

<b>Course Name: Crops 101 - Harvest Final</b>	
<b>Course Coordinators: Jerry Grigar and June Grabemeyer</b>	<b>Course Number: MI0157</b>

**Overview:** Crops 101 is a series of six courses held from March through December designed to accomplish two objectives: provide new NRCS employees the opportunity to get hands on experience on the farm in planning, planting, scouting and harvesting a crop. Students are expected to drive equipment, and calculate the yield/cost breakeven point for crops. Crop budgeting, real life production and marketing decisions are included so the student experiences all the decision making needed to "make it work" down on the farm. *The sixth course is the Harvest Final - did we earn a profit, yet.*

**Purpose:** Learn to compare alternative crop management options with crop budgeting to make informed conservation decisions. Evaluate and confront the realities of the bottom line using conservation tillage, pest management, nutrient management, conservation buffers and the break-even analysis of profits. Drive a combine and deliver the harvest to the elevator or bin.

**Prerequisites:** Certified Crop Advisor Study Guide, Review crop budgeting, and farm management tools used to compare alternatives on the farm.

**Duration:** 1 day October - November

**Target Audience:** NRCS employees and partners engaged in conservation planning

**Expected Outcomes:** Student will learn the basics of crop budgeting and partial budgeting to compare alternative conservation tillage systems.

**Resources needed:** Old clothes and work boots. Computer to work with spreadsheets

**Outline for: Harvest Final**

Crop yield estimation methods: weigh wagon, ear count and weigh, kernel count

Classroom and field presentations discussing harvest methods for the major crops.

Using crop budgeting to evaluate profit of growing a crop.

Review of break-even analysis, profitability analysis, marketing concept etc. will be covered.

Other farm terminology will be covered such as farm terms, definitions, and farmer language.

A final exam will be given to test what the students learned in the course.