AN ANALYSIS OF COST RELATIONSHIPS IN GRAIN PLANTS

Thesis for the Degree of M. S.
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Carson D. Keyes

1961

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AN ANALYSIS OF COST RELATIONSHIPS IN GRAIN PLANTS

by

CARSON D. KEYES

AN ABSTRACT

Submitted to the College of Agriculture of Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Agricultural Economics

1961

Approved by Minary Livinger.

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AN ABSTRACT

Michigan elevators operate in a diverse agricultural and industrial economy and must be able to adjust to a continually changing environment, both in product and factor markets. These changing conditions require that management act cautiously when considering investing in new facilities or in remodeling old facilities. This study is designed to provide information required in the planning process, in making decisions pertinent to plant reorganization, and in adjusting firms to meet future physical and economic needs. It is anticipated that the results of this study will provide useful guides to elevator owners and managers, boards of directors, management consultants and research or extension personnel in analyzing and operating Michigan grain elevators.

This study is limited to an investigation of the grain merchandising operation since this operation is the focal point around which the rest of the firm's activities are adjusted.

An "economic-engineering" type of analysis is used to compare the cost-volume relationships between different sized model plants. The model plants were developed by using information from elevators that are actually operating in Michigan and from information received from elevator designers and
builders, machinery manufacturers, and people actively engaged
in the Michigan elevator industry. The plants were developed
and constructed in light of economic conditions existing in
Michigan during 1961.

Each model plants' operating cost and annual volume were estimated as affected by the following conditions: plant size or scale of plant, annual hours of operation, receiving mix (percent of small grain and ear corn received by time), and average load size received.

Economies of scale were observed between the various sized model plants. Economies of scale were greatest for those plants operating at a low capacity utilization level, 300 hours annual operation. As the number of hours of operation are increased the economies of scale between plants decrease. Thus, the economies of scale that were observed for the model plants operating 1200 and 1500 hours per year were negligible.

The results of this study indicate that, based on plant size alone, there are two ways of looking at economies of scale in the operation of grain elevators. Those economies which exist for low levels of plant utilization and those existing for full or higher plant capacity utilization. If management is interested only in economies of operation during the harvest season, a period of low capacity utilization, then

vantage of the economies of scale that exist at these production levels. But if management is more concerned with full or annual plant capacity utilization it would not pay to construct as large a plant. However, most elevator operators are interested in both of the above types of economies. Therefore location factors and the economic environment in which the plant operates becomes of utmost importance in determining plant capacity utilization and should be considered before deciding on a scale of plant for a particular area.

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The author is particularly indebted to Dr. Vernon L. Sorenson, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, under whose supervision this study was conducted. The guidance offered and the interest shown on the part of Dr. Sorenson regarding the author's research was an important part both in the conduct of this study and in the author's total graduate program.

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Dr. Larry L. Boger, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, made this study possible by making available to the author financial assistance in the form of a research assistantship. His aid in this manner is greatly appreciated.

The author is grateful to those individuals, firms, and organizations too numerous to list who supplied helpful information in developing elevator facilities and cost for the model plants used in this study.

Full responsibility remains with the author for any omissions or errors that are found in the manuscript.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Grain elevators serve as the initial link in the movement of grain from the farm, through the marketing system, and into the hands of consumers. They serve as receiving and assembling points for grain to be shipped from local producing areas to terminals for storage or to processing plants. In addition they serve as major distributors of items required in the production of field crops and livestock products. Though the primary function of grain elevators has changed little in recent years, many changes have taken place in the operation and construction of plants as well as in farming, transportation, and other related businesses.

Michigan elevators operate in a very diverse agricultural and industrial economy and must be able to adjust to a continually changing environment, both in product and factor markets. Changes are continuing to take place in technology, agricultural production, and the organization of agricultural industries. These changing conditions require that management consider long-run adjustments when considering investing in new facilities or in remodeling old facilities. This study is designed to provide information required in the planning process, in making decisions pertinent to plant reorganization, and in adjusting firms to meet future physical and economic needs.

Previous Studies

The research that has been conducted in the area of elevator operating efficiency has all had a common objective. That is, the development of better techniques to be used in the evaluation of elevator firms and to develop some useful tools that management might use in planning and operating their businesses.

This study was set in its proper perspective in accordance with previous studies made of the Michigan elevator industry.

Further guidance was then obtained by looking at three previous types of studies. Those dealing with elevator operations as such,

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Arthur J. Pursel, "The Use of Functional Analysis in Evaluating The Operations of Michigan Elevator-Farm Supply Businesses," Unpublished Master's Thesis 1957, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 1957, 72 pages; George G. Greenleaf, "A Study of Cost Relationships in Michigan Country Elevators," Unpublished Master's Thesis 1959, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 1959, 68 pages; H. E. Larzelere and R. M. King, "Ratios As Measuring Sticks for Elevator and Farm Supply Organizations," Special Bulletin 380, Michigan State College, Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Agricultural Economics, East Lansing, Michigan, August 1952, 29 pages; and Vernon L. Sorenson and David Spaeth, "Elevator Outlook Committee Progress Report," Agricultural Economics 742, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, December 1958, (mimeographed) 46 pages.

Richard Phillips, "Managing for Greater Returns In Country Elevators and Retail Farm Supply Businesses," Farmers Grain Dealers Association of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa, October 1951, 558 pages.

those dealing with planning elevator facilities, and those dealing with methodology and research procedures.

An economic-engineering approach to cost-volume analysis is used in this study. This method is used extensively by agricultural economists in studying various types of agricultural marketing firms including elevators.

Some previous studies have attempted to evaluate the elevator as a firm rather than as a group of distinct and different operations. 6 Many are concerned with the elevator industry of a

³ Heber D. Bouland and Lloyd L. Smith, "A Small Country Elevator for Merchandising Grain, Designs and Recommendations," Marketing Research Report No. 387, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Transportation and Facilities Research Division, Washington, D. C., June 1960, 52 pages, and Perry S. Richey and Thew D. Johnson, "Factors To Be Considered In Locating, Planning and Operating Country Elevators," Marketing Research Report No. 23, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Production and Marketing Administration, Washington, D. C., June 1952, 94 pages.

B. C. French, L. L. Sammet, and R. G. Bressler, "Economic Efficiency In Plant Operations With Special Reference To The Marketing of California Pears," <u>Hilgardia</u>, Vol. 24, No. 19, University of California, Berkeley, California, July 1956, pages 543-721; and R. G. Bressler, "Research Determination of Economies of Scale," <u>Journal of Farm Economics</u>, Volume 27, 1945, pages 526-39.

Thomas E. Hall, "New Country Elevators, Influence of Size and Volume on Operating Costs," Farmer Cooperative Service Circular 10, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmer Cooperative Service, Washington 25, D.C., June 1955, 29 pages; Thomas E. Hall, Walter K. Davis, and Howard L. Hall, "New Local Elevators - Cost-Volume Relations In The Hard Winter Wheat Belt," Service Report 12, Farmer Cooperative Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D. C., May 1955, 112 pages; and Stanley K. Thurston and R. J. Mutti, "Cost-Volume Relationships for New Country Elevators in The Corn Belt," Service Report 32, Farmer Cooperative Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., September 1957, 78 pages.

⁶ Pursel, op. cit., 72 pages and Greenleaf, op. cit., 68 pages.

particular state rather than with the evaluation of particular firms or operations within the firm. This greatly limits their effectiveness and usefulness in a state such as Michigan that is characterized by multi-purpose elevators operating in a multi-purpose agricultural and industrial economy. Wide variations exist in type of crops grown, and market areas served, hence a great deal of variation exists between elevators within the state. For this reason it is difficult to apply the general conclusions drawn from most studies to a particular Michigan Elevator.

Objectives of Study

The dynamic conditions in agriculture are such that planning will be needed to adjust to changing future conditions. With this in mind and recognizing the fact that most elevator and farm supply businesses are small, individual leaders in the Michigan feed and grain trade set up a study committee. This committee posed the following question: "What can be done to help individual elevator managers take a look into the future and do a better job of adjusting to change or or 'keeping up with the times?'" This thesis is in part an attempt to develop some guides that will help the individual elevator operator answer this question.

Phillip C. Baumel and John W. Sharp, "A Financial Analysis of Ohio Elevator Operations," Research Bulletin 813, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Woester, Ohio, June 1958, 25 pages; and R. J. Mutti, "Differences in The Financial Organization and Operation of Country Grain Elevators in The Northern Half of Illinois, 1954-55," AERR - 17, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois, February 1957, 25 pages.

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To answer this question in its entirety would require several studies covering the various aspects of the grain trade and the many factors which influence the operation of grain elevators.

To analyze the entire elevator operation in light of the many contributing factors would be an almost impossible task. This study is therefore limited to an investigation of the grain merchandising phase of grain elevator operations. Grain merchandising is one of the many activities found in Michigan elevators. Grain merchandising in this study refers to the receiving of bulk grain and ear corn, shelling corn, cleaning, assembling or temporary storage, and the shipping of grain. Feed mixing and grinding are omitted from this study because the physical handling of unprocessed grain and grain processed as feed are quite different. The handling of feed is usually thought of as a separate operation.

Grain drying and permanent storage are also omitted from this study. However, these two activities are closely related to the grain merchandising operation, which will determine to a great extent the size and amount of investment made in grain drying and storage facilities. The storage considered in this study is assumed to be adequate for the grain merchandising operation and can be used for some permanent storage.

The major objectives of this study were to develop some economic benchmarks to aid in the formulation of operating policies and to develop some toels to be used in planning for the most efficient use of resources in the future. Some guides were also developed which will help in making future economic adjustments, especially in the construction and location of new elevators.

Organization of Remainder of the Thesis

The Michigan Elevator industry and factors affecting the operation of elevators are discussed in Chapter II. Environmental as well as economic operating conditions are included in the discussion. Chapter III contains a discussion of the analytical framework and model. This chapter includes a discussion of the methodology and procedures used in the analysis. Chapter IV deals with the specifications and operating conditions of the model plants used in this study. The physical plant resource requirements and the methods of estimating cost are the subject matter of Chapter V. This chapter includes an evaluation and discussion of the economies of scale which exist in the model plants. The last chapter, Chapter VI, contains the summary and conclusions drawn from this study. The study also includes several appendixes which contain the major portion of the statistical data on which this study is based.

CHAPTER II

THE MICHIGAN ELEVATOR INDUSTRY

Introduction

Many factors contribute to the successful operation of
Michigan elevators. They operate in a diverse agricultural economy within which changes are continually taking place. The elevator industry is highly competitive in that it includes many small firms that are relatively homogeneous. Each firm is usually composed of several different "operations", grain merchandising being but one of several principal or "sideline" activities. This study was designed and directed to the solution of problems within this diverse and competitive industry by providing information and methods for planning present as well as future physical and economic adjustments.

The following discussion considers the environmental and economic framework within which this study was developed. A short discussion of the current status of the Michigan elevator industry is followed by a discussion of the agricultural economy of the state and how it affects the operation of grain elevators. This is followed by a discussion of the multi-purpose nature of grain elevators and the competitive interrelations resulting from such operations. The final section shows the importance of and how the grain merchandising operation fits into the firms overall operation.

Current Status of the Michigan Elevator Industry

The Michigan elevator and farm supply industry might be classified as a mixture of the old and the new. Many plants were built 30 or 40 years ago. Most of these older facilities have been remodeled and patched up to meet changing conditions, and as a result are rather complex in design and in arrangement of equipment. They tend to be uneconomical to operate and obsolete in many phases of modern grain handling. On the other hand, Michigan also has some new and well equipped elevators.

Michigan elevators are multi-purpose concerns. Pursel, in his functional analysis work with 34 firms found that total gross margin was derived from several major sources as shown in Table 1.8

About 60 percent of the total gross margin of the 34 firms studied comes from merchandised grain, processed grain and services pertaining to the grain operation. Grain handling is therefore a primary source of income for Michigan grain elevators.

The major portion of Michigan's elevators are located in the southern half of the lower peninsula, with the heaviest concentration in the cash crop thumb counties of Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac and Saginaw. The number of elevators in the various farming areas tend to vary with the amount of cash crop farming in that area.

Michigan elevators fall into three general categories: independent or privately owned, coeperatives and the line or elevator

⁸ Pursel, op.cit., page 9.

Table 1:--Percentage of Total Gross Margin Derived from Different Sources for 34 Michigan Elevator-Farm Supply Businesses

All Grain Operations a 60.42%			Farm Production Supplies 39.58%			
Merchan- dised Grain b	: cessed	Service Income d	-	Petro- leum	•	Miscel- laneous Farm Supplies
% 18.08	9 20.09	% 22.25	: % : 6.56	% 10.08	% 5.71	% 17.23

- a Merchandised grain, processed grain and service income are grouped together because of the high degree of complementarity existing between them.
- Unprocessed grain which is sold directly to terminal grain elevators, processing companies, other country grain elevators and larmers.
- c Derived primarily from custom feed grinding, mixing operations and from retailing "complete" feed mixes.
- d Derived primarily from grain handling and processing operations, which include: (1) custom grinding and mixing of livestock feed, (2) handling, trucking and storing grain, and (3) cleaning and treating grain for seed.

chains. They range in size from those with a few thousand bushels' capacity to those with several hundred thousand bushels' storage capacity.

Environmental Factors Affecting the Operation of Grain Elevators

Michigan's Agricultural Industry

Michigan has a very diversified type of agriculture. This is due primarily to the wide variations in climate, soil types, topography and markets that are found within the state. Farming in

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Michigan ranges from the very intensive fruit and vegetable farms to the more extensive farms of the northern cutover areas.

Agricultural production in Michigan is confined primarily to the southern half of the lower peninsula. In 1959 the southernmost 41 counties, all those south of and including Oceana, Newago, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland and Bay, accounted for over 90 percent of the total harvested acreage of the major cash field crops. This area included 95% of the total harvested acreage of corn and winter wheat, 81% of the oats acreage, 99% of the dry bean acreage, 90% of the barley acreage and 100% of the soybean and sugar beet acreage.

When cash receipts from farm marketings are compared the relative importance of the various types of farming become quite evident. In 1959 56% of the cash receipts from farm marketings came from livestock and livestock products, 14% from fruits and vegetables, 25% from field crops, and 5% from miscellaneous sources.

A breakdown of the field crop category shows that winter wheat accounted for 9% of the total cash receipts from farm marketing, dry beans 4%, corn 5%, soybeans 1%, sugar beets 2%, potatoes 2%, and other field crops 2%. Dairy products accounted for 28% of the total cash receipts in 1959.

[&]quot;Michigan Agricultural Statistics," Michigan Department of Agriculture, Lansing, Michigan, July 1960, page 3.

¹⁰ Ibid., page 45.

