions between parties involved in agricultural activity (rent, buy or sell activities).
- 9) Provide relevant information to decision makers for the purposes of determining policies relating to agriculture, income and prices.
- 10) Provide assistance to agricultural companies and institutions in monitoring the performance of employees and managers.
- 11) Determine the support prices for agricultural goods that would be subject to a subsidy by the state.
- 12) Provide information on agricultural projects and agricultural credit institutions.
- 13) Determine the wages of employees.
- 14) Provide assistance in the field of education, training and research services related to agricultural activities.

3. Broiler Sector In Jordan

According to the yearbook of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Jordan, broiler production sector in Jordan ranked first in terms of the volume of investment compared to other sectors of livestock with more than one billion JDs in 2014 (1 JD = 1.4 USD). Number of broiler farms in the same year amounted to be 1752 farms with a total capacity amount of about 34 million birds per production cycle produced together about 270,000 tonnes of broiler meat and providing 90% of the country's need of this item (MoA, 2014). Jordan is among the top five Arab countries in production of broiler meat with a consumption at an annual rate of between 25-35 kg per capita (Al-Masad, 2010). Figure 1 shows the development of the quantities of broiler meat produced in Jordan for the period 2010-2014.

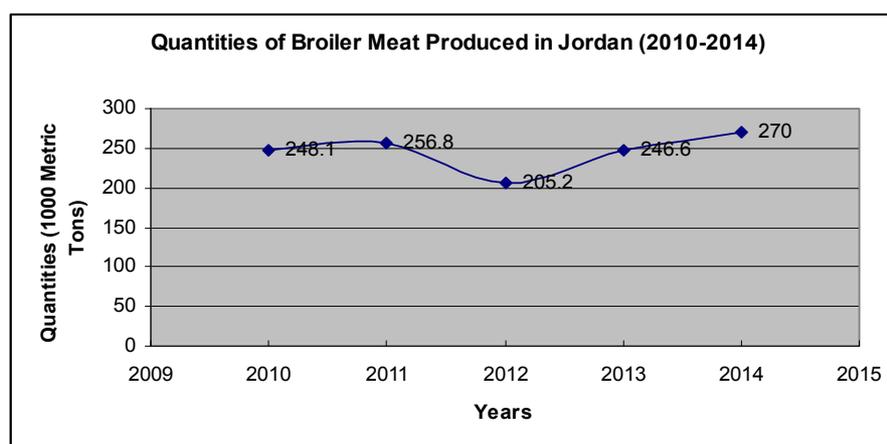


Figure 1. Quantities of broiler meat produced in Jordan (2010-2014)

Source: Author, based on Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture data (2014).

The figure shows that quantities of broiler meat produced in Jordan for the period 2010-2014 were almost the same each year (Except for the year 2012).

Broiler production sector faces in most developing countries, including Jordan, problems such as high and fluctuate prices of production inputs, diseases infection, high transport costs, marketing problems and output price fluctuations costs (Cengiz & Ceveger, 2003). Despite the existence of the mentioned problems, broiler

sector in Jordan has witnessed developments in productivity and competitiveness and therefore profitability by focusing on the economies of size which led to the emergence of some large broiler farms in the country. Figueiredo et al. (2006), in a study focused on broiler production methods, pointed that focusing on the economies of size and applying modern accounting and administrative methods in production allowed to achieve a good degree of profitability and led to reduce the possibility of exposure to risks in production.

4. Materials and Methods

4.1 The Sample

Broiler farmers in Jordan constituted the population of the present study. The sample size was determined based on the following equation (Newbold et al., 2012),

$$n = [(pqz^2)/e^2]/[(Ne^2) + (pqz^2)/(Ne^2)] \quad (1)$$

Where, N = Population (1752); n = Sample size (?); p = Best guess for prevalence (e.g. ± 0.50); $q = (1-p)$; z = The standardized score (1.645); sample size was determined at a confidence level of 0.90, so the standardized score is (1.645); e = maximum tolerable error for the prevalence estimate (e.g. ± 0.10).

