CC DST review 6/13/23

1. Farm and Field
   1. Change “What is the name of your farm?” to “Farm name (or FSA farm number)”
   2. Change “What is the name of your field?” to “Field name (or FSA field number)”
   3. The reason I suggest “or FSA Farm/Field number” is because I agree with Alan that in the future that designation may be important for business/policy reasons. I prefer not to have two separate identifiers (e.g. prefer not “Farm Name?” and “FSA farm number?”) because it requires more input.
   4. My personal preference is that each question be reworded as a statement (as the two above suggestions) but maybe that is not appropriate.
2. Seeds
   1. Programmer: last paragraph, 2nd line contains “cropmixcan” that needs to have spaces.
   2. Programmer and Alan: I clicked on the Cover Crop Seeding Rate Calculator. I brought me to the NE Cover Crops Council seeding rate calculator. It was not easy to use and the default prices were not relevant. There was no link on the page to send a message to the NECCC to ask questions or to alert them to problems. When I went to <https://northeastcovercrops.com/decision-tool/>, there was no link to the seeding rate calculator so I think it is still in demo mode. Question: should this link be active on the CC DST if still in demo mode?
   3. Alan and Programmer: the second paragraph mentions seeding rates affected by single/mix seeds and different purposes. It does not mention seeding rates affected by planting equipment. Should we add information here (in the form of a link)? Right now, it contains too much information to add more to this page.
   4. Note to all: My research assistant and I are working on Cover Crop equipment economics. We will have some material to put in the Resources section on Equipment selection and costs.
3. Seedbed preparation
   1. I selected yes to first question to evaluate the equipment module. To “how will seedbed preparation be done?” I chose “chisel plow, 15 ft.”
   2. When “What power will be used?” dropdown is used, it brings up the entire power database from Airtables. They don’t seem to be in any order (not in the order of the database in AirTables).
      1. Recommendation to Programmers: on this tab, only allow the Power with the word “tractor” in the Description column. Have them organized by the HP column in the database. This would put the 350 hp tracked tractor next to the 360 4WD tractor. That might confuse someone, but I don’t think so. I assume the user is looking for a large enough power unit to pull the implement and will change type (4WD or tracked) based on their equipment complement.
   3. Annual use (acres on implement)
      1. Programmers: The green ? brings up a box that mentions “hours of annual use.” For the implement, this should say “acres of annual use.” Leave the “hours of annual use” as is on the help box on “Annual use (hours on power).”
4. Planting
   1. Opening paragraph mentions “no-til drill.” Till needs an addional “l” added.
   2. “How will planting be done?”
      1. Programmers: Options should include: Aerial seeding and drone seeding from the CostDefaults tab in AirTables. It currently only has “hire custom operator” which returns the default from “planting” in CostDefaults. Should we add a “type” column in CostDefaults that tells what tabs it will be used in? Note: this is what I think happens in the Implements tab to specify what Implement will appear in what DST tab. Then as we add equipment or custom options it would automatically populate the proper dropdown lists.
      2. Ray: for version 2 add the options of
         1. Spinner Spreader – add soon
         2. VT and combine attachments should be added later.
5. Termination
   1. Programmer: “Cover crop termination method”
      1. If “roller” or “roller with followup herbicide is selected, I don’t think that “would you do …?” needs to be asked. Rollers are unique to terminating cover crops. Drop the question for these selections only.
      2. If “herbicide application” or “Roller with follow-up herbicide” is selected,
         1. Change the input box for the “Product” line so that the user enters a description (e.g. no dropdown appears). If it is possible to have a dropdown that allows you to type a description rather than choose a value in the dropdown list, that also would be a way to change this entry box. Alan and I think that version 2 may use the dropdown list for greater detail. But right now we think simplicity is needed on this tab.
         2. Comment out the current lines for “Cost per xx of product” and “application rate.” I mention “comment out” because the programming language should be preserved for version 2 when we likely will allow the user to have a more complete herbicide entry.
         3. Show the “Product cost” line with an input box requiring user input. I have added a row in AirTable/CostDefaults for Herbicide product. Use that as the source of a default number.
      3. On Power tab in Airtables, delete “HP” from the Description of the “130 Self Propelled” line (line 22).
6. Tillage:
   1. The reference “Review the Resource page….” Can be commented out until the Resource page is actually populated.
7. Fertility
   1. Link to N use calculator?
8. Herbicide
   1. The Case Studies mentioned in the last sentence of the paragraph have not been done yet. Comment out this sentence until the case studies have been written and linked.
   2. The complicated Herbicide saving and cost input tables appear when “yes” is selected for “Do you plan on adding additional ….? and “Do you plan on reducing the amount of herbicides….” At both locations:
      * 1. Change the input box for the “Product” line so that the user enters a description (e.g. no dropdown appears). If it is possible to have a dropdown that allows you to type a description rather than choose a value in the dropdown list, that also would be a way to change this entry box. Alan and I think that version 2 may use the dropdown list for greater detail. But right now we think simplicity is needed on this tab.
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        3. Show the “Product cost” line with an input box requiring user input. I have added a row in AirTable/CostDefaults for Herbicide product. Use that as the source of a default number. Remove the current lines for “Cost per xx of product” and “application rate.”
9. Erosion Control
   1. The sentence “Select the Resources page button…” can be commented out until the Resources page is populated with resources.
   2. The “cost per hour” row self populates with a default number. I think that box should be green to indicate that it can be changed (like on the Seeds tab). I wonder if anytime “hire custom application” is chosen as an option, the cost/acre or hour box should be green to indicate it has a default that can be changed?
   3. If you answer “No” to the first question, it jumps the user past grazing to Additional Considerations tab. It should jump them to the Grazing tab.
10. Grazing
    1. No changes now. Alan is working on this.
11. Additional Considerations
    1. When I chose “do you plan to participate in a state or federal…” it brings up the entry box for amount but did not enter a default value from AirTable/EQIP. The text for this question says that an estimate will be provided. This box should be colored green since it has a default that can be changed.
    2. For “will you participate in a cover crop insurance discount program?” the next sentence says “if yes…” but yes/no is not an option. I suggest changing the wording to “If you participate in a cover crop insurance premium discount program, enter the discount here.”
12. Yield
    1. Remove “table 2” from caption.
    2. Alan suggests the following appearance:
    3. A picture containing text, screenshot, font, number