The above facts point out the importance of field crops to the Michigan agricultural industry and in particular to the Michigan elevator industry. A major portion of the field crops sold for cash, with the exception of potatoes and sugar beets, are handled by elevators in one form or another. Winter wheat, dry beans and soybeans are marketed almost entirely as cash crops, with the local elevators serving as the primary outlets. Part of the corn, oats and barley crops are also marketed as cash crops, but the major share of these commodities is retained on the farm to be used as feed. However, custom grinding is one of the many functions performed by elevators and much of the grain retained on the farm as feed will pass through the local elevators in the process of grinding and mixing custom feeds. This may become even more important if elevators continue to expand in the operation of grain banks. 11

Michigan Agricultural Trends

Some of the changes that have taken place in Michigan's agriculture are listed in table 2. Many of these changes directly or indirectly affected the operation of grain elevators. The number of farms and percent of total land in farms have both declined steadily since 1940. At the same time the average size of farms

Grain bank refers to a system of operation whereby the farmer delivers his grain to the elevator at harvest time and receives it back in the form of mixed feed. This system works on the same principle as a bank. The farmer can withdraw any amount of feed at any time he desires and in the mix he desires. The elevator makes adjustments for handling and for any other ingredients that are added to the mixed feed.

has steadily increased. Over the same period farm mechanization has greatly increased as evidenced by the increased number of grain combines, corn pickers, motortrucks and tractors on Michigan farms. Commercial fertilizers consumption has also increased 4.5 times during this twenty year period.

Table 2.--Michigan Agricultural Trends, 1940 to 1959

a			Tremus, I				
Item	Census of Agriculture Years						
10em	1959 b	1954	1950	1945	1940		
Number of farms	111,817	138,922	155,589	175,268	187,589		
Percent of total land in farms	40.5	45.1	47.3	50.4	49.4		
Average size of farms (acres)	132.2	118.5	111.0	104.9	96.2		
Number of grain combines on farms	45,804	43,313	27,234	12,920	••••		
Number of corn pickers on farms	31,294	23,514	10,681	• • • •	• • • •		
Number of motortrucks on farms	75,713	71,075	56,966	41,303	33, 095		
Number of trac- tors on farms	:194,205 :	187,481	149,377	110,120	66,524		
Commercial fertilizer consumption (tons)	•	598,475	506,743	340,066	166,564		

a "United States Census of Agriculture - 1954, "Volume 1, Counties and State Economic Areas, Part 6, Michigan, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C., page 2.

b Preliminary - 1959 Census of Agriculture.

c Includes garden tractors.

d "Michigan Agricultural Statistics," Michigan Department of Agriculture, Lansing, Michigan July 1960, page 51.

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Just what has this meant to the Michigan elevator industry? First, the increased use of commercial fertilizer is but one indication of increased per acre production. Mechanization, larger rarms, improved seeds, and better farming techniques have also added to this increased production. This has increased the volume of material that passes through elevators. In addition to increasing production, mechanization has also speeded up the farming process. This has meant that elevators must be able to receive the larger volume in a much shorter time. In recent years the harvest season for winter wheat in Michigan has been reduced from several weeks to only a few days. This has been brought about not only by the increased number of grain combines on farms but also by the development of larger and more efficient combines.

The increased number of larger and faster motortrucks has also affected elevators. As the farmer increased his harvesting capacity he also had to increase his transporting capacity. As a result elevators have had to increase their receiving capacity. This meant larger truck hoist, larger receiving pits, larger and faster elevating legs and higher capacity cleaning and processing equipment. Larger, faster and better trucks have also expanded the area that any particular elevator can now serve. This has increased competition between plants.

Other recent developments are also affecting and will continue to affect the grain elevators of Michigan. Opening of the Saint Lawrence seaway has given the state another means of transporting farm commodities. The seaway has also affected the instate

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transportation of some products. The shorter hauls required to get grain to a shipping point have increased the use of trucks in transporting bulk grain to port facilities.

These are but a few examples of how a changing agriculture can affect related businesses. The elevator operator has had to adjust and remodel his business to keep up with the dynamic changes that have taken place. We can expect Michigan's agriculture to change even more in future years. Urbanization will continue to affect Michigan's agriculture, transportation methods will continue to change and advances will also be made in both on farm and off farm technology. These rapidly changing conditions and the long range nature of elevator construction and investment puts added importance on planning as an activity of management. Planning to avoid obsolescence in physical facilities as well as planning to allow for the flexibility needed to meet changing conditions.

Characteristics of Michigan Grain Elevators

Individual elevators differ widely in their operations.

These variations may appear in the volume of business, market area served, organizational structure, technology employed, marketing and retail services offered, and quality of personnel and management. Though technical differences exist among the individual plants, in terms of size and kind of equipment, the overall technology of the plants is quite similar.

Multi-Purpose Plants

enterprises or activities. The relative importance of any one enterprise to the entire firm may vary widely between firms. 12 The number of enterprises making up a firm may also vary depending on the environmental and economic conditions surrounding the plant. The problem then becomes one of getting these different enterprises integrated in the right combination to maximize returns. Many factors will contribute to the proper adjustment of a firm - such as, location, type of farming area, competing firms, degree of specialization, and available capital.

The adjustments will result in differences between plants based on three important relationships: (1) that firms of equal size, measured by total gross income, may be composed of different enterprises of various sizes; (2) that the relative importance of the different enterprises composing a firm may vary widely between firms; and (3) that firms vary in size because of the size and number of enterprises composing the firm.

many. Historical as well as current economic conditions have influenced the development and location of many of the elevators in Michigan. Location and the economic conditions in a particular area are probably the most important reasons for the many differences found between plants.

Firm as used in this study refers to an elevators entire operation of which, the grain merchandising operation is a part.

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Complementary Relations Within Grain Elevators

The difference between firms and between enterprises within a firm is easily pointed out. However, the relationships and importance of the relationships between activities within a firm are very hard to isolate, much less evaluate. Pursel points out that there is a great deal of technical and market complementarity between the grain merchandising, grain processing and the service operations of a firm. "Technical complementarity exists because some of the facilities used for other operations may be used for grain processing and merchandising. Market complementarity exists because grain merchandising and processing volume may be increased as a result of providing the service."13 Such complementarity will exist in varying degrees for a particular firm depending on its size and location. For example, an elevator located in the cash crop area of Michigan may have a relatively small feed operation simply because it is located in an area where livestock is of only minor importance. The feed operation, in order to fully exploit the technical complementarity of inputs, could be much larger in regards to the grain merchandising operation. Technical complementarity between these two activities permits higher utilization or machinery and equipment, and consequently absorbs idle capacity caused by the highly seasonal nature of the grain merchandising activity.

Pursel, op.cit., pages 6-7

Beyond the point of proper proportions for ideal complementarity facilities that provide operational flexibility also reduce risk caused by shifts in the composition of the grain volume handled by the firm.

A competitive relationship could also develop between these two activities. This situation is not likely to develop because of the seasonal nature of agricultural production and the seasonal demands placed on the various operations and facilities within the plant. A competitive relationship develops when the various activities become large enough so that they are competing with each other for the use of certain facilities. Bottlenecks are created and the only way to overcome these competitive relationships is to separate the various grain and feed facilities. However, to do this often requires increased investment in fixed facilities, more specialized employees, and consequently the necessity of increased overall volume.

To carry this problem of complementarity one step further, one might even consider all sideline activities as complementary to the grain handling operation. Economic opportunities for adding sidelines arise from various kinds of unused capacity.

Elevator facilities are setting fale much or the time because of the seasonal nature of grain marketing. This creates fale capacity in regards to labor, plant facilities and managerial ability. Sideline operations absorb some of this fale capacity and provide an opportunity to gain additional grain volume from the same farmers who purchase sideline items. In this respect, sideline items and grain are complementary to each other both in the market and in resource use.

These complementary relations create the complex relationships that develop between enterprises. Because of these complementary relations the success or failure of one enterprise may
depend largely on another enterprise. However, the affect of one
activity on the success or failure of another is very hard to
isolate and evaluate.

Competitive Relations Between Grain Elevators

There are two cases that are of interest to the elevator manager. The first of these is the competitive relationships between similar activities of different firms. These competitive relations directly affect only the operation of those activities involved, but because of the complementary relations between activities within an elevator the entire plant is indirectly affected. For example, the grain merchandising operation of all plants within an area compete for the grain business within that area. Directly this is the only activity affected. However, indirectly the entire plant may be affected because of the complementary relations between activities within the plant. tire firm is affected because other business may be attracted as management strives to increase the annual volume of grain received. On the other hand, one of the other activities within the firm may attract grain business because of some special service rendered in conjunction with that activity. The important point is that as management strives to increase the business volume of one enterprise other business may be attracted to the plant.

There are also competitive relations existing between entire firms. These competitive relationships are caused by circumstances and management decisions which affect the entire firm and include such things as physical plant size and facilities provided, management, location, degree of specialization and any other factors that affect the entire firms operation.

These two competitive relationships overlap considerably and no clear cut distinction can be made between the two. However, their existance does serve to point out the complex nature of the Michigan elevator industry and the diversity or competitive interrelationships. These interrelationships make the elevator firm and industry difficult to study and evaluate.

The Grain Merchandising Operation of Grain Elevators

Because of the multiplicity of interrelationships within the firm it would be difficult to undertake a study of the cost scale relations for complete firms. For this reason it was necessary that we limit the scope of this study to an area that is homogeneous enough to handle, but which still has meaning when considered by itself in respect to the entire firm. This study was therefore limited to a cost evaluation of the grain merchandising operation. The procedure followed is to develop seven similar model plants, which differ only in physical size and not in design, layout or processing facilities provided.

The grain merchandising plant throughout this study denotes a facility specifically designed, constructed, and used as an

assembling point for whole grain from farms, and equipped to handle and move grain to points farther along in the marketing channel.

The grain merchandising operation was selected over all other activities because the grain merchandising operation is the focal point around which the rest of the firms operations are developed or adjusted. Many of the complementary relationships found within elevators are a direct result of the facilities required by this operation. The seasonal nature of grain harvest creates excess plant capacity and to overcome this excess capacity other activities and sidelines are added.

CHAPTER III

THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND ANALYTICAL MODEL

Economic Theory and Its Application To Cost-Volume Studies

Cost as used in static economic theory usually refers to the cost associated with the production of certain commodities. 14 Knowledge of cost-volume relations are important for various kinds of managerial problems and decisions - such as; expense control, profit prediction, pricing, and product promotion. Cost functions and more important cost-volume relations are studied for the purpose of explaning their firm or for determining useful guides to be used in making future forecasts and predictions.

Explanation and prediction are the goals of economics as well as of most other sciences. Both theoretical analysis and empirical investigations are necessary for the achievement of these goals. The two approaches are complementary, since theories provide guides for empirical studies and empirical studies provide tests of the assumptions and conclusions of theories. In empirical studies many of the simplifications of theory are changed, different classifications adopted, and some of the assumptions dropped. Pure theories therefore provide insight into economic

Cost of production is often divided into several different categories. The same costs often have different meanings in different settings. The cost concept used in a particular situation depends upon the business decision to be made. For a discussion of the various cost concepts see Joel Dean, Managerial Economies, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York, 1951, pages 257-72.

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processes and serve as a background and starting point for applied theories and specific empirical studies. 15

Economic theory provides an indication of the shape of cost curves as related to output. The accepted economic doctrine has been that marginal cost rises continuously as output rate increases above some given level, and that the resulting average cost curve has a U-shaped relation to output. Using this theoretical foundation as a guide or model we can build graphic and statistical evidence to use as means of comparing theory with actual results.

It should be pointed out that economic theory, although an important foundation of cost-volume studies, is not the only discipline to be drawn from. Cost research to be done thoroughly must draw upon economic and statistical analysis, as well as accounting, engineering and other disciplines. Forecasts and predictions based upon cost functions developed from cost-volume studies are subject to error. This does not destroy their usefulness, but to reduce the size and possibility of error as many contributing factors as is feasible should be investigated.

The Nature of Short-Run Cost-Output Functions

In the short-run there exists a functional relation between cost and a number of independent variables. These independent

James M. Henderson and Richard E. Quandt, "Microeconomic Theory A Mathematical Approach", McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1958, pages 1-2.

¹⁶ Dean, op.cit., page 272.

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variables include volume of production, capacity utilization, prices of input services, size of production lot, variety of output (product mix), and others. Some of the input factors, e.g., land, buildings, heavy machinery and management, are assumed to be physically fixed and not capable of immediate adaptation to changes in rate of output within the short run limits of flexibility. Input factors such as labor, power, raw materials, and the like can be varied in the short-run. These are the firm's "variable resources". 17

The "fixed resources" determine the scale or size of the firm. The scale of plant sets the upper limit to the amount of output per unit of time which the firm is capable of producing in the short-run. Output can be varied up to that limit by increasing or decreasing the quantities of variable resources used in the fixed scale of plant. 18

Empirical cost-volume studies are often not directly comparable with the economic cost model of static economic theory.

Static economic theory assumes that all factor and product prices
remain constant, that the state of the arts is constant, production and consumption functions are constant, institutions and
institutional factors remain constant, perfect knowledge is assumed,
that persons and groups making up the economy are rational, and

¹⁷ Dean, op.cit., page 273.

Richard H. Leftwich, "The Price System and Resource Allocation," Revised Edition, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1960, page 140.

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that consumer units and producer units are motivated to maximize the satisfactions derivable from their real incomes and to maximize money profits respectively. These assumptions do not necessarily hold true in the real world.

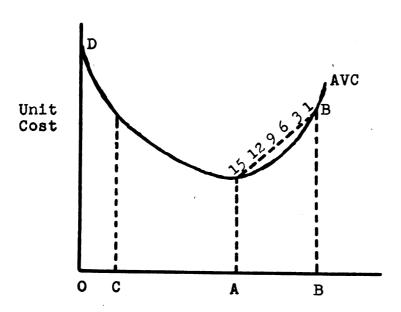
This study, using economic engineering data for the basic cost dimensions, does not lend itself to complete specification in terms of this static economic model. Certain factor prices are allowed to vary with volume. Power and certain insurance rates are two examples. Power rates decrease as the amount of power used increases and certain charges for liability insurances decrease as the amount of business or volume increases. However, despite these adjustments the cost-volume relationships developed in this study are close approximations of the static economic model. 19

When dealing conceptually with cost as a function of output a distinction is often made between short run and long run cost functions. The short run cost function refers to the relationship between cost and rate of output with a given physical plant and assumes that all other independent variables are kept constant. One of the items that is held constant in deriving theoretical cost curves is time. However, in looking at empirical cost relationships in agricultural market firms the relationship between time and unit cost becomes important. It is in fact necessary to

A detailed discussion of the application of this model in economic engineering studies can be found in French, et.al, op.cit., pages 557-64.

separate cost relationships into those which deal only with rate of output for any unit of time and those which incorporate time into the analysis. From the viewpoint of rate firms will maximize unit profits or minimize unit losses in the short run by operating at a rate of output where average variable cost is at a minimum, point OA in Figure 1. This point represents an optimal

Figure 1:-- Hypothetical Average Variable Cost Curve for Grain Elevators



Quantity as influenced by Rate of Output

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technical relationship in resource use with a given set of input prices. If these optimum technical conditions are maintained costs will increase in some linear relationship to the number of hours operated. Operating at a rate greater than that specified by OA will be undertaken only if all available time is used up and additional profits can be earned by increasing the rate of output to some larger amount say OB. Theoretically the point beyond OA at which operations are undertaken will depend on the equating of marginal cost and marginal revenue hence the extent to which rate will be increased with the given cost relationship is determined by the price of the product or the margin obtained.