Accordingly, the sample size was,

$$\begin{aligned} n &= [(pqz^2)/e^2]/[(Ne^2) + (pqz^2)/(Ne^2)] \\ n &= [(0.25 \times 2.7)/0.01]/[(1752 \times 0.01) + (0.25 \times 2.7)/(1752 \times 0.01)] \\ n &= [67.5]/[(17.52) + (0.675)/(17.52)] \\ n &= [(67.5)/[(18.195)/(17.52)]] \\ n &= [(67.5)/[(1.04)]] \\ n &= [64.90] \\ n &= [65] \end{aligned}$$

4.2 Sampling Procedure

Simple random sampling (SRS) procedure was followed in the present study. SRS is the basic sampling technique where we select a group of subjects (a sample) for study from a larger group (a population). In this procedure every individual in the target population has an equal chance of being part of the sample. This means that a simple random sample of size n consists of n individuals from the population chosen in such a way that every set of n individuals has an equal chance to be the sample actually selected.

4.3 Data

A structured questionnaire was used to obtain data from the interviewed farmers. Returns, costs (fixed and variable), net income and other related financial items were the main items covered in the survey. These items were broken down to their corresponding constituents. Data were collected during the period from March 15th 2014 to January 30th 2015. The Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Jordanian Department of Statistics (DOS), Governmental Agricultural Directorates in governorates, Governmental reports, Research institutions and universities, etc. were the main sources for secondary data.

4.4 Analysis

As mentioned earlier, the present study aimed at demonstrating the impact of the use of agricultural accounting on the financial performance of broiler farms in Jordan.

A number of financial indicators are used to assess the financial viability of a project. To achieve its objectives, the present study computed the values of three well known discounted financial indicators; The Net Present Value (NPV), the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) and the Benefits-Costs ratio (B/C). To conduct a comparative financial analysis, the values of these financial indicators were computed for broiler farms which are using agricultural accounting procedures and for broiler farms which are not using any agricultural accounting procedures or using a minimum level of these procedures. Calculations were made on the bases of 12 broiler production cycles.

4.4.1 The Net Present Value (NPV)

Sometimes called “net present worth”, and it is obtained by subtracting the present value of costs from that of benefits *i.e.* $NPV = PVB - PVC$ or, mathematically:

$$NPV = \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{B_t - C_t}{(1+i)^t} \quad (2)$$

Where, t = individual production cycle; n = number of production cycles over which the project is evaluated; B = the sum of benefits in a given production cycle; C = the sum of costs in a given production cycle; and i = the discount rate expressed as a decimal.

For a project to be acceptable and the investment is to be made the net present value should be positive ($PVB > PVC$) otherwise, it should not (Lin et al., 2000).

The above mentioned formula for NPV calculation could be summarized as follows:

$$NPV = Ri/(1 + i)^t \quad (3)$$

Where, t = production cycle; i = discount rate; Ri = net cash flow.

4.4.2 The Internal Rate of Return (IRR)

IRR is that discount rate i for which $PVB = PVC$. This is an efficiency indicator to judge the project. For example, an IRR of 10% suggests that the proposed investment will generate an average annual rate of return equal to 10% over the life of the project. When the zero net present value of the project is reached, the discount rate at that value is the IRR of that investment. In other words it is the interest rate that makes the NPV zero (Bruce, 2003, p. 276). If the IRR is less than the costs, the project should be avoided. IRR is calculated by equating the sum of the present value of future cash flow less the initial investment to zero. Or by,

PV of future cash flows – Initial Investment = 0; or

$$CF_0 + \frac{CF_1}{(1+r)^1} + \frac{CF_2}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{CF_3}{(1+r)^3} + \frac{CF_n}{(1+r)^n} = 0 \quad (4)$$

Where, CF is the Cash Flow generated in the specific period (the last period being n) and r is IRR to be calculated.

4.4.3 The Benefits-Costs Ratio (BCR)

BCR is the ratio of total value of benefits to the total value of the costs. BCR is used to identify the relationship between possible costs and benefits of a proposed project. The project is accepted if the BCR is greater than or equal to one. BCR is calculated by dividing the discounted value of incremental benefits over the discounted value of incremental costs. Or simply by;

$$BCR = \text{Total discounted benefits/Total discounted costs} \quad (5)$$

The above mentioned formula could be written as follows,

$$\frac{\sum(B_i/(1+d)^i)}{\sum(C_i/(1+d)^i)} \quad (6)$$

Where, B_i = the benefits of the project in production cycle i , $i = 0$ to n ; C_i = the costs of the project in production cycle i ; d = the discount rate; $B_i/(1+d)^i$ = The discounted benefits of the project in production cycle i ; $C_i/(1+d)^i$ = The discounted costs of the project in production cycle i .

Projects with BCR greater than 1 have greater benefits than costs, hence they have positive net benefits. The higher the ratio, the greater the benefits relative to the costs.

