Fuel usage

The USDA (I actually don’t know who developed these fuel estimates) has a dataset they use for running erosion models. The dataset includes different types of field operations, with each operation assigned a fuel consumption value (in liters of diesel consumed per acre). These estimates were created in the 1980s.

For non-soil disturbing operations, the range in fuel consumption is quite low, and general categories are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Operation | Erosion model fuel use (gallons of diesel per acre) |
| Sprayer | 0.133 |
| Planting, double disk opener | 0.655 |
| Plant material handling (chop, flail, shred) | 0.747 |
| Harvesting hay/silage | 1.61 |

For tillage operations, there is some variability between similar operations