This is in fact the situation faced by many agricultural processing plants. Many plants, especially those which handle perishable commodities operate for a fixed period of time during the year. The period of time in which they operate is usually fairly constant and they strive to operate at the lowest possible cost throughout this period. If for some reason they are unable to handle all the produce in this limited time they are then faced with the problem of increasing the per hour rate of operation.

Most merchandising firms and some processing plants that
must operate throughout the year cannot and do not operate at a
continuous hourly rate. Grain elevators are a case in point.
These plants remain open the year around and the volume handled
per unit of time fluctuates depending on the circumstances under
which the plant is operated. They operate at an accelerated rate

during one season or certain days of the week, at other times they may operate at a normal rate where technical input relationships are optimal and other times at a very low rate where the plant and labor as well as possibly some other inputs normally considered variables are underemployed. These fluctuating hourly operating rates have a profound and definite effect on the per unit cost of operation. Point A represents the rate at which the plant operates at a normal technically optimum basis with the existing or normal labor force that must be maintained. labor force here refers to the number of men usually employed the year around. During these periods even if the plant operates continuously the physical facility is not fully utilized but the normal labor force is fully utilized. The elevator is not concerned with operating at full capacity during these periods because material is not arriving at a rate that warrants an increase in the hourly receiving rate and hence hourly unit costs. Thus, there is no pressure on plant facilities during these peri-However, as grain harvest approaches the elevator is concerned with increasing the hourly receiving rate so that they can operate at or near the capacity or the plant. This accelerated rate is achieved by adding labor and other variable resources such as power. Since this is not the technical optimum relationship within the plant per unit cost is increased to that which exists at point B.

Still one other concern exists in elevators and other farm supply businesses that have continually fluctuating volumes of

traffic. Point C represents a point where the plant is operating at a very low hourly rate. Per unit costs are increased here because the normal labor force cannot be reduced and the plant has a great deal of unused capacity as well as unused labor. any given hour, the plant may operate to the left of point A with the extreme being point D where zero volume is being handled and unit variable costs become infinite. The problem of empirically specifying the short run cost that exists in any given firm then is the index number problem of attempting to determine the number or hours that are operated at any given rate between say maximum plant capacity at point B and a lesser rate from there to zero. Because the labor force in an elevator cannot be reduced below that which exists at point A the problem is handled in this study by computing variable unit cost at the normal or optimal technical point A and at the harvest season capacity point B. then is related to the time operated at each rate to compute a total variable cost for the season. The average rate-cost point that emerges will be some point on a straight line between point A and point B, between 15 and 1 in Figure 1. The precise point along this line will depend on the number of hours operated at each rate.

Planning and Its Relation to Long-Run Decisions

The long-run refers to a situation where it is possible for management to vary the quantities of all resources used. The scale of plant is no longer a limit to what the firm can produce.

The long-run cost-volume relationship is often thought of as a series of alternative short-run situations into any one of which the firm can move. The firm can build any one of the possible scales of plant, or it can shift from one to another.

The analytical procedure followed in this study is to develop several model plants and to analyze the cost-volume relationships of these plants. Each individual plants cost-volume relationship is analyzed as being short-run in nature. However, since these results are to be used and viewed as guides to planning, the several short-run relationships can be viewed together as a long-run analysis. This is possible because the long-run average cost or planning curve is a curve that is tangent to all possible shortrun average cost curves representing the different scales of plant which the firm conceivably could build. The long-run average cost curve is therefore made up of very small segments of the various short-run average cost curves and is called an "envelope curve" to the short-run average cost curves. The long-run average cost curve can therefore be defined as a curve which shows the least possible cost per unit of producing various outputs when the firm has time to build any desired scale of plant. 20

This procedure has merit in that the various model plants are analyzed individually and at the same time it is possible to see the cost scale relationships between plants of various sizes.

Leftwich, op.cit., pages 152-55.

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Economies and Diseconomies of Scale

"If the long-run average cost curve decreases as output increases, this must mean that successively larger scales of plant are more efficient than the smaller ones; i.e., their short-run average cost curves lie at successively lower levels as well as farther to the right." This phenomenon is called "economies of scale".

If "long-run" average costs increase this means that successively larger firms or plants become less and less efficient; i.e., their short-run average cost curves lie at successively higher levels and farther to the right. The limitations of certain factors of production beyond a certain point which cause the long-run average cost curve to rise are called "diseconomies of scale."

Economies of scale may be caused by many factors. Two important economies of scale are (1) increasing possibilities of division and specialization of labor, and (2) increasing possibilities of using advanced technological developments and/or larger machines.

The division and specialization of labor are almost impossible in plants that employ only a few men. The elevator is a case in point. Most elevators hire only a few men and due to the diverse nature of most elevator operations it is impossible for any one man to specialize at any one particular job. The seasonal

Ibid., page 156.

nature of agricultural production does, however, allow for short periods of specialization within the plants, i.e., during the harvest season one man may do nothing but receive and clean grain.

Many elevators also have one man whose primary task is to grind and mix custom feeds. However, it is usually found that elevator employees are required to be able to do many different jobs. This leads to inefficiencies in several ways. Time is wasted in moving from one task to another; it is impossible to take advantage of special talents; and the worker usually does not have the time or desire to develop short cuts and speed in performing the many different tasks.

The efficiency of the worker is likely to be higher and cost per unit of output correspondingly lower where division and specialization of labor are possible. Since the nature of elevators greatly limits the amount of specialization possible the primary concern in this study is with the second type of economies of scale - increasing possibilities of using advanced technological developments and/or larger machines.

As the scale of plant increases the possibilities of lowering costs per unit of output by technological methods also increases. The model plants developed in this study, both large and small, are up to date technologically. Therefore, the technological efficiencies that are the major concern of this study are the efficiencies resulting from the use of larger processing machines and equipment. Technological efficiencies of this sort result from the fact that in order to double the capacity of a machine to

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produce, a doubling of material, construction, and operating costs of the machine may not be necessary.

The U-shaped long-run average cost curve of static economic theory not only shows economies of scale but diseconomies of scale as well. Diseconomies of scale are represented by that section of the long-run average cost curve that turns upward to the right as production is increased. The reason usually given for diseconomies of scale beyond a certain level of production, is that there are limitations in the efficiency of management in controlling and coordinating a single firm. As a firm gets larger and larger the problems of decision-making and coordination increase. The paper work, travel expenses, telephone bills, and additional employees necessary for coordination increase greatly beyond a certain size of firm.

Managements coordination and decision-making abilities are very hard to measure, let alone evaluate. For this reason empirical studies usually do not show the diseconomies portion of the long-run average cost curve, if in fact they exist. The empirical long-run average cost curve usually falls rapidly at first and then levels off and remains fairly constant over a wide range of production possibilities. One reason for this phenomenon, in empirical studies, is that the scale of plant may not become sufficiently large for the diseconomies of scale to become apparent.

The Analytical Framework and Model

Methodology and Procedures

The "economic-engineering" method of estimating cost functions is used in this study. This approach is also often referred to as the "synthetic" approach. Using this method the researcher estimates the costs of operating plants that do not actually exist and then compares these "synthetic" plants for efficiencies.

This method employs a combination of the tools of economics, statistics, accounting, engineering, and other technical subjects pertaining to the industry under investigation.

The economic engineering approach was selected for this study because it lends itself to an evaluation of modern plants using the latest technological developments. This is in keeping with the major purpose of this study.

Model Plants

The model plants developed in this study are designed and constructed for the purpose of receiving and shipping bulk grain only; the grain is received directly from farmers, in the farmer's

L.L. Sammet and B. C. French, "Economic-Engineering Methods In Marketing Research," Journal of Farm Economics, Vol 35, 1953, pages 924-30; and French, et.al., op.cit., pages 543-721.

Guy Black, "Synthetic Method of Cost Analysis In Agricultural Marketing Firms," Journal of Farm Economics, Vol 37, No. 2, August 1955, pages 270-79.

vehicle, inspected for weeds and dumped into elevator receiving dump pits. From the dump pit it moves through cleaners, is weighed and tested for weight and moisture, and elevated into storage bins or loaded directly into railroad boxcars or trucks for shipment. Ear corn is shelled before cleaning and the cobs and husks cleaned from the grain and blown to a corn cob burner.

All grain movement is by mechanical means with little manual labor except in the operation and maintenance of equipment. Gravity flow is used wherever possible.

The model plants used in this study were constructed to conform as nearly as possible to the standard type of elevator found
in Michigan. The model plants differ only in physical size and
not in operational techniques or technology employed. The model
plants are based on the design and equipment specifications of
most of the recently built elevators in Michigan. They were
designed and developed from information received from elevator
designers and builders within the state.

The model plants developed range in size from 750 to 4500 bushels per hour and cover all the various sizes of grain elevators now found in Michigan. This study includes both single and double-line plants as both are found within the Michigan elevator industry. Single-line plants are used for the smaller plants and double-line plants for the larger plants. The 2250 bushel per hour plant, which is very common in Michigan, is used as the breaking point. Both a single and double-line plant is used for this particular size.

Michigan elevators buy several commodities from farmers. These commodities include corn, winter wheat, soybeans, dry beans, oats, barley and some quantities of rye, buckwheat and other grass seeds produced in the local areas. The plants developed in this study are designed and equipped to handle all crops produced in Michigan. However, the major portion of the analysis is based on the receiving and shipping of winter wheat and field corn, either ear or shelled.

The nature of grain and corn harvest requires that elevators be equipped to receive and ship or store large quantities of grain in rather short periods of time. However, storage is usually used only for assembling car load lots. Most commodities are shipped out immediately to make room for the next crop. Corn, a feed crop, and navy beans may be stored longer because they are harvested at the end of the season and require more processing before they are shipped or sold.

Wide variations are found in the amount and type or storage provided by various elevators. The scope of this thesis does not permit a complete evaluation of the various types of available storage facilities. For this reason all model plants are equipped with concrete stave silos, which are extensively used in Michigan and which fulfill the necessary requirements of elevators receiving and snipping grain.

Product Flow

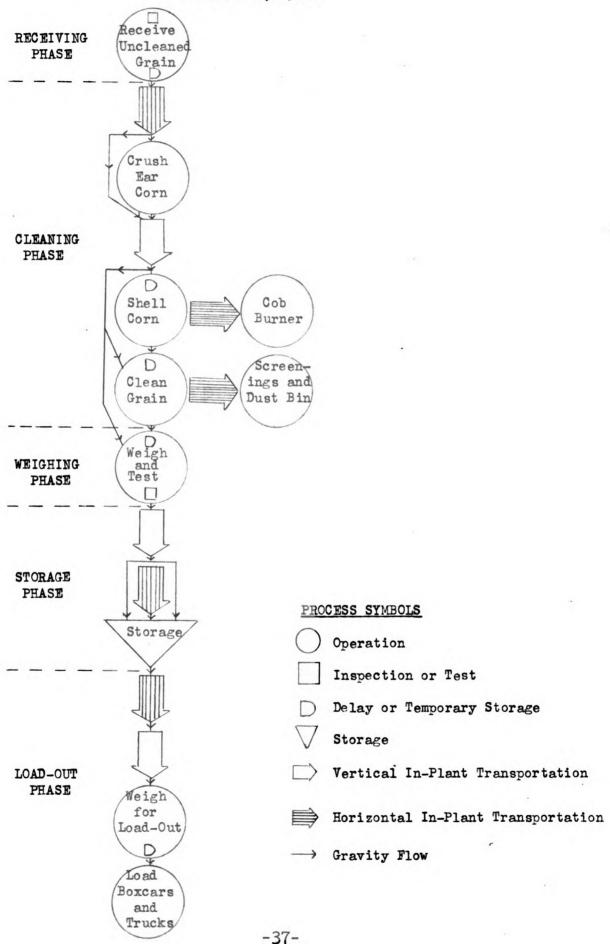
The operations found within a grain elevator differ from other agricultural processing plants in that the raw material is

ear corn being one exception. The major function is the assembling and standardization of material for bulk shipment to processing plants or to terminals for storage.

The receiving and cleaning of grain for shipping requires an integrated temporal sequence of elementary processes in each of which the basic raw material changes in location. The process flow chart in Figure 2 shows the various phases and operations involved in the flow of material through the model plants. For the purposes of this analysis, the sequence begins with the arrival at the plant of a farmer's vehicle loaded with ear corn, wheat or some other small grain and ends when the same are loaded into trucks or railroad cars for distribution to other elevators, terminals or processing plants. This long sequence of processes is split into five subsequences or operating phases, each followed by a temporary delay or storage operation and each connected by some means of transportation. The five operating phases are receiving, cleaning, weighing, storage, and load-out. Each of these consists of all productive services - durable or nondurable that cooperate in performing a single activity or a group of minor but closely related activities. Within each of these phases, equipment was selected and operated so that the product output rate of the preceding elementary process was approximately or exactly the same as the product input rate of the following elementary process.

Temporary delays are provided wherever necessary in the form of hoppers or garner bins. These temporary delays help to even out

Figure 2.--Process Flow Chart for Michigan Grain Elevators, 1961.



and maintain the flow of material through the plant and are especially useful in maintaining the flow of material through particular pieces of equipment. These delays are of importance because many operations are being performed at the same time and it is not always possible to get a perfect synchronization of material flow through the various operations. They also separate the various operations found within the plant. By-passes are also provided where necessary to allow the material to by-pass those operations which are not required. This condition is brought about by the fact that the same facilities are used for ear corn and other small grains, both of which do not require the same processing.

The Receiving Process - The receiving process starts when the farmer arrives at the elevator and drives his vehicle over the dump pit and onto the truck hoist. Once the material has been dumped into the receiving pit it may either be held there for several minutes or it may be moved directly to the next process. The receiving pit acts as the temporary storage point at the end of the receiving process. Material is usually stored for only short periods of time in the receiving pit.

During the harvest season, one man usually operates the truck hoist and helps the farmer position and dump his vehicle. At times other than the harvest season one man may be running the entire plant and will help receive as well as operate all other operations.

The Cleaning Process - The cleaning process includes several operations which follow in direct order. Gravity flow is used,

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after the initial elevation. The foreign material, corn cobs and screenings are removed along the way and disposed of.

The labor required by the cleaning process consists mainly of machinery adjustments on the cleaning and processing equipment; starting, stopping and controlling the flow of material through the various operations; and the removal or bagging of screenings. During the harvest season one man usually performs these operations in conjunction with the weighing and storage processes. The receiving operator usually does the bagging of screenings and assists the cleaning operator in any way possible. At times other than during the harvest season one man may perform the cleaning operations as well as all other operations.

This phase requires an operator who is familiar with the cleaning equipment and who is capable of making the necessary equipment adjustments. He must have a thorough knowledge of the various spouts, by-passes, and various routes the material can take as it passes through the cleaning process. The operator must also possess a knowledge of grain and corn grades and the necessary foreign material tolerance associated with each grade.

The Weighing Process - The weighing process is composed of one operation and is a very important part of the total operation. It is at this point that the clean grain is sampled and tested for moisture and test weight. The farmer's receipt ticket is also made out at this point.

