Flex Cropping in the Semi Arid Land of Northeastern Oregon

by

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52 Year Average Rainfall on Jepsen Farm
From September 1962 – December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Inches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.27</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CROP YEAR RAINFALL SEPT 1 - AUG 31
Precipitation Records

- Wettest crop year was 1993 with 18.58 inches
- Driest crop year was 1973 with 6.46 inches
Reasons to Switch to a Flex Rotation

- Produce more grain and increase profitability
- Take advantage of commodity prices
- Control fall grassy weeds
Reasons to Switch to a Flex Rotation

• Reduce Root Lesion Nematode populations

• Inefficiency of summerfallow

• Improve soil quality and build organic matter
Flex History

• Started annual cropping in 1995

• Four years of greater than 14 inch precipitation crop years (1995-1998)

• Seven years of below average rainfall (1999-2005) except 2004 12.48 inches
Flex History

- Annual crops in the wet years were excellent
- Annual crops in the dry years were poor to failed
- The flex plan was put into practice in 2005
We have been using this system for 10 years now

- It only works well on the **ABOVE** average years

- Most annual crops are spring, but winter wheat is seeded with good early fall seeding conditions

- Biggest risks are receiving timely spring rains
We have been using this system for 10 years now

- On average we have 64% of our land in crop

- We cropped 100% of our acres in 2007, 2011, and 2013

- There was no crop grown in 2012
• 1999 annual crop wheat

• 7.4 inches of precipitation for the crop year

• 1.41 inches of rain from April 1 to July 31
JEPSEN FARM

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord
Joshua 24:15

“Using the Best of Today’s Technology to Conserve Our Soil and Feed a Hungry World”