5. Results and Discussion

5.1 Sample Distribution

Sample distribution over the three provinces of the country was based on the relative importance of the total number of broiler farms in each province. The number of broiler farms to be covered in the survey was determined based on comparing the number of farms in each province to the total number of farms in the country. This procedure of sample distribution is followed to insure that all broiler production areas in the country are included in the survey.

To guarantee the achievement of the objectives of the present study, the sample was divided into two categories of broiler farms to be interviewed through the entire country. The first group consisted of 33 farms which were adopting agricultural accounting procedures, and the second group consisted of 32 farms which not adopting any agricultural accounting procedures or adopting a minimum level of these procedures. Table 1 shows distribution of broiler farms and sample distribution among the three provinces of the country.

Table 1. Distribution of broiler farms and sample distribution among provinces of the country

Province	No. of Broiler Farms	Percentage of Total (%)	No. of Interviewed Farmers	Farms with agr.acc. Procedures	Farms without agr.acc. Procedures
North	841	48	$(0.48 \times 65) = 31$	16	15
Middle	683	39	$(0.39 \times 65) = 26$	13	13
South	228	13	$(0.13 \times 65) = 8$	4	4
Total	1752	100	65	33	32

Source: MoA (2014) and researcher calculations.

5.2 Financial Calculations

The main financial items related to the financial indicators to be adopted in the analysis of the financial performance of the sampled broiler farmers in the present study include costs, returns and cash flows. These items were determined based on market prices. Table 2 shows costs and returns for farms with agricultural accounting procedures and farms without agricultural accounting procedures (1000 birds on average/production cycle). Table 3 shows cash flow (CF) for farms with agricultural accounting procedures (12 production cycles: PC), and Table 4 shows cash flow for farms without agricultural accounting procedures (12 production cycles) based on data presented in Table 4. Calculations were conducted based on the following market derived facts:

- 1) An average increase of total variable costs and returns by 1% and 4% respectively per production cycle.
- 2) Mortality rate of 5%.
- 3) Average selling weight of 1.80 kg/bird.
- 4) Average selling price of 1.35 JD/kg of live weight.

When analyzing the data for both categories of the investigated farms it was noticed that the variable costs were around 13% higher in the farms without agricultural accounting procedures than those using accounting procedures. The increase was mainly in house preparation, feed costs, vaccination, veterinary services and medicines costs, as well as the other Costs (electricity, water, cleaning and sanitizing ...). These costs were highly related to the absence of managerial records, mainly accounting records. This increase in total variable costs may be attributed to many reasons, one of them could be the absence of the accounting procedures in these farms, mainly the accounting records. The returns were assumed to be equal for both categories for the first production cycle.

Table 2. Average costs and returns for surveyed farms (1000 birds)

Item	Cost in Farms with Accounting Procedures (JDs)	Cost in Farms without Accounting Procedures (JDs)
Housing	2000	2000
Labor	480	480
Total Fixed Costs (TFC)	2480	2480
House Preparation (One day old chicks; 0.38 JDs/chick, litter)	500	600
Vaccination, Veterinary Services & Medicines	200	260
Feed (350 JDs/metric ton)	1400	1500
Other Costs (Electricity, water, Cleaning & Sanitizing ...)	200	240
Total Variable Costs (TVC)	2300	2600
Returns	2308.5	2308.5

Source: Field survey.

Table 3. Average CF for 12 PC infarms with agricultural accounting procedures (1000 birds)

Production cycle	TFC (JDs)	TVC (JDs)	TC (JDs)	Returns (JDs)	Cash flow (JDs)
1	2480	2300.000	4780.000	2308.500	-2471.5
2		2323.000	2323.000	2400.840	77.84
3		2346.230	2346.230	2496.873	150.643
4		2369.692	2369.692	2596.7479	227.0559
5		2393.388	2393.388	2700.6142	307.2262
6		2417.321	2417.321	2808.638	391.317
7		2441.494	2441.494	2920.983	479.489
8		2465.908	2465.908	3037.822	571.914
9		2490.567	2490.567	3159.334	668.767
10		2515.472	2515.472	3285.707	770.235
11		2540.626	2540.626	3417.135	876.509
12		2566.032	2566.032	3553.820	987.788

Source: Calculated by the researcher.