The cleaning operator usually operates this phase in conjunction with the cleaning and storage phases. His primary task is the sampling, testing for moisture and test weight, weighing the

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partial drafts, and writing the farmer's receipt ticket. This operator must be familiar with the sampling and testing techniques used in testing grain for moisture and test weight. In addition he should also possess a knowledge of grain and corn grades so that he can separate the different grades as they are received. He must be familiar with the farmers he serves as he is the one who weighs their grain and who comes in direct contact with them. He must be able to explain the various test he has made and why he has graded the commodity as he has. He must also be able to explain the firm's pricing and dockage policy.

The Storage Process - The storage process starts as the material flows from the scales hopper into the main elevating boot. The material is elevated, distributed to one of the storage bins, or loaded directly into a truck or railroad boxcar. If the material is distributed directly to a truck or boxcar then the sequence of operations stops at this point. However, if the material is distributed to one of the storage bins then the sequence of operations must continue with the storage bins serving only as the terminal point of the storage process.

The labor required by this operation consists primarily of adjusting and operating the elevating equipment and seeing that the material is distributed to the right bin or outlet. This phase is usually operated in conjunction with the weighing phase and requires very little labor other than that used by the weighing phase.

The Load-Out Process - The load out process starts with the gravity flow of the material from the storage bins and ends when it is placed in the boxcar or truck for shipment. The demand for labor by this phase is primarily in the form of preparing boxcars for loading. The boxcars have to be boarded up and cleaned out for the shipment of grain. Some means is also needed for moving loaded cars and for spoting empty cars at the loading spout. Less labor is required when loading trucks than when loading boxcars.

The actual loading is done by mechanical means and requires very little labor. The main labor requirements are in the form of starting, controlling and stopping the flow of material through this operation. The flow of material through the plant ends with the loading of grain into boxcars or trucks.

The Economic Unit - An economic unit is distinguished from a technical operation in that it is composed of several technical operations. For purposes of cost comparison the joint operations must be redefined into a single operation which is called an economic unit. The minimum cost technologies can be determined only by joint consideration of all operations that are technically related.²⁴

A plant or firm may be composed of several economic units, depending on the rate at which the various phases are capable of operating. This is not the case with grain receiving and shipping elevators. The only difference in the model plants used in this

French, et.al. op.cit. page 574.

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study was in the size of equipment used and not a functional difference. They were not limited in their output because of bottlenecks found in certain technical operations. The model plants were budgeted as a unit and each plant is under one manager or management and is confined to one group of buildings. They are therefore composed of one economic unit which takes in the entire plants operation. The cost-volume comparisons between the various sized plants are evaluated in this manner.

The economic unit is composed of the several technically related operations which involved the physical handling of the material and all of the management functions which consist of all the non-physical operations. These non-physical management functions include the keeping of records, the buying and selling of grain, making payments to farmers for grain receipts, keeping personnel and payroll records, and keeping all other records of management and control. These non-physical functions can be thought of as including all those task involved in the operation of the grain merchandising enterprise other than the physical handling of material within and through the plants.

Sources of Data Used In The Construction of Model Plants

All cost of plant construction and all operating cost must be estimated. Therefore, many sources of data may be required to obtain the necessary estimates. The cost data gathered must be as accurate as possible as well as applicable to the conditions as they exist in the state at the time of their estimation. The

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data gathered for this study were obtained from several sources and represent as near as possible the conditions existing in Michigan during 1961. Operating data as well as cost data were collected for use in constructing the model plants. Sources of data used throughout this study are discussed below.

<u>Direct Observations</u> - Several recently built plants were visited throughout the state and observations made on plant operations during the harvest season. The data collected from these plants covered a wide range and to maintain consistancy the same data were collected from all plants visited.

Two plants were visited in the cash crop thumb area, two were visited in the central part of the lower half of the lower penisula, and one each was visited in the southeastern and southwestern part of the state. Since the plants visited were all located in different parts of the state, their overall operations varied widely but the grain merchandising enterprise was found to be similar in each plant visited.

Time studies were made on various operations at each of the plants visited to obtain labor requirements, equipment capacities, and delays, both normal and during the harvest season. The primary purpose of these timings was to lind the time required for the various operations within the plant. Timings were made on all grain moving and cleaning equipment. The time required by the operator to perform various operations was also obtained. Operating as well as delay time was observed at all phases of the operation. Position and unloading times were obtained for dirferent types and sized farm vehicles. Timings were also made on the time required to prepare boxcars for loading.

In addition to the various timings and observations made at each of the plants visited, the manager was also asked a series of questions pertaining to the plants actual operation. They supplied much of the necessary data on such things as wages for various types of labor and general operating conditions.

An inventory was made or all the equipment round within the plants visited. This inventory included the location or the machine, a sketch, its operating characteristics and any other pertinent remarks. This inventory was used in determining the required equipment for the model plants.

Equipment Manufactures - The equipment required for the synthetic plants was determined from data obtained when the various plants were visited. The equipment needed by each of the various sized plants was listed and equipment manufacturers and their catalogs were consulted as to specifications and price. This information was then used in making the cost estimates for the machinery and equipment used in the model plants.

Engineering Estimates of Building Cost - Several contractors were visited throughout the state to obtain information about specifications and model plant designs. These specifications and the data obtained from direct observations were then used to develop the designs for the various model plants.

The actual costs of elevators constructed in Michigan during 1960 were obtained. The costs of constructing the model plants including silos, were estimated by using this cost data in conjunction with the specifications obtained from the contractors, equipment specifications, and engineering requirements.

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Plant Records and Audits - Additional information was obtained from plant audits. These audits were not used for specific cost data. They were used to get some indication of the relationship between various cost categories and total operating cost.

Other Sources of Data - The previous studies made pertaining to the Michigan elevator industry were also used to advantage in several phases of this study. These studies were used primarily as guides in the development of the model plants.

Personal contacts with people actively engaged within the elevator industry provided valuable assistance in the development of the model plants and in estimating the various operating costs. These contacts included contractors, equipment manufacturers, and their representatives, insurance companies, managers and employees of local elevators and related businesses. In addition, people who have done previous research in this field were also able to provide and make many valuable suggestions.

The department of agricultural engineering at Michigan State University was also called upon for suggestions in the development of the model plants. They were especially helpful in checking the engineering feasibility of all phases of the model plants.

Assumptions

This study was based on certain assumptions pertaining to the Michigan elevator industry and the conditions found within this industry. The model plants and the various operating conditions used were based on these basic assumptions.

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As to Operating Conditions - It is assumed that the grain merchandising enterprise is operated the same throughout the state. The only difference between plants is in physical size and importance depending on the location and agricultural conditions surrounding a particular plant.

As to Size Requirements for Michigan - The model plants developed for this study were assumed to cover the range of sizes now found in Michigan as well as the size of those which might be built in the near future.

As to Location Factors - The environmental conditions surrounding a particular plant will determine the most economical size of plant to be used in that particular area. However, analysis related to location is not included in this study. It is assumed that management will determine the location factors in an area before deciding on the scale of plant to be constructed in that area.

The model plants developed in this study lend themselves to this assumption in that they differ only in size and were developed according to the existing conditions found within Michigan during 1961. The model plants are therefore applicable to any area of the state. Differences may exist, however, between areas in the cost of labor, power, and other factors of production.

As to Storage Requirements - The storage provided for the model plants was assumed to be adequate for the merchandising process for which the model plants were developed.

As to Economic Model and Conditions - The economic problem studied was formulated in terms of cost efficiency criteria. The

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firms were assumed to operate in a perfectly competitive market, and the economic model employed was that of static production economics. The assumptions of this model pertaining to static production functions, consumption functions and institutions; those which eliminate random elements; and those concerning motivations were maintained.

CHAPTER IV

MODEL PLANT SPECIFICATIONS AND OPERATING CONDITIONS

Model Plant Receiving Capacities and Facilities Provided

There are many ways of measuring plant size as related to capacity. The most commonly used is either storage or handling capacity. Since this study is directed to grain handling the latter is a more relevant measure of capacity. The grain cleaner was therefore used throughout this study as the primary determinant of plant capacity. The grain cleaner determines the rate at which a plant operates, provided there are no bottlenecks to hinder or slow down the receiving and loading out processes. The model plants rated capacities are based on discrete cleaner sizes. All other machinery and equipment was then selected in such a way that its operating capacity coincided with that of the grain cleaner.

A general purpose cleaner, capable of handling the several commodities received by Michigan elevators, was selected for this study. Cleaners were selected in six rated capacities ranging from 1000 to 6000 bushels per hour. It was apparent, however, in making time studies at the elevators visited that grain cleaners cannot be operated at the manufacturers rated capacities. A considerable range in operating rates was observed with the maximum being around 75 percent of the manufacturers rated capacities. The rated capacities of the model plants used throughout the remainder

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 $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \frac{2}{n} (x_n, x_n)$

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of this study are therefore as follows: 750, 1500, and 2250 bushels per hour single-line plants, and 2250, 3000, 3750, and 4500 bushels per hour double-line plants.

The plant capacities used throughout this study cover the more common plant capacities found within the Michigan elevator industry. However, the large plant capacities, especially the 3750 and 4500 bushel per hour plants, are rather large and uncommon for Michigan grain elevators. They were included as representing sizes which might be considered in future years. They should also serve as valuable planning guides and as a means of comparing the relative efficiencies of the smaller plants.

It was also observed that equipment, other than cleaners, found in an elevator is not operated at the manufacturers rated capacity. The speed with which the shaker pit is emptied depends primarily on the elevating leg which removes the grain from the pit and elevates it to the cleaner floor. The speed and slope of the shaker pit also had some affect on its capacity. Elevating legs are usually operated at about 90% of their rated capacity. Elevator leg capacity depends on many factors such as, cup size, spacing of cups on belt, speed at which the elevator is operated, material being handled and the degree of cup capacity utilized. The elevating legs used in the model plants were calculated at 90% of the manufacturers rated capacity. Manufacturers recommendations were followed in regards to bucket size, spacing and speed of operation but, cup capacity was computed at 90% of the manufacturers volume. A similar procedure was followed in estimating the required capacity of all screw conveyor systems.

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Corn handling equipment varies in operating rate depending on the moisture content of the corn being processed, the degree of husk and other foreign material, the speed at which they are operated, and the size of ear corn crusher or corn sheller. It was observed that the ear corn crusher, under reasonably favorable conditions, was capable of being operated at the manufacturers rated capacity.

Corn sheller manufacturers usually list the capacity of corn shellers as a range rather than as a certain per bushel capacity. The low capacity corresponding to very wet corn and the high capacity corresponding to very dry corn. It was observed that shellers operate within this range depending on the moisture content of the corn and whether or not an ear corn crusher preceded the corn sheller. Ear corn crushers preceding the corn sheller usually increase the recommended capacity of the sheller from 15 to 20 percent, again depending on the moisture and foreign material content of the corn. Ear corn crushers also have many other operating advantages such as, preventing scrape iron, stones and other foreign material from entering the corn sheller. The model plants were therefore equipped with ear corn crushers operating at the manufacturers rated capacity and corn shellers operating at 90 percent of the dry corn rated capacities.

The remaining equipment, which was primarily gravity flow equipment, was selected so that there would be no bottlenecks.

Gravity flow spouts, distributors, bin slides and shut-offs, and load-out spouting were all selected according to engineering recommendations and specifications, spout diameter being the primary consideration.

The discussion thus far has been in terms of the discrete sizes of various pieces of equipment. However, the exact size of equipment desired was not available in all cases. In those cases the next largest size was selected. Larger capacities were selected in all cases to avoid bottlenecks. Garner bins or hoppers were then provided at convenient places to help even out the flow of material through the plant and to take up some of the slack created by the imperfect synchronization of certain operations.

The procedure followed in this study was to develop and design the model plants as though they were grain handling operations. The corn receiving and shelling operation was then designed to fit the plant. The same intake leg could be used by using a corn receiving and shelling capacity or 50 percent or grain handling capacity. This permitted the use of ear corn crusher and sheller sizes that were readily available and easily synchronized into the plants overall operation. The model plants used throughout this study are therefore synchronized with respect to handling all small grains except ear corn on a shelled basis. Ear corn receiving capacity, on a snelled basis, is limited to 50 percent or the grain receiving capacity.²⁵

If the corn shelling capacity of the model plants was to be synchronized with the cleaning capacity of the model plants larger intake legs, more than one sheller, and larger ear corn

One bushel of shelled corn (56 pounds) is approximately equivalent to two bushels (70 pounds) of husked ear corn. The plants are therefore able to receive only half as much corn on a shelled basis as on an unshelled or ear basis.

crushers would be required. These are all possible and could be provided it so desired. Several shellers could be used as a group, larger intake legs are available, and large double-roll ear corn crushers are also available. These double-roll ear corn crushers have about twice the capacity of single-roll crushers and have many additional operational advantages. However, if ear corn receiving is the primary function to be performed by the elevator, then plant designs other than those used in this study should be investigated.

Ear corn receiving capacity, on a shelled basis, is computed at 50 percent of the grain receiving capacity of the model plants. This appears to be reasonable in light of the fact that corn harvest usually does not proceed as rapidly as grain harvest and is not as important a cash crop as other grains. Large amounts of the ear corn produced within the state are retained on the farm to be utilized as feed or stored in cribs to be sold in the spring of the year. This puts less pressure on the local elevator at corn harvest and reduces the need for large corn receiving capacities.

Another important development affecting corn harvest is the increasing use of field picker shellers. The use of these machines is increasing in Michigan and eliminates the need for local elevators having large crushing and shelling capacities. Shelled corn received by the local elevator is processed in the same manner as other small grains. The ear corn crusher and sheller no longer are a limiting factor when receiving corn.

Another practice that is sometimes followed in receiving corn which reduces the need for large corn receiving capacities is the scheduling of corn shelling activities in the spring.

This practice is followed to assure a steady flow of material through the plant and to eliminate line-ups and long waits during the spring when farmers are removing their ear corn from storage cribs. The major difficulty encountered when following this practice is that usually all farmers in an area find it convenient to move their corn at about the same time.

Single and Double-Line Plants

Double as well as single-line plants are common to the Michigan elevator industry. A double-line plant has two receiving pits, intake legs and grain cleaners as opposed to only one in the single-line plants. The model plants developed in this study include both single and double-line plants. The smaller plants (750 and 1500 bushel per hour plants) were both single-line plants and the larger plants (3000, 3750 and 4500 bushel per hour plants) were all double-line plants. The 2250 bushel per hour plant, which was found to be a very common size in Michigan, was included both as a single and a double-line plant.

The need for more than one receiving line arises because of the time required to position and unload a vehicle of a particular size. As the single-line plant capacities were increased they were equipped to receive and clean more grain than it was physically possible to unload in a given period of time. It is uneconomical to have a plant equipped to handle more material than it can possibly receive.

A double-line plant also adds some flexibility to the operation. With only one cleaner it becomes necessary to change the cleaner's screens every time a differenct commodity is received.

The greatest advantage of double-line plants is during the harvest season when large volumes are handled in relatively short periods of time. With two receiving lines the number of vehicles that can pass through a plant of a particular size is increased, thus increasing the volume of material handled.

Storage Facilities

The storage facilities found throughout the state vary widely between elevators and localities. These differences are found not only in the size and amount of storage provided but also in the various kinds of storage facilities provided.