       Description automatically generatedI personally think the font size of caption should be reduced. But that is something that is probably a decision of programmers for consistency across the DSTs.
13. Summary and Revenue Impact
    1. Current Summary tab provides a lot of financial information that will hopefully appear in the Revenue Impact tab. Alan and I envision the Summary tab containing a summary of decisions made (e.g. Cereal rye planted at 75 pounds/acre; Planted with 15 ft chisel plow using a 130 hp tractor; etc) without the costs shown. The Revenue impact would show the dollar values with more general line descriptions (e.g. Seeds = $45; Planting = $18.13; etc) in the categories shown below.
    2. A close-up of a chart

       Description automatically generated with low confidence
    3. Note: I, Ray, have quite a bit of available time in the next month and would welcome working with a designer to make the “summary” and “Revenue Impact” tabs both operational and effective. The programmer can call or email me at any time with questions and ideas.
14. Overall
    1. Programmer: when “Hire custom operator” is chosen on any tab, where does the range of price for that operation come from? For Planting Decisions/Custom Hire it shows “Estimated custom cost ($15.00 - $25.00 /acre).” I don’t see the range (e.g. $15-$25/acre) anywhere in the AirTables tabs. I am inquiring to make sure that the program doesn’t age out as prices change. Is the range a + or – percentage? + or – dollar value?
    2. Alan and Ray: Seeds, Seedbed Preparation, Planting Decisions and Termination all start with the same first sentence. I wonder if that sentence could be put in a text box that is common. Perhaps something in the header that indicates we are only looking for changes due to cover crops? Another idea, have that sentence show up for 5 seconds as a overlay text box that disappears after the user has had time to read it. Kind of a reminder on each page.
    3. Seedbed Preparation, Planting Decisions, Termination, Tillage (with a small wording change) all have the same first sentence. Can we think of a way to communicate this once and not have to repeat it each time? Or when a user advances to a new tab, could that sentence dominate the view for 5 seconds and then totally disappear?
    4. Seedbed Preparation, Planting Decisions and Termination all have the same last paragraph. Can we think of a way to communicate this once and not have to repeat it each time?