### Growing Milkweed in Vermont: pollinator benefits & potential floss revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential</th>
<th>Net Revenues</th>
<th>Floss Revenues</th>
<th>Avg Costs</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Med</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milkweed Planting &amp; Harvesting Costs</td>
<td>$406</td>
<td>$241</td>
<td>$704</td>
<td>$1,732</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$158</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net revenues when harvesting floss</td>
<td>-$316</td>
<td>$147</td>
<td>$1,175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net revenues when harvesting pods</td>
<td>-$399</td>
<td>-$97</td>
<td>$575</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Notes:

- Assumes planting seed costs in year one only, mechanical harvesting years 3-6, and milkweed production life of 7 years.
- Opportunity costs of foregone corn income in years 1, 4, & 7 included. Alfalfa opportunity costs for haylage excluded.
- Pod harvesting costs assumed to be the same as milkweed silk harvesting costs with re-engineered combine.
- Purchased cost of vacuum $2000 included and re-engineering labor time based on Roger Rainville’s estimate.
- Combine purchase excluded.
- Pod yields based on low and high numbers in 2018 UVM Ext. milkweed production trials.
- Planting & harvesting milkweed costs based on conversations and e-mails with Roger Rainville & Mark Fiely, Ernst Conservation Seeds.
- Other production costs derived from sweetcorn budget data.
- Milkweed floss value estimates based on Purdue, UVM research, and conversations with Ernst Seeds.
- Additional revenues may be possible from sale of milkweed seeds at average $431 per acre - but market is not guaranteed.

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For More Information

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