Several factors determine the amount of storage provided at any particular elevator. Among these are the length of time that material is to be stored, number of crops handled by the elevator, amount of blending to be done and the amount of processing required by the commodity under consideration. Most Michigan elevators do not store grain any longer than from one harvest season to the next. A common practice is to store only enough for their own needs and to empty all storage bins before the next crop is harvested. However, feed crops may be stored for longer

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periods of time because they are sold to farmers in the area and are sold over a period of several months. Navy beans require more processing than other crops and may require a longer storage period.

The model plants developed in this study were assumed to be primarily assembling plants. Adequate storage was provided to accomplish this assembling process without regards for permanent or long term storage arrangements.

Each model plant was equipped with at least six storage bins to provide adequate flexibility for receiving and handling several different crops. The storage facilities provided ranged from 20,000 bushels for the 750 bushel per hour plant to 120,000 bushels for the 4500 bushel per hour plant. The storage was increased between model plants in 20,000 bushel increments. Table 3 shows the number of bins and total storage capacity provided for each of the model plants. These amounts were provided on the basis of maximum potential storage requirements during the harvest season.

The storage facilities provided for the model plants were all concrete stave silos with hoppered bottoms for self cleaning. The size of bins used were popular sizes found in many parts of the state.

Railroad Siding

Very closely associated with the amount of storage provided are the facilities needed for spotting railroad boxcars. It was

Table 3:-- Storage Facilities Provided for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Number of Bins	Approximate Capacity Per Bin	Total Storage Capacity
(B.P.H.)		(Bushels)	(Bushels)
750 B.P.H Single-Line	6	3,333	20,000
1500 B.P.H Single-Line	6	6,666	40,000
2250 B.P.H Single-Line	6	10,000	60,000
2250 B.P.H Double-Line	6	10,000	60,000
3000 B.P.H Double-Line	8	10,000	80,000
3750 B.P.H Double-Line	10	10,000	100,000
4500 B.P.H Double-Line	12	10,000	120,000

assumed that the primary means of shipping grain from the model plants would be via railroad boxcars. Enough railroad siding was provided so that the elevators could operate at capacity during the harvest season. Assuming that boxcars were available and that at least one switch was made per day by the railroad company.

The amount of railroad siding was estimated by determining how much grain could be loaded out each day if plants operated a 10 hour day at full capacity. Table 4 shows the number of boxcars for which space was provided at each plant. Adequate track was provided for switching, for holding filled boxcars in front of the loading spout, and for holding empties behind the loading spout.

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Table 4:--Railroad Siding Provided for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Number of Railroad Boxcars to Be Spotted at Each of The Model Plants
(B.P.H.)	
750 B.P.H Single-Line	4
1500 B.P.H Single-Line	6
2250 B.P.H Single-Line	8
∠250 B.P.H Double-Line	10
3000 B.P.H Double-Line	12
3750 B.P.H Double-Line	14
4500 B.P.H Double-Line	16

Land and Land Improvements

Though economic engineering studies often omit land costs they are included in this study because they are an important factor to be considered in the overall planning of any particular elevator.

Land provided for the model plants ranged from 2 acres for the smallest plant to $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres for the largest. This includes adequate space for buildings, storage facilities, railroad siding and driveways. The greatest demand for land is not for the actual building site, but for adequate space to prevent bottlenecks and to maintain a uniform flow of material into the plant during the harvest season. Improvements included driveways, fences, sidewalks and landscaping.

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Trucking Equipment

Each model plant was equipped with one two-ton truck with grain box. The truck was included as part of the plants operating equipment and not as a means of transporting grain long distances or as a source of income from such activities. Its primary use is for the removal of screenings, transporting grain short distances, and as a means of power for moving railroad boxcars.

Orrice-Facilities

Each plant was equipped with office facilities and furnishings. The office space provided was assumed to be adequate for the grain merchandising operation only.

The offices or plants were not equipped with a large truck scales. It was assumed that all material received and loaded out by the plants would pass over the auto-matic in-plant scales.

Model Plant Operating Conditions

In the short-run only part of the factors determining cost can be varied. Some of the input factors, e.g., land, buildings, heavy machinery and top management, are assumed to be physically fixed and not capable of immediate adaptation to changes in rate of output within the short-run limits of flexibility. These are the firm's short-run "fixed resources" and are the durable fixed assets referred to in this study. These fixed resources determine

the scale or size of the firm's plant. The scale of plant sets the upper limit (maximum capacity) to the amount of output per unit of time which the plant is capable of producing in the short-run. Output can be varied up to that limit in the short-run only by increasing or decreasing the quantities of "variable resources" used in the fixed scale of plant. The fixed resources therefore determine the upper limits of production but the quantities of variable resources used determine the level of production or the degree to which maximum capacity is utilized.

The lixed expenses associated with owning a plant of a particular hourly capacity normally remain at a relatively constant level from year to year regardless of volume. The lost of handling grain declines rather sharply with increases in volume. Thus, it is to elevator management's advantage to plan and provide facilities which can handle expected volume increases and then to plan to use the facility as near capacity as is possible.

The firm's variable resources are input factors such as labor, power, raw materials and the like which can be varied in the short-run. These variable resources are of major importance because output can be increased or decreased in the short-run primarily by increasing or decreasing the quantities of variable

Lertwich, op.cit., page 140.

Capacity here refers to the plants rated hourly receiving rate. Annual capacity is a function of this hourly rate and annual hours of operation.

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resources used in the fixed scale of plant. The operating conditions which affect and determine the use of the various variable resources are discussed below. These are also the factors which determine the total annual volume handled by the model plants.

General Operating Conditions

It was assumed that the model plants were operating in a competitive environment. It was assumed that the price of all variable resources was constant and that no differences existed within the state.

The conditions used throughout this study, which affect cost, are scale or size of plant, annual hours of operation, receiving mix and average load size received. Each of these and their affect on operating cost and annual volume are discussed separately.

Plant Scale and Annual Hours of Operation

Plant scale or size of plant affects operating cost and annual volume handled because, as pointed out above, it sets the upper limit to the amount of output per unit of time which the firm is capable of producing in the short run. This is often referred to as the rate dimension and is concerned only with annual volume as affected by the plants hourly rated capacity. Annual volume can be increased or decreased by changing the rate at which the plant operates, holding the number of hours operated, load size and product mix constant. This, however, is not

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the only means of obtaining a desired annual volume. French refers to this other method as the time dimension and points out that a failure to distinguish clearly between the rate and time dimension leads to confusion concerning the nature of cost curves. 28

For the purpose of this study the rated capacity of the model plants serves as the rate dimension and the annual hours of operation serve as the time dimension. The different rates show that each of the model plants has a different hourly receiving capacity and that each could achieve a different annual volume provided they were all operated the same number of hours per year. The time dimension refers to the fact that annual volume could also be increased by increasing the number of hours of annual operation, while holding the plant rate, load size and mix constant. A plant with a low receiving rate could possibly receive as much material in a given year as a larger plant simply because of a difference in the number of hours operated per There are therefore two ways of looking at annual volume. First by how much material it is possible to receive in any given hour of operation, or the plants receiving rate, and second by how many hours a year the plant operates at a given rate.

The rate dimension is of major importance to agricultural processing plants which are affected by the seasonal nature of agricultural production. This is especially true with those firms which process the highly perishable commodities and to a

French, et.al., op.cit., page 548.

lesser extent with firms handling the storable commodities such as small grains. The seasonal nature of agricultural production requires that agricultural processing plants be equipped to handle rather large volumes in relatively short periods of time.

Many agricultural processing plants are equipped to receive large seasonal volumes and often operate only a few weeks or months each year. To a degree this is also true with the elevator industry. However, because of the storable nature of small grains and because of sideline activities they usually remain open the year around. They are nevertheless faced with the problem of being equipped to handle large volumes during the harvest season as opposed to having a lower receiving rate and operating more hours per year. Elevators usually add part time labor during the harvest season so that the plant can be operated as near capacity as is possible. At the same time they operate many hours per day (as high as 18 or 20 hours) and for as many days as required to complete the harvest season.

Elevator management usually follows a practice of using both the rate and time dimension to obtain the desired annual volume. A rated capacity is selected that makes it possible to handle the harvest rush in the limited time available and still not so large that great inefficiencies are present at other operating times. This is also an advantage of having double-line as opposed to single-line plants. During the harvest season both lines can be operated as near capacity as possible but at other times only one line need be operated.

For the purposes of this study both the rate and the time dimensions were used. The annual hours of operation used for the model plants were 300, 600, 900, 1200 and 1500 hours per year. This includes only the time during which the model plants are actually operating or receiving grain. The model plants are however assumed to operate the year around. The difference between these annual hours of operation and total annual hours is idle time. Each model plants annual volume and total annual cost were therefore calculated for these annual hours of operation.

Since elevators operate the year around, as opposed to operating only during the harvest season, an adjustment had to be made in the annual hours of operation to allow for the harvest season. It was therefore assumed that each of the model plants would operate the same number of hours during the harvest season regardless of size or total annual hours of operation. One hundred hours was therefore allocated to each model plant as time spent during the harvest season. The remaining time being allocated as non-harvest season operating time. The 100 hours harvest season applies only to grain harvest and not to corn harvest. The affect of harvest season hours on annual volume is discussed below.

Receiving Mix

The grain merchandising operation of the model grain elevators are multi-purpose in nature. This fact requires that some

distinction be made between the annual hours of operation as to time spent on receiving the different commodities. The receiving mix used throughout this study refers to the allocation of the total annual hours of operation to receiving grain and ear corn. Three receiving mixes were used throughout this study, they were: 75% grain and 25% ear corn, 50% grain and 50% ear corn, and 25% grain and 75% ear corn. Receiving mixes of 100% grain or ear corn were omitted because plants designed for one purpose or the other do not exist within the state nor is it likely that this high a degree of regional specialization will occur. The actual hours of operation allocated to receiving grain and ear corn for the various annual hours of operation are shown in table 5.

Average Load Size Received

An important factor affecting annual volume and annual operating cost is the average load size received. This factor is of even more importance when one considers that management has no control over the size or type of vehicle used by farmers. The elevator must therefore be equipped to handle very large loads as well as the very small loads.

The average load sizes used throughout this study were 75 bushels, 150 bushels and 225 bushels. Seventy loads of wheat actually received during plant visitations averaged 140 bushels per load. The range was from a low of 20 bushels to a high of 420 bushels.

Average load size was found to be important because it was observed that it takes about as much time to position and unload

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Table 5:--Allocation of Operating Time to Receiving Grain and Ear Corn According to Receiving Mix and Total Annual Hours of Operation, Michigan, 1961.

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:				Hou	rs of	Opera	tion			
Receiving:		:		:	000		1000	:		
Mix :	300	Hours:	600 1	Hours:	900 1	dours:	1200	Hours:	1500 F	lours
•	Grain	: Corn:	Grain:	Corn:	Crain	: Corn:	Grain	: Corn:	rain:	Corn
:		(Hr)	(Hr)	(Hr)	(Hr)	(Hr)	(Hr)	(Hr)	(Hr)	(Hr)
:		•					•	•		-
Receiving: Grain 75%:										
of the :										
Time and :										
Corn 25%:										
of the : Time :	225	75	450	150	675	225	900	300	1125	375
TIME :	225	15	450	150	015	225	900	300	לבוב	317
Receiving:										
Grain 50%: of the :										
Time and:										
Corn 50%:										
of the :										
Time :	150	150	300	300	450	450	600	600	7 50	7 50
Receiving:										
Grain 25%:										
of the :										
Time and: Corn 75%:										
of the :										
Time. :	75	225	150	450	225	675	3 00	900	375	1125

a small load as it does a larger load. This becomes important when one considers that a large number of small loads would be required to maintain the hourly capacity of the model plants. Whereas, only a few large loads would be required to maintain the same capacity.

The average time per load for the 70 loads observed was 6 minutes and 20 seconds. This includes only the time required to

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position and to actually unload the vehicle. It should be noted that many things contribute to the speed with which a particular load can be received. Many of these depend on the individual farmer and the type of vehicle he uses to hauf his grain. Such things are beyond the control of management and in many cases little can be done to speed up the receiving process. It should also be noted that the above observations were made during the harvest season when the elevators were operating beyond a normal rate. These observations do not include the delay time observed between loads. Table 6 shows the actual hourly receiving rates of the model plants when receiving grain and ear corn in the different average load sizes.

Average load size received was also round to be a determining factor as to whether a single or double-line plant is best. The starred rates in table 6 show the different situations where the actual receiving capacity of the model plants was limited because of the time required to dump grain. It should be noted that even with a double-line plant the actual receiving rates were limited, in some cases, when receiving 75 bushel loads. If these model plants were all single-line plants, the hourly receiving capacity would not exceed 727 bushels per hour, regardless of the plants rated capacity.

Seasonality and Its Affect on Operating Grain Elevators

Large volumes of material pass through grain elevators in relatively short periods of time. This is due to the seasonal

Table 6:--Actual Hourly Receiving Rates for Model Grain Elevators Receiving Grain and Corn in Various Average Load Sizes, Michigan, 1961.

						
:	Average	Load S	lze for	Receiving (Grain an	d Corn
Plant Capacity	75 Bushe	l Load	150 Bu	shel Load:	225 Bus	hel Load
	Grain.	Corn	Grain	Corn	Grain	Corn
	(BPH)	(BPH)	(BPH)	(BPH)	(BPH)	(BPH)
Single-Line						
750 B.P.H.	554	319	611	336	632	342
1500 В.Р.Н.	727*	554	1029	611	1091	63∠
2250 В.Р.Н.	727*	727*	1190*	837	1440	878
Double-line						
2250 В.Р.Н.	1454*	890	1674	960	1756	986
3000 в.р.н.	1454*	1108	2058	1222	2182	1264
37 50 В.Р.Н.	1454*	1281*	2219*	1448	2531	1510
4500 B.P.H.	1454*	1454*	2380*	1674	2880	1756

Corn here refers to shelled corn. These figures should be doubled to obtain the ear corn equivalent. One bushel of shelled corn (56) pounds) is approximately equivalent to two bushels (70 pounds) of husked ear corn.

nature of the harvest and because of the speed with which it is now accomplished. The elevator therefore finds it necessary to be equipped to receive as much grain as is possible in the few days that the harvest season lasts.

In these cases handling capacities were limited because of the time required to position and dump incoming loads. The plants in these instances are equipped to handle more grain than it is physically possible to dump.

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The receiving phase often creates a bottleneck because of the time required for the farmer's vehicle to be positioned, unloaded and moved through the receiving process. The load-out phase creates delays if the receiving process has to be stopped while operators prepare boxcars or trucks for loading. Therefore, additional labor is usually added during the harvest season to help with the receiving process, to board up boxcars, and to help with the loading out process.

It was assumed that material would arrive at the plant, during the harvest season, at a rate that would maintain the actual hourly receiving capacities shown in table 6. It was assumed that during non-harvest periods material arrives at the plant at a rate no faster than that which could be handled by a "normal" labor force, consisting of one or two men, depending on plant size, who operate the entire plant and all of the various technical phases making up that plant. Since a continuous flow of material is no longer a necessity certain phases are operated independently.

Certain of the operating phases need not and usually are not operated as a unit during non-harvest periods. The receiving and loading out phases can be operated as individual operations because of available storage. These operations can be performed independently without interferring with the other three phases of the operation. The delay time between these two phases and the other three phases may be only a few minutes or as high as several months in the case of loading boxcars or trucks. Cleaning, weighing and storage are usually operated as a unit because once

the material starts through the cleaning process it does not stop, except for temporary delays, until it reaches the storage bins.

