# PRORATED SUGARCANE PLANTING COSTS FOR THE 2027 CROP YEAR FOR PLANT CANE AND STUBBLE CROPS

Michael A. Deliberto and Brian M. Hilbun
*Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness*

*Staff Report No. 2026-40* *June 2026*

The remaining, unrecovered planting cost of plantcane and stubble cane sugarcane crops are determined by the actual planting cost in the year in which the sugarcane crop was planted. The costs of planting will vary from year-to-year depending upon many factors which include cost of seed cane, fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, etc. Therefore, the estimated planting cost in the year in which the sugarcane crop was planted, as well as the expected number of years of harvest, forms the basis for prorating costs (unrecovered planting costs) over the life of the sugarcane crop cycle**.**

The estimated costs of planting sugarcane are prorated by age based on remaining production. Two sugarcane crop production cycles are common in Louisiana: (a.) a 4-year cycle and (b.) a 5-year cycle. For the 4-year cycle, the first year of fallow/plant operations is followed by three years of harvest (i.e., plant cane, first stubble and second stubble crops). Percentage values used to prorate sugarcane planting costs over a 4-year/3-harvest crop cycle are: plant cane crop – 100%, first stubble crop – 67% and second stubble crop – 33%. For the 5-year cycle, the first year of fallow/plant operations is followed by four years of harvest (i.e., plant cane, first stubble, second stubble and third stubble crops). Percentage values used to prorate sugarcane planting costs over a 5-year/4-harvest crop cycle are: plant cane crop – 100%, first stubble crop – 75%, second stubble crop – 50% and third stubble – 25%. The estimated prorated sugarcane planting costs per acre for these two crop cycles in the 2027 crop year based upon estimated planting costs in the year of planting (indicated in parenthesis) is shown below in Table 1.

**Table 1. Variable and Total Prorated Sugarcane Planting Costs for Plant-cane, First-, Second- and Third-Year Stubble Cane in the 2027 Crop Year.**

| Crop stage / Planting method (year planted) | Original Allocated Planting Cost Per Acre in Year of Planting | | Prorated Planting Cost Value[5] Per Acre in the 2027 Crop Year | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 3-Crop Cycle (PC, 1ST, 2ND) | | 4-Crop Cycle (PC, 1ST, 2ND, 3RD) | |
| | Var. Cost | Total Cost | Var. Cost | Total Cost | Var. Cost | Total Cost |
| ***PLANT-CANE CROP*** [1] | | | | | | |
| Hand Planted-Cultured Seed Cane (2026) | $1,157 | $1,471 | $1,157 | $1,471 | $1,157 | $1,471 |
| Hand Planted-Propagated Seed Cane (2026) | $607 | $962 | $607 | $962 | $607 | $962 |
| Hand Planted-Field Run Seed Cane (2026) | $538 | $898 | $538 | $898 | $538 | $898 |
| Machine Planted-Propagated Seed Cane (2026) | $690 | $1,045 | $690 | $1,045 | $690 | $1,045 |
| Machine Planted-Field Run Seed Cane (2026) | $597 | $960 | $597 | $960 | $597 | $960 |
| Machine Planted-Billet Seed Cane (2026) | $795 | $1,256 | $795 | $1,256 | $795 | $1,256 |
| | | | | | | |
| ***FIRST-YEAR STUBBLE*** [2] | | | | | | |
| Hand Planted-Cultured Seed Cane (2025) | $1,163 | $1,478 | $779 | $990 | $872 | $1,108 |
| Hand Planted-Propagated Seed Cane (2025) | $611 | $965 | $410 | $646 | $458 | $723 |
| Hand Planted-Field Run Seed Cane (2025) | $543 | $900 | $364 | $603 | $407 | $675 |
| Machine Planted-Propagated Seed Cane (2025) | $698 | $1,049 | $468 | $703 | $524 | $787 |
| Machine Planted-Field Run Seed Cane (2025) | $606 | $963 | $406 | $645 | $455 | $722 |
| Machine Planted-Billet Seed Cane (2025) | $811 | $1,260 | $543 | $844 | $608 | $945 |
| | | | | | | |

| Crop stage / Planting method (year planted) | Original Allocated Planting Cost Per Acre in Year of Planting | | Prorated Planting Cost Value[5] Per Acre in the 2027 Crop Year | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 3-Crop Cycle (PC, 1ST, 2ND) | | 4-Crop Cycle (PC, 1ST, 2ND, 3RD) | |
| | Var. Cost | Total Cost | Var. Cost | Total Cost | Var. Cost | Total Cost |
| ***SECOND–YEAR STUBBLE*** [3] | | | | | | |
| Hand Planted-Cultured Seed Cane (2024) | $1,195 | $1,489 | $394 | $491 | $598 | $745 |
| Hand Planted-Propagated Seed Cane (2024) | $648 | $973 | $214 | $321 | $324 | $487 |
| Hand Planted-Field Run Seed Cane (2024) | $577 | $905 | $190 | $299 | $289 | $453 |
| Machine Planted-Propagated Seed Cane (2024) | $737 | $1,058 | $243 | $349 | $369 | $529 |
| Machine Planted-Field Run Seed Cane (2024) | $637 | $962 | $210 | $317 | $319 | $481 |
| Machine Planted-Billet Seed Cane (2024) | $834 | $1,237 | $275 | $408 | $417 | $619 |
| | | | | | | |
| ***THIRD-YEAR STUBBLE*** [4] | | | | | | |
| Hand Planted-Cultured Seed Cane (2023) | $1,214 | $1,458 | -- | -- | $304 | $364 |
| Hand Planted-Propagated Seed Cane (2023) | $649 | $915 | -- | -- | $162 | $229 |
| Hand Planted-Field Run Seed Cane (2023) | $602 | $871 | -- | -- | $150 | $218 |
| Machine Planted-Propagated Seed Cane (2023) | $716 | $976 | -- | -- | $179 | $244 |
| Machine Planted-Field Run Seed Cane (2023) | $651 | $918 | -- | -- | $163 | $230 |
| Machine Planted-Billet Seed Cane (2023) | $827 | $1,157 | -- | -- | $207 | $289 |
| | | | | | | |

[1] The prorated sugarcane planting cost per acre for plant cane in crop year 2027 for sugarcane planted in 2026 is estimated at 100% of the original 2026 planting cost for both 3-crop and 4-crop production cycles.

[2] The prorated sugarcane planting cost per acre for first stubble in crop year 2027 for sugarcane planted in 2025 is estimated at 67% of the original 2025 planting cost for a 3-crop production cycle and at 75% of the original 2025 planting cost for a 4-crop production cycle.

[3] The prorated sugarcane planting cost per acre for second stubble in crop year 2027 for sugarcane planted in 2024 is estimated at 33% of the original 2024 planting cost for a 3-crop production cycle and at 50% of the original 2024 planting cost for a 4-crop production cycle.

[4] The prorated sugarcane planting cost per acre for third stubble in crop year 2027 for sugarcane planted in 2024 is estimated at 0% of the original 2023 planting cost for a 3-crop production cycle and at 25% of the original 2023 planting cost for a 4-crop production cycle.

[5] Variable costs denote costs associated with direct expenses for inputs. Total costs denote costs of not only variable expenses but also fixed costs for farm machinery.

Prepared by Michael A. Deliberto, Associate Professor and Brian M. Hilbun, Research Associate, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, LSU Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA

**Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**
**Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service / Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station**
**www.lsuagcenter.com**