

AEA Plot Combine User Fee

Background

In 2008, a JD combine was retrofitted for plot harvest with a Harvestmaster weigh system by the AEA Farm shop. In 2014, a second combine was retrofitted and added to the AEA Farm fleet. Over the years, three other combines were similarly retrofitted and are located at the ISU Northern, Armstrong, and Southeast Research Farms.

Base funding for the AEA combines was a blend of research farms and agronomy department funds. The AEA Farm provided labor and expertise for the major retrofit. The AEA Farm provides the ongoing maintenance and operating costs of the two combines.

The combines have been very successful and well received. In 2015, approximately 5,000 plots were harvested for 19 different researchers from six different departments or units.

Fee Structure

The fees are based on number of plots harvested plus a base as follows:

Harvesting plots	\$100/day plus \$5/plot (400 ft maximum)
Harvesting plots (no AEA Farm operator)	\$100/day plus \$4.50/plot (400 ft maximum)
Harvesting plots > 400 ft plot	\$100/day plus \$200 per hour
Plot yield mapping	\$100/day plus \$30/plot acre
Plot yield weigh wagon	\$100/day plus \$40/plot acre

Note: The \$100/day plus plot fee base rate is for unlimited plots to be harvested that day per principal investigator.

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