During these non-harvest season periods the elevator operator usually helps the farmer dump his grain. He then adjusts and starts the various equipment necessary for the cleaning, weighing and storage processes. While the material is being cleaned the operator may do one of several things. He will have to attend the screenings, he will have to adjust and watch the cleaner, he wil have to test the grain for moisture and test weight, he will also have to prepare a ticket and weigh the partial draft. One man cannot possibly accomplish all of these tasks while the grain is being cleaned. A common practice is to dump the load, start the cleaner and do those tasks that can be done while the grain is being cleaned, leaving those tasks for which he does not have time until the entire load has been This includes such things as testing for moisture, testing for test weight and writing the farmer's ticket. There may then be a several week delay before the material is actually loaded out, depending on the time required to assemble a boxcar or truck load.

Annual Volume as Affected By The Model Plants Operating Conditions

Tables 7, 8 and 9 show the total annual volume for each of the model plants operating under each of the various operating conditions. It should be noted that annual volume changes not

Table 7.--Total Annual Volume for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 75 Percent of the Time and Corn 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961. a/

T Comment		Capaci	ty of Single a	nd Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	levators	
Operation and Average Load Size Received	Si.	Single-Line Plants	t t		Double-Line Plants	e Plants	
	750 B.P.H.	: 1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	; 4500 B.F.H.
300 Hours:	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)
75 Bushels	148,575	205,125	218,100	393,900	410,250	423,225	436,200
150 Bushels	162,900	277,350	330,525	448,650	554,700	607,875	661,050
225 Bushels	167,850	292,875	389,850	050,694	585,750	682,725	779,700
600 Hours:	•• •• (
75 Bushels	297,150	410,250	436,200	787,800	820,500	846,450	872,400
150 Bushels	325,350	554,700	661,050	897,300	1,109,400	1,215,750	1,322,100
225 Bushels	335,700	585,750	779,700	938,100	1,171,500	1,365,450	1,559,400
900 Hours:	•• ••						
75 Bushels	445,725	615,375	654,300	1,181,700	1,230,750	1,269,675	1,308,600
150 Bushels	488,025	832,050	991,575	1,345,950	1,664,100	1,823,625	1,983,150
225 Bushels	503,550	878,625	1,169,550	1,407,150	1,757,250	2,048,175	2,339,100

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Table 7 .- Total Annual Volume for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 75 Percent of the Time and Corn 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961 -- Continued.

Annual Hours of		Capac 1	ty of Single ar	nd Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	evators	
Operation and Average Load Size Received	S.	Single-Line Plants	88 44		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
7 en es e	750 В.Р.н.	750 В.Р.Н. : 1500 В.Р.Н.	2250 В.Р.Н.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H. ; 3750 B.P.H. ; 4500 B.P.H.	3750 В.Р.Н.	4500 B.P.E.
1200 Hours:	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)
75 Bushels	594,300	820,500	872,400	1,575,600	1,641,000	1,692,900	1,744,800
150 Bushels	650,700	1,109,400	1,322,100	1,794,600	2,218,800	2,431,500	2,644,200
225 Bushels	671,400	1,171,500	1,559,400	1,876,200	2,343,000	2,730,900	3,118,800
1500 Hours:							
75 Bushels	742,875	1,025,625	1,090,500	1,969,500	2,051,250	2,116,125	2,181,000
150 Bushels	813,375	1,386,750	1,652,625	2,243,250	2,773,500	3,039,375	3,305,250
225 Bushels	839,250	1,464,375	1,949,250	2,345,250	2,928,750	3,413,625	3,898,500

Total annual volume is total volume in bushels of both grain and shelled corn. The respective annual volumes plants, receiving different average load sizes, are obtained from table 6. The total annual volumes of grain of grain and corn are calculated from tables 5 and 6. The hourly receiving capacities for the various model and corn are then obtained by multiplying these hourly capacities by the hours of operation, from table 5. The sum of these two separate annual volumes yields the total annual volume for the respective model plants. for a plant receiving grain 75 percent of the time and corn 25 percent of the time.

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Table 8. Total Annual Volume for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 50 Percent of the Time and Corn 50 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961. 2/

Annial Hours of		Capaci	ty of Single an	nd Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	Levators		ı
Operation and Average Load Size Received		Single-Line Plants	ct a		Double-Line Plants	Plants		1
	750 B.F.H.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.F.H.	3750 B.P.H.	. 4500 B.P.H.	1
300 Hours:	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Pg)	(Bu)	ı
75 Bushels	130,950	192,150	218,100	351,600	384,300	410,250	436,200	•
150 Bushels	142,050	246,000	304,050	395,100	492,000	550,050	608,100	د-
225 Bushels	146,100	258,450	347,700	411,300	516,900	606,150	004.569	
600 Hours:	•• ••							
75 Bushels	261,900	384,300	436,200	703,200	768,600	820,500	872,400	
150 Bushels	284,100	492,000	608,100	790,200	000,486	1,100,100	1,216,200	
225 Bushels	292,200	516,900	695,400	822,600	1,033,800	1,212,300	1,390,800	
900 Hours:	•• •• •							
75 Bushels	392,850	576,450	654,300	1,054,800	1,152,900	1,230,750	1,308,600	
150 Bushels	426,150	738,000	912,150	1,185,300	1,476,000	1,650,150	1,824,300	
225 Bushels	438,300	775,350	1,043,100	1,233,900	1,550,700	1,818,450	2,086,200	
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Table 8. -- Total Annual Volume for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 50 Percent of the Time and Corn 50 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961 -- Continued.

moretion and				•			
Average Load Size Received	S.	Single-Line Plar	ants	• •• ••	Double-Line Plants	e Plants	
	750 B.P.H.	750 В.Р.Н. : 1500 В.Р.Н.	2250 B.P.E.	: 2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 В.Р.н.	H a E 0057
1200 Hours:	(Bu)	(Bn)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)
75 Bushels	523,800	768,600	872,400	1,406,400	1,537,200	1,641,000	1,744,800
150 Bushels	568,200	000,486	1,216,200	1,580,400	1,968,000	2,200,200	2,432,400
225 Bushels	584,400	1,033,800	1,390,800	1,645,200	2,067,600	2,424,600	2,781,600
1500 Hours:	•• •• •						
75 Bushels	654,750	060,750	1,090,500	1,758,000	1,921,500	2,051,250	2,181,000
150 Bushels	710,250	1,230,000	1,520,250	1,975,500	2,460,000	2,750,250	3,040,500
225 Bushels	730,500	1,292,250	1,738,500	2,056,500	2,584,500	3,030,750	3,477,000

plants, receiving different average load sizes, are obtained from table 6. The total annual volumes of grain Ø and corn are then obtained by multiplying these hourly capacities by the hours of operation, from table 5, for a plant receiving grain 50 percent of the time and corn 50 percent of the time. The sum of these two separate annual volumes yields the total annual volume for the respective model plants.

Table 9. -- Total Annual Volume for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961. 2/2

Annual Hours of		Capac 1	ity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	nd Double-Line	Model Grain E	Levators	·
Operation and Average Load Size Received	Sir	Single-Line Plants	t 8	•• •• ••	Double Line-Plants	e-Plants	
	750 B.P.E.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 В.Р. Н.	3750 В.Р.Н.	. 4500 B.P.H.
300 Hours:	(Bn)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)
75 Bushels	113,325	179,175	218,100	309,300	358,350	397,275	436,200
150 Bushels	121,425	214,650	277,575	341,550	429,300	492,225	555,150
225 Bushels	124,350	224,025	305,550	353,550	448,050	529,575	611,100
600 Hours:							
75 Bushels	226,650	358,350	436,200	618,600	716,700	794,550	872,400
150 Bushels	242,850	429,300	555,150	683,100	858,600	054,486	1,110,300
225 Bushels	248,700	448,050	611,100	707,100	896,100	1,059,150	1,222,200
900 Hours:							
75 Bushels	339,975	537,525	654,300	927,900	1,075,050	1,191,825	1,308,600
150 Bushels	364,275	643,950	832,725	1,024,650	1,287,900	1,476,675	1,665,450
225 Bushels	373,050	672,075	916,650	1,060,650	1,344,150	1,588,725	1,833,300

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Table 9. --Total Annual Volume for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of the Time and Corn 75 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961. a/

Annual Hours of		Capaci	ty of Single a	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	Model Grain E	Tevators	
Operation and Average Load Size Received	S1r	Single-Line Plants	t s	•• •• ••	Double Line-Flants	.e-Flants	
	750 B.P.E.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.F.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	4500 B.P.E.
300 Hours:	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)
75 Bushels	113,325	179,175	218,100	309,300	358,350	397,275	436,200
150 Bushels	121,425	214,650	277,575	341,550	429,300	492,225	555,150
225 Bushels	124,350	224,025	305,550	353,550	448,050	529,575	001,110
600 Hours:							
75 Bushels	226,650	358,350	436,200	618,600	716,700	794,550	872,400
150 Bushels	242,850	429,300	555,150	683,100	858,600	984,450	1,110,300
225 Bushels	248,700	448,050	001,110	707,100	896,100	1,059,150	1,222,200
900 Hours:	•• •• (
75 Bushels	339,975	537,525	654,300	927,900	1,075,050	1,191,825	1,308,600
150 Bushels	364,275	643,950	832,725	1,024,650	1,287,900	1,476,675	1,665,450
225 Bushels	373,050	672,075	916,650	1,060,650	1,344,150	1,588,725	1,833,300

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Table 9 .-- Total Annual Volume for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of the Time and Corn 75 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961 -- Continued.

Operation and : Average Load :				Capacity of Single and Boundaring Model of Sin Elevator		·	
SIZE Kecelved		Single-Line Pl	Plants		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
• • •	750 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 В.Р.Н.	4500 В.Р.Н.
: 1200 Hours:	(Bu)	(Bu)	(ng)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)	(Bu)
75 Bushels	453,300	716,700	872,400	1,237,200	1,433,400	1,589,100	1,744,800
150 Bushels	485,700	858,600	1,110,300	1,366,200	1,717,200	1,968,900	2,220,600
225 Bushels	004,764	896,100	1,222,200	1,414,200	1,792,200	2,118,300	2,444,400
1500 Hours:							
75 Bushels	566,625	895,875	1,090,500	1,546,500	1,791,750	1,986,375	2,181,000
150 Bushels	607,125	1,073,250	1,387,875	1,707,750	2,146,500	2,461,125	2,775,750
225 Bushels	621,750	1,120,125	1,527,750	1,767,750	2,240,250	2,647,875	3,055,500

Total annual volume is total volume in pushers or both grain and shelled corm. The respective annual volumes of grain and corm are calculated from tables 5 and 6. The hourly receiving capacities for the various model plants, receiving different average load sizes, are obtained from table 6. The total annual volumes of grain and corn are then obtained by multivelying these hourly capacities by the hours of operation, from table 5, for a plant receiving grain 25 percent of the time and corn 75 percent of the time. The sum of these two separate annual volumes yields the total annual volume for the respective model plants.

only between the various sized plants operating under the same conditions but also as the receiving mix is changed, as the annual hours of operation are changed and as the average load size received is changed. Annual volume is therefore a function of: (1) The scale of plant, which sets the upper limit to the hourly receiving capacity. (2) The annual hours of operation, which influences the annual volume from a time dimension and from which the harvest season hours and receiving mix were calculated, both of which affect annual volume. (3) Receiving mix, which determines the annual hours that wheat and ear corn were received. Total annual volume of wheat and corn, on a shelled basis, is a function of the actual receiving rate and the number of hours that each is received, and (4) The average load size received, which in part determines the actual hourly receiving rate of the model plants and which has an affect on the total annual volume received.

CHAPTER V

BUDGETING OF COST AND MODEL PLANT COST FUNCTIONS

Introduction

Accuracy of budgeting expense items in a model operation depend on intimate knowledge of actual operations and practical judgment. In building the model elevators used in this thesis the individual consideration of each item of expense was assumed to be the most accurate procedure to follow in estimating the various expenses. The description of and the reasons for procedures used by individual items of expense, have been confined to Appendixes A, B, and C.

All operating costs are grouped into fixed and variable expenses, fixed expense items being those related to property and facilities (durable assets) and their valuations. Their amount is not influenced by the amount of annual volume. Variable expenses make up the balance of the elevators' operating expenses and change in varying degrees with volume and management decisions. The various items included in each of these categories are discussed below.

Investment In Durable Assets

Budgeting of investment in durable assets represents the basis for computing fixed costs. The assets included in this category are: land and land improvements, buildings (commonly called the plants work area), storage facilities, machinery and equipment, cob burner, railroad siding, trucking equipment,

office building and office furnishings.

Machinery and equipment is the largest single investment item. Investment in machinery and equipment was estimated for each operating phase of each model plant. Included in this estimate is the cost of machinery installations which amounted to about 40 percent of the list price of the equipment. Miscellaneous equipment was also estimated and included. A detailed list of the machinery and equipment provided for each phase of the model plants operations and the associated office equipment are included in Appendix A.

Table 10 shows the total installed cost of equipment for the various operating phases and for the entire 2250 bushel per hour double-line model plant. Total annual equipment depreciation is also shown in table 10.

Table 10.--Total Estimated Investment in Machinery and Equipment and Total Annual Depreciation For A Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Operating Phase	Installed Cost of Equipment	Annual Depreciation
	(dollars)	(dollars)
Receiving	\$ 8,922	\$ 480
Cleaning	41,193	2,417
Weighing	8,459	630
Storage	13,700	730
Load-Cut	12,039	695
Miscellaneous Equipment	3,056	238
Plant Total	\$87,369	\$5,190

Table 11 shows the total estimated investment in durable assets for the model plants used in this study. The details as to procedures used in making the various cost estimates are shown in Appendix A.

Cost Associated With Owning Durable Assets

This category includes all those fixed costs associated with owning the physical assets discussed above. These fixed costs have no relation to the plants actual operations and are based entirely on the total investment made in the various durable assets. The fixed expense items used are: insurance on buildings, equipment and truck; depreciation on buildings and all equipment; maintenance and repairs; personal property taxes; and interest on investment. These fixed expenses were estimated on an annual basis. The actual estimates and estimating techniques are presented in Appendix B.

These are all expense items based on valuations or a specific service necessary if the plant is to operate. They are not associated with volume changes. Once they are fairly well established for a specific plant, they are not subject to change from year to year by management. Thus, their amount has a fixed character for a given plant in relation to the various volume situations that may prevail for that plant.