Table 4. Average CF for 12PC in farms without agricultural accounting procedures (1000 birds)

Production cycle	TFC (JDs)	TVC (JDs)	TC (JDs)	Returns (JDs)	Cash flow (JDs)
1	2480	2600.000	5080.000	2308.500	-2771.5
2		2626.000	2626.000	2400.840	-225.16
3		2652.260	2652.260	2496.873	-155.387
4		2678.782	2678.782	2596.7479	-82.0341
5		2705.569	2705.569	2700.6142	-4.9548
6		2732.624	2732.624	2808.638	76.014
7		2759.950	2759.950	2920.983	161.033
8		2787.549	2787.549	3037.822	250.273
9		2815.424	2815.424	3159.334	343.91
10		2843.578	2843.578	3285.707	442.129
11		2872.013	2872.013	3417.135	545.122
12		2900.733	2900.733	3553.820	653.087

Source: Calculated by the researcher.

5.3 Financial Indicators

As mentioned in section 4.4, the financial performance of the investigated broiler farms assessed using financial indicators related to benefit-cost analysis procedure. The Net Present Value (NPV), the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) and the Benefits-Costs ratio (B/C) were the three discounted indicators used in the analysis of the data of the present study. The discount rate of 8% (usually used in feasibility studies in Jordan) was used in calculating the indicators values. Table 5 shows the values of the three financial indicators used to conduct the economic comparison among the investigated broiler production categories.

Table 5. Values of the financial indicators used in the study

Indicator	Farms with Accounting Procedures	Farms without Accounting Procedures
NPV (JDs)	586.74	-1779.21
IRR (%)	11	-3
BCR	$(21019.33/20450.59) = 1.03$	$(21019.33 \div 22818.54) = 0.92$

Source: Calculated by the researcher.

Table 5 shows that the values of the NPV, IRR and BCR for farms with agricultural accounting procedures were acceptable indicating sound farming procedures including keeping financial farm records and accounting procedures. The NPV for farms with agricultural accounting procedures was positive and acceptable (586.74 JDs) based on average of 1000 birds in the farm. For the same group of farms, the IRR value was 11% which means that each money unit invested in these farms will provide returns higher with about 11% above the costs paid. The same group of farms was with a BCR value of 1.03, which is higher than one indicating that these farms were profitable because benefits of these farms outweighed the actual costs of the business. The NPV for farms without agricultural accounting procedures or with minimum level of these procedures was negative (-1779.21 JDs) indicating non viable type of business compared to farms with agricultural accounting procedures. The IRR value for these farms confirmed this result (-3%). This means that each money unit invested in these farms will cause a loss of 3 money units. The same group of farms was with a BCR value of 0.92, which is lower than one indicating that these farms were not profitable because the costs outweigh the benefits of the business. These results confirm the fact that agricultural accounting is essential if control of the productive process in any agricultural activity is to be achieved. The financial indicators in the investigated broiler farms provide an evidence of how the absence of agricultural accounting procedures could result in higher costs of production mainly in housing costs, feed costs, vaccination, veterinary services and medicines costs, as well as the other costs such electricity, water, cleaning and sanitizing. The absence of accounting records related to these costs make it difficult to control spending on these costs resulting in higher production costs and inefficient control on the used inputs during the production process. As the results of this study revealed, farms with farm accounting procedures that keep records (internal information) are with much better financial performance compared to those who base their performance on familiar knowledge (their own experience), with, little or no concern about systematic record keeping of their activities. In this regard, the revealed results of this study shows the importance of farm accounting to farm business since farms are economic organizations that have to make a broad range of decisions. With the presence of farm accounting procedures farmers acquire sound economic and technical information to make good decisions and implement them properly.

6. Conclusions

The present study aimed at assessing the impact of the use of agricultural accounting on the financial performance of broiler farms in Jordan. To achieve the objectives of the study, three well known discounted financial indicators were used; the Net Present Value (NPV), the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) and the Benefits-Costs ratio (B/C). The results of this study revealed that the financial performance of broiler farms adopting agricultural accounting procedures was much better. The values of the three financial indicators (NPC, IRR and BCR) for broiler farms adopting agricultural accounting procedures were positive, high and acceptable compared to broiler farms without or with minimum level of agricultural accounting procedures. The financial performance of broiler farms not adopting agricultural accounting procedures could be enhanced by presence of proper strategies to improve accounting skills of broiler farmers. Developing agricultural accounting procedures to be used by broiler farm managers or owners is a vital issue to be taken in consideration. Agricultural accounting is very important for broiler business improvements since it is a core determinant of its financial performance. Effective management of a farming operation today requires that farm accounting records be kept and updated so managers can make informed decisions affecting the profitability of their farms.

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