Depreciation expense was by far the most important item included in this cost category. The depreciation expense for each fixed asset was estimated separately and as accurately as possible. The techniques used are the same as those now being

Table 11. Estimated Investment in Durable Assets for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

		Capacit	Capacity of Single and Double Line Model Grain Elevators	nd Double Line	Model Grain E.	Levators	
Durable Resets	5 S	Single-Line Plants	20		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
, w •	750 B.P.H.	750 B.P.H. : 1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.
	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars),	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
Land and Land : Improvements	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,125	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ 4,375	\$ 5,000	\$ 5° 625
Buildings	12,650	009،41	16,450	29,000	30,000	34, 300	35,800
Storage Facilities:	23,200	37,200	146,750	146,750	61,950	77, 450	92,950
Machinery and Equipment	h1,937	51, 477	59,392	87,369	99 ₈ 075	110,388	118,493
Corn Cob Burner	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	000،41	οοο ° ητ	000,41
Railroad Siding	8,100	9,300	10,500	12,900	14,100	15,300	16,500
Trucking Equipment	μ , 300	1,,300	900 وبل	η, 300	η , 300	14, 300	14,300
Office Building :	7,650	7,650	9,200	9,200	11,500	11,500	11,500
Office Equipment	3,526	3,526	3,848	3,848	4,175	4,175	4,175
TOTAL	\$110,863	\$138,178	\$161,190	\$204,117	\$243,475	\$276,413	\$303,343

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used for accounting and income tax purposes throughout Michigan.

Insurance cost includes fire and wind coverage on all buildings and equipment and liability, collision, and comprehensive insurance on the one truck provided for each plant.

Insurance costs are based on the actual durable asset cost estimates and are based on rates in effect during 1960.

Personal property tax was calculated for each model plant according to data obtained from elevators now operating in Michigan. Property tax varies widely within the state and the expense included here was calculated at an average rate which was representative of state conditions.

Total repairs and maintenance expense was broken down into variable and fixed categories. The fixed expenses included here are for those repairs and maintenance which show no relation to the plants operation or volume handled. This includes such things as the painting of buildings and an estimate of general deterioration associated with time. The repairs and maintenance included as variable expenses include the upkeep and replacement of parts caused by actual operations and volume handled. This includes spouting replacement, electric motor repairs, and any worn machinery parts. These costs are discussed in detail under the variable cost category.

Interest on investment or on long-term capital differed from interest expense commonly found in operating expense statements since it includes an interest return to equity capital. Interest on seasonal capital is included as a

variable expense because it is needed primarily during the harvest season and depends on the average annual inventory maintained. To keep the models on a comparable basis, interest expense was calculated on all long-term capital. Long term capital here refers to the total investment per model plant in fixed durable assets.

Fixed costs of depreciation, insurance, personal property taxes, repairs and maintenance, and interest on investment are summarized in table 12.

Variable Cost Associated With Volume and Plant Operations

This category includes the cost of all variable resources associated with the plants actual operations and volume handled. Variable expenses change in varying degrees with changes in volume and management decisions. The degree of variation differs sharply among the various expense items. That is, some expenses, respond slowly to volume and size changes while others respond more proportionately to such changes. For this reason, each variable expense item was budgeted separately, see Appendix C.

Such expenses as utilities, advertising, donations, auditing, repairs, directors' fees, and travel fall within the group that do not vary in direct relation to volume. They are often characterized by a minimum, either actual, as in the case of electric power, or set by the manager as in the case of advertising or donations. Other variable expenses such as office supplies, and insurance on stocks and plant supplies vary more directly with volume than the groups just mentioned.

Table 12. -- Annual Fixed Expenses for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Expense Item	: Sing	Single-Line Plants	t s		Double-Line Plants	e Plants	
4	750 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.E.	750 B.P.H.:1500 B.P.H.:2250 B.P.H.:3250 B.P.H.:3000 B.P.H.:3750 B.P.H.:4500 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	4500 B.F.H.
Annual Fixed Expenses:	: (Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
a/ Depreciation	\$5,197	\$6,201	\$7,026	\$90.6\$	\$10,609	\$11,760	\$12,655
Insurance	341	360	144	595	713	922	821
Personal Property Tax	2,217	2,764	3,224	4,082	4,870	5,528	290.9
A/Repairs and Maintenance	370	191	537	989	812	921	110.1
e/ Interest on Investment	2,772	3,454	4,030	5,103	6,087	6,910	7,584
Total Fixed Expenses	\$10,897	\$13,270	\$15,258	\$19,525	\$23,091	\$25,895	\$28,138

and equipment, cob burners, trucks and office equipment are depreciated on a straight line basis, each individual piece of equipment was depreciated separately.

buildings and machinery; and liability, collision and comprehensive insurance for the one truck provided for This insurance expense represents almost 100 percent protection from both fire and wind to the cost of the ام

Interest on investment calculated at 5 percent of the average undepreciated value over the life of the assets. allocated as a fixed expense and the remainder prorated to variable expense according to hours of operation. Total revairs and maintenance calculated at 2 percent of total investment with one-sixth of this expense Taxes calculated at 4 percent of the average undepreciated value over the life of the assets. जेन) | The items included as variable expenses throughout this study are as follows: Personnel expenses, which include salaries, wages, workmen's compensation insurance, and social security taxes; utilities, power and light; repairs and maintenance; interest on seasonal capital; inventory insurance; general liability insurance and miscellaneous expenses. Included in the miscellaneous expense category are such things as advertising, legal and auditing expenses, office supplies, plant supplies, telephone and telegraph, truck expense, allowance for worthless accounts, office heat and other general operating expenses.

The same operating conditions that affect annual volume also affect variable expenses. These operating conditions were discussed in Chapter IV and are: scale or size of plant, annual hours of operation, receiving mix, and average load size received. Variable expenses as affected by these operating conditions are presented for each of the model plants in tables 13, 14, and 15.

Personnel expenses are by far the most important expense included in this category, amounting to about 50 percent of the total for each plant. Wages for plant labor is the most important item, followed by the manager's salary and wages for clerical help. Social security taxes and workmen's compensation insurance account for the remaining cost included in this expense and are directly related to the total cost of wages and salaries.

Table 13.--Total Anmal Variable Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 75 Percent of the Time and Corn 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961.

		Capaci.	ty of Single a	nd Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	evators		
Annual Hours of Operation and Average Load	w.	Single_Line Plants	الري .		Double-Line Plants	Plants		1
Size Received	750 B.P.H.	750 В.Р.Н. : 1500 В.Р.Н.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.	1
300 Hours:	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	ı
75 Bushels	\$11,156	\$13,079	\$11,776	\$16,706	\$18,625	\$20,574	\$22,027	-85
150 Bushels	30,968	12,904	14,728	16,186	18,371	20,185	21,929	-
225 Bushels	10,967	12,845	14,620	15,990	18,097	20,171	21,853	
600 Hours:								
75 Bushels	13,354	15,865	18,296	21,723	24,685	27,636	29,837	
150 Bushels	13,041	15,605	18,150	20°10h	23,274	26,634	441,65	
225 Bushels	13,042	15,536	18,075	19,775	22,654	25,759	28,636	
900 Hours:	· •							
75 Bushels	15,387	18,868	22,304	29,897	33,363	37,271	240°01	
150 Bushels	15,002	18,292	21,710	25,631	32,736	36,459	39,074	
225 Bushels	36,41	18,157	21,411	242,42	29,295	36,001	38,758	
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Table 13,--Total Annual Variable Cost for Model Grain Elsvators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 75 Percent of the Time and Corn 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961--Continued.

	a a	Capacit	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	d Double-Line	Model Grain E	evators	
Annual Hours of Operation and Average Load	S.	Single-Line Plants	10		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
Size Received	750 B.P.H. : 1500 B.P.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 В.Р.Н.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H. : L500 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.
1200 Hours:	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
75 Bushels	\$17,718	\$26,514	\$30,336	\$39 ₉ 093	\$43,155	\$47,454	\$50,257 @
150 Bushels	16,982	21,921	26,933	32,879	38,875	16,993	\$0°05
225 Bushels	16,869	21,017	26,421	32,409	36,865	142,809	49,735
1500 Hours:	•• ••						
75 Bushels	201,12	29,341	33,736	14,291	53,028	58,18h	61,664
150 Bushels	18,958	28,775	33,453	38,669	47,063	53,507	61,088
225 Bushels	18,827	24,963	33,309	36,314	गगग ॰ 9ग	51,798	57,075

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Table 14.--Total Annual Variable Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 50 Percent of The Time and Corn 50 Percent of The Time, Michigan, 1961.

	oo oo oo	Capaci	ity of Single and Double-Line Grain Elevators	nd Double-Line	Grain Elevato:	£.	
Annual Hours of Operation and Average Load		Single-Line Plants	.5		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
Size Received	750 B.P.H.	750 В.Р.Н. : 1500 В.Р.Н.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	4500 В.Р.Н.
300 Hours:	: (Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
75 Bushels	\$21,11\$	\$13,059	\$14,731	\$16,764	\$18,690	\$20,601	\$22°044
150 Bushels	196°CI :	12,817	279,41	16,319	18,260	20,343	21,831
225 Bushels	: 10,963	12,817	14,678	16,064	18,061	20,078	21°517
600 Hours	**						
75 Bushels	13,309	16,003	18,371	21,195	24,384	27,559	30,038
150 Bushels	13,056	15,577	18,158	20,106	23,009	26,024	28,571
225 Bushels	12,995	15,510	18,077	018 , 21	22,677	25,484	27,867
900 Hours:							
75 Bushels	15,492	18,695	22, 456	30°014	33,364	37,304	40,533
150 Bushels	14,999	18,318	21,550	25,061	32,776	36,472	38,988
225 Bushels	14,995	18,185	21,453	23,767	28,573	36,105	38,777
						Continued)	

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Table 14. Total Annual Variable Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 50 Percent of The Time, Michigan, 1961 -- Continued.

Single-Line Plants 750 B.P.H.; 1500 B.P.H.; (Dollars) (Dollars) 17,003 21,145 16,997 21,085 20,463 29,425	ee ee		Capaci	ty of Single a	nd Dowble-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	Levators	
750 B.P.H.; 1500 B.P.H.; (Dollars) (\$17,455 \$23,194 17,003 \$21,445 16,997 \$21,085	mal Hours of : seration and : verage Load #	St	ngle-Line Flan	80		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
18 : \$17,455 \$23,194 \$ 18 : 17,003 21,445 19 : 16,997 21,085 : : : 20,463 29,425	Ize Received :	750 В.Р.Н.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.		2250 B.P.H. : 3000 B.P.H. : 3750 B.P.H. : 1500 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.
8 : \$17,455 \$23,194 \$ 8 : 17,003 21,445 8 : 16,997 21,085 18 : 20,463 29,425	200 Hours:	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
8 : 17,003 21,445 8 : 16,997 21,085 18 : 20,463 29,425	75 Bushels	\$17,455	\$23,194	\$30,455	\$35,979	\$43°355	\$47,693	\$51,096
8 : 16,997 21,085 : : 20,463 29,425	150 Bushels	17,003	21,145	26,627	33,056	37,814	43,576	50,208
; ; 1s ; 20,463 29,425	225 Bushels	16,997	21,085	25,863	29,520	36,953	162,14	16,297
; 20,463 29,425 ;	E00 Hours:							
	75 Bushels	20,463	29,425	33,943	43,591	49,951	58,471	62 ₉ 149
150 Bushels: 19,052 25,528 33,580	150 Bushels	19,052	25,528	33,580	37,659	47,258	52 , 589	57,597
225 Bushels: 18,938 24,972 33,386	225 Bushels	18,938	24°972	33,386	36,480	1,2,660	51,967	55,742

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Table 15.--Total Annual Variable Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of The Time and Corn 75 Percent of The Jime 1961.

7		Capacit	y of Single a	city of Single and Double-Line Grain Elevators	Grain Elevator	ņ		
Anmal Hours of Operation and Average Load	34.	Single-Line Flants		da da	Double-Line Plants	. Plants		_
Size Received	750 B.P.H.	750 B.P.H. : 1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.		3000 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H. ; 3000 B.P.H. ; 3750 B.P.H. ; 1,500 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.	
11 006	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	
75 Bushels	\$11,037	\$12,870	\$61°71	\$16,417	\$18,283	\$20,151	\$21,606	
150 Bushels	. 10,829	12,666	0£4°71	16,000	710,81	19,904	21,340	0 7 ~
225 Bushels	10,828	12,665	14,367	15,854	178,71	19,684	21,257	
600 Hours:	•• ••							
75 Bushels	13,30h	15,911	18,293	20,788	24,049	27,430	30,206	
150 Bushels	12,987	15,604	18,033	20,130	22,860	25,72h	27,928	
225 Bushels	12,985	15,542	17,954	19,866	22,527	25,378	27, 142	
900 Hours:								
75 Bushels	821,21	18,716	22,676	29,999	33,387	37,246	40°,830	
150 Bushels	240 ₆ 21	18,322	21,508	24,349	29,123	36,377	38,880	
225 Bushels	15,043	18,191	21,368	23,726	27,670	32,236	38,616	
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Table 15,--Total Annual Variable Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of The Time and Corn 75 Percent of The Time, Michigan, 1961--Continued.

		Capacit	ty of Single an	d Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Grain Elevators	ĝ.	
Annual Hours of Operation and Average Load	Str	Single-Line Plants	88 23		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
Sise Received	750 B.P.H. 1500 B.P.	Ħ	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H. ; 2250 B.P.H. ; 3000 B.P.H. ; 3750 B.P.H. ; 4500 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.
1200 Hours:	: (Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
75 Bushels	\$17,543	\$23,337	\$30,574	\$34,809	\$43°394	\$47,801	\$51,570
150 Bushels	16,984	21,010	26,133	33,133	37,400	011, दी	16,830
225 Bushels	16,977	20,874	25,296	28,644	36,925	424,11	14,951
1500 Howrs:	•• ••						
75 Bushels	19,732	29,472	34,054	43,417	49°64	58,651	62,317
150 Bushels	18,989	24,882	33,529	37,121	43,776	52,561	56, hho
225 Bushels	18,982	23,785	59,966	36,648	175,14	148,370	55,683
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Some of the individual expense items included in this category vary as each of the four operating conditions are varied. Power and lights for example are a direct function of plant size, hours of operation, receiving mix and average load size received. Others vary only as certain of the operating conditions are varied. Maintenance expense is a function only of plant size and hours of operation, whereas, interest on seasonal capital and inventory insurance are a function of plant size, hours of operation, and receiving mix. The reasons for these differences plus the details and procedures used in estimating the variable resource requirements and costs are shown in Appendix C.

Total Annual Cost and Total Cost Functions

Total annual cost for the various model plants, operating under the various conditions set forth, are shown in tables 16, 17, and 18. The total annual costs shown in these tables were obtained by adding the total annual fixed costs from table 12 and the total variable costs from tables 13, 14, and 15. The cost shown in tables 16, 17, and 18 are for the corresponding annual volumes shown in tables 7, 8, and 9.

The synthesis of total annual cost is often referred to as combining the building blocks because it is primarily a simple case of addition and is a function of both total annual fixed and variable cost.29 Total cost is therefore a function

²⁹ French, et. al., op. cit., page 660.

Table 16 .-- Total Annual Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 75 Percent of the Time and Corn 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961.

Annual Hours of		Capact	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	nd Double-Line	Model Grain El	evators		1
Operation and Average Load Size Received	,	Single-Line Plants	t as		Double-Line Plants	Plants		1
	750 B.P.H.	: 1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 В.Р. Н.	3750 в.Р.н.	4500 B.P.H.	l
300 Hours:	: (Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	ŀ
75 Bushels	\$22,053	\$26,349	\$30.034	\$36,231	\$41,716	694°94\$	\$50,165	-92
150 Bushels	21,865	26,174	59,986	35,711	41,462	46,380	50,067	-
225 Bushels	21,864	26,115	29,878	35,515	41,188	990.94	166,64	
600 Hours:	••••							
75 Bushels	24,251	29,135	33,554	41,248	47,776	53,531	57,975	
150 Bushels	23,938	28,875	33,408	39,629	46,365	52,529	57,282	
225 Bushels	23,939	28,806	33,333	39,300	45,745	51,654	56,774	
900 Hours:	• •• •							
75 Bushels	782,284	32,138	37,562	49,422	76,454	63,166	68,180	
150 Bushels	25,899	31,562	36,968	45,156	55,827	62,354	67,212	
225 Bushels	25,833	31,427	36,669	43,767	52,386	61,986	968,99	
)	(Continued)		1

(Continued)

Table 16. -- Total Annual Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 75 Percent of the Time and Corn 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961--Continued.

	1		1	- 93-	•					
		: 4500 B.P.E.	(Dollars)	\$78,395	78,184	77,873		89,802	89,226	85,213
evators	Plants	3750 В.Р.Н.	(Dollars)	\$73,349	72,888	402,89		64,079	79,402	77,693
Model Grain El	Double-Line Plants	3000 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$66,246	996'19	59,956		76,119	70,154	69,535
1 Double-Line		2250 B.P.H.: 3000 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$58,618	52,404	51,934		63,816	58,194	55,839
Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	ants	2250 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$45,594	42,191	41,679		766 87	48,711	48,567
Capacit	Single-Line Plant	1500 B.P.H.:	(Dollars)	\$39,814	35,191	34,287		42,611	45,045	38,233
	S1 ₁	750 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$28,615	27,879	27,766		31,999	29,855	427,62
Annual Hours of	Operation and Average Load Size Received	•• ••	1200 Hours:	75 Bushels	150 Bushels	225 Bushels	1500 Hours:	75 Bushels	150 Bushels	225 Bushels

Table 17.--Total Annual Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 50 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961.

Annis Hoire of		Capac 1	ty of Single a	nd Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	Levators	
Operation and Average Load Size Received	S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	Single-Line Plants	89		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
	750 В.Р.н.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 В.Р. Н.	3750 В.Р.Н.	4500 B.P.H.
300 Hours:	: (Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
75 Bushels	\$22,053	\$26,329	\$29,989	\$36,289	\$41,781	964,94	\$50,182
150 Bushels	21,861	26,087	29,933	35,844	41,351	46,238	696'64
225 Bushels	21,860	26,087	29,936	35,589	41,152	45,973	49,887
600 Hours:	•• •• •						
75 Bushels	54,206	29,273	33,629	40,720	47,475	53,454	58,176
150 Bushels	23,953	28,847	33,416	39,631	46,100	51,919	56,709
225 Bushels	23,892	28,780	33,335	39,365	45,768	51,379	500.95
900 Hours:							
75 Bushels	26,389	31,965	37,714	49,539	56,455	63,199	68,671
150 Bushels	25,896	31,588	36,808	44,586	55,867	62,367	67,126
225 Bushels	25,892	31,455	36,711	43,292	51,564	62,000	66,915

(continued)

Table 17.--Total Annual Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 50 Percent of the Time and Corn 50 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961--Continued.

1		I	-	95-						
		4500 В.Р. Н.	(Dollars)	\$79,234	78,346	74,435		90,287	85,735	83,880
evators	Plants	3750 в.Р.н.	(Dollars)	\$73,588	124,69	989'19		996,48	484,87	77,862
Model Grain El	Double-Line Plants	3000 В.Р.н.	(Dollars)	9771.99\$	906,09	47170°09		73,042	50,349	65,751
d Double-Line		2250 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$55,504	52,531	540.64		63,116	57,184	56,005
Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	ø	2250 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$45,713	41,885	41,121		49,201	48,838	148,844
Capacity o	Single-Line Plants	1500 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	496,464	34,715	34,355		42,695	38,798	38,242
	Sir	750 B.P.H. : 1500 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$28,352	27,900	27,894		31,360	59,949	29,835
Annual Hours of	Operation and Average Load Size Received	, ••• ••	1200 Hours:	75 Bushels	150 Bushels	225 Bushels	1500 Hours:	75 Bushels	150 Bushels	225 Bushels

Table 18. -- Total Annual Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of the Time and Corn 75 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961.

Annual Hours of		Capaci	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	nd Double-Line	Model Grain E	levators	
Operation and Average Load Size Received		Single-Line Plants	t 88		Double-Line Plants	e Plants	
	750 B.P.A.	: 1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.E.	3750 B.P.H.	4500 B.P.H.
300 Hours:	: (Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)
75 Bushels	\$21,934	\$26,140	\$29,756	\$35,942	\$41,374	9110,911\$	4772.677\$
150 Bushels	21,726	25,936	29,688	35,525	41,108	45,799	84,64
225 Bushels	21,725	25,935	29,625	35,379	40,962	45,579	49,395
600 Howes:	••••						
75 Bushels	24,201	29,181	33,551	40,313	47,140	53,325	58,344
150 Bushels	23,884	28,874	33,291	39,655	45,951	51,619	990'95
225 Bushels	23,882	28,812	33,212	39,391	45,618	51,273	55,580
900 Hours:							
75 Bushels	26,325	31,986	37,934	45.524	56,478	63,141	896*89
150 Bushels	25,942	31,592	36,766	43,874	52,214	62,272	67,018
225 Bushels	25,940	31,461	36,626	43,251	50,761	58,131	456,99
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(Continued)

Table 18. --Total Annual Cost for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961--Continued.

1]	!		-97-	•					
		4500 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$79,708	24,968	73,089		90,455	84,578	83,821
evators	Plants	3750 В.Р.н.	(Dollars)	\$73,696	68,335	62,319		975.48	78,456	74,265
Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	Double-Line Plants	3000 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$66,485	164,09	910,09		72,385	298,99	799,49
d Double-Line		1	(Dollars)	\$54.334	52,658	48,169		62,942	949*95	56,173
y of Single ar	ø	2250 B.P.H. : 2250 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$45,832	41,391	40,554		49,312	48,787	45,224
Capac1t	Single-Line Plants	1500 B.P.H.	(Dollars)	\$36,607	34,280	までま		42,742	38,152	37,055
	Sir	750 В.Р.Н.	(Dollars)	\$28,440	27,881	478,72		30,629	988,62	29,879
Annual Hours of	Operation and Average Load Size Received	T •• •• ••	1200 Hours:	75 Bushels	150 Bushels	225 Bushels	1500 Hours:	75 Bushels	150 Bushels	225 Bushels

of the same factors as total annual fixed and variable costs.

The relationship of the synthesized total cost to output was very nearly a linear relation in all cases. Figure 3 shows the linear relation of total annual cost to total annual volume for the 750 bushel model plant. It should be noted that the total cost curve for receiving 75 bushel loads, with the 75/25 and 50/50 mixes, rises sharply at the higher levels of output. At the same time the total cost curves for receiving 150 and 225 bushel loads, with a 25/75 mix, slope downward at the lower levels of output.

Similar cost functions, as those shown in figure 3, were observed for all model plants. Figure 4 shows the total annual cost curves for the 4500 bushel per hour plant. The kinks observed in the 150 and 225 bushel load total cost curves were due to indivisibilities caused by the addition of another full time man. The additional labor charge caused the total cost curve to rise with a new slope at these points.

Short-Run Average Cost and Average Cost Curves

Per unit costs are used extensively for price and output analysis, more so than total cost. They provide the same kind of information as total cost relations, but in a different, and frequently more usable form. The family of unit cost curves that can be computed include the average fixed cost, the average variable cost, the average total cost, and the marginal cost. However, only average total cost and average cost curves are discussed in this section as they include

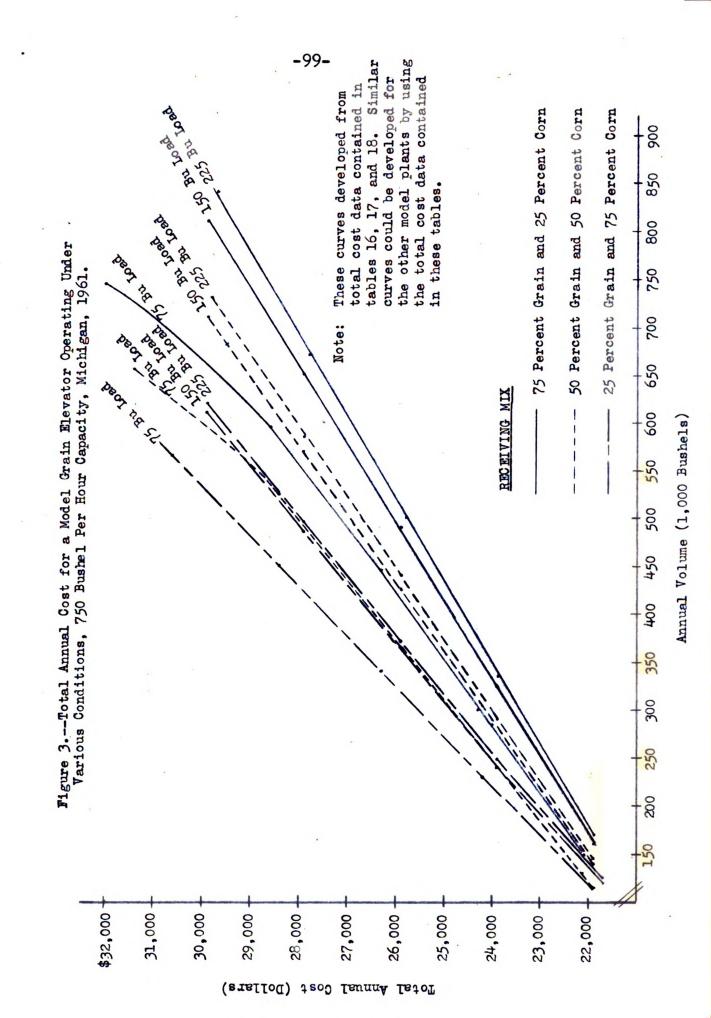
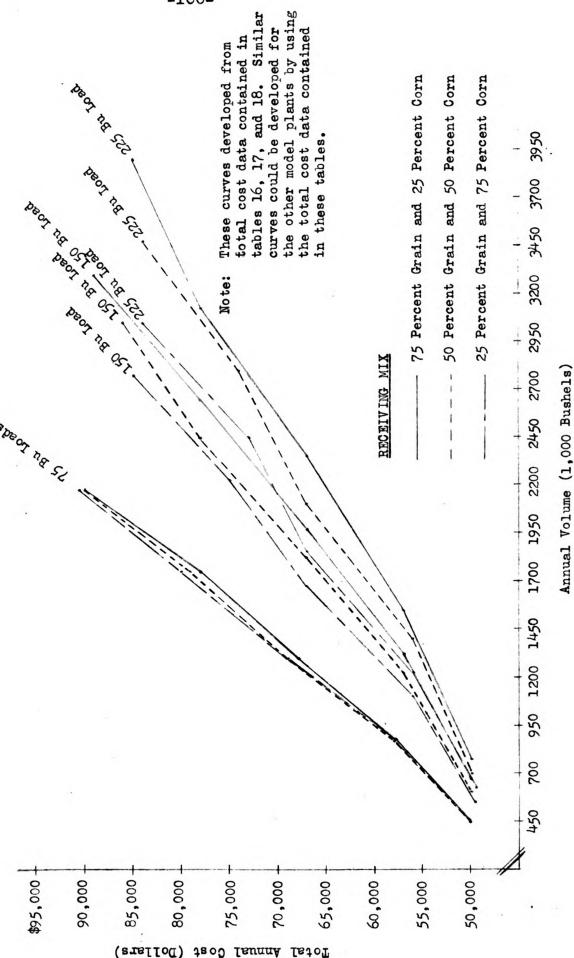


Figure 4. --Total Annual Cost for a Model Grain Elevator Operating Under Various Conditions, 4500 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.



both fixed and variable cost and give some indication of marginal cost.30

Average costs per bushel are shown in tables 19, 20, and 21 for the model plants included in this study. These per bushel cost were obtained by dividing the annual total cost from tables 16, 17, and 18 by the annual volumes from tables 7, 8, and 9.

The primary use of per unit or average cost is for the construction of short-run average cost curves from which economies or diseconomies of scale can be determined. The short-run average cost curve is usually thought to be a U-shaped curve. Its U-shape depends upon the efficiency with which both fixed and variable resources are used.

The short-run average cost curves for the model plants receiving average load sizes of 150 bushels, a receiving mix of 50% grain and 50% corn, and different annual hours of operation are shown in figure 5.

The cost of handling a bushel of grain reflects the relationship between volume handled and the total of all fixed and variable expenses. Unit handling costs tend to decrease with increases in handling volume. Thus, the downward sloping

The average total cost curve is the vertical summation of the average fixed cost curve and the average variable cost curve. The Marginal Cost curve bears a unique relation—ship to the average cost curve which is derived from the same total cost curve. When AC is decreasing as output increases, MC is less than AC. When AC is increasing as output increases, MC is greater than AC. It follows that at the output at which AC is a minimum, MC is equal to AC.

Table 19. -- Average Cost Per Bushel for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 75 Percent of the Time and Corn 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961.

Annual Hours of	•• •• ••	Capac 1	ty of Single a	nd Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	levators		
Operation and Average Load Size Received		Single-Line Plants	ts		Double-Line Plants	Plants		
	750 B.P.H.	: 1500 B.P.H.	: 2250 B.P.H.	; 2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	. 4500 B.P.B.	
300 Hows:	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cent B)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	-
75 Bushels	14.84	12.85	13.77	9.20	10.17	10.98	11.50	102-
150 Bushels	13.42	77.6	20.6	7.96	2.47	7.63	7.57	•
225 Bushels	13.03	8.92	7.66	7.57	7.03	6.75	ι η•9	
600 Hours:	• •• •							
75 Bushels	8.16	7.10	69.2	5.24	5.82	6.32	6.65	
150 Bushels	7.36	5.21	5.05	74.45	4.18	4.32	4.33	
225 Bushels	7.13	76.4	4.28	4.19	3.90	3.78	3.64	
900 Hows:								
75 Bushels	5.90	5.22	5.74	4.18	4.59	4.97	5.21	
150 Bushels	5.31	3.79	3.73	3-35	3.35	3.42	3.39	
225 Bushels	5.13	3.58	3.14	3.11	2.98	3.03	2. 86	
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(continued)

Table 19. -- Average Cost Per Bushel for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 75 Percent of the Time and Corn 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961--Continued.

Annual Hours of	•• •• ••	Capaci	ty of Single ar	nd Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	evators	
Operation and Average Load Size Received	S1	Single-Line Plants	t s		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
	750 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3000 В.Р.Н. : 3750 В.Р.Н. : 4500 В.Р.Н.	4500 В.Р.Я.
1200 Hours:	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)
75 Bushels	14.81	4.85	5.23	3.72	40°4	4.33	03-
150 Bushels	4.28	3.17	3.19	2.92	2.79	3.00	2.96
225 Bushels	41.4	2.93	2.67	2.77	2.56	2.52	2.50
1500 Hours:	•• •• •						
75 Bushels	4.31	4.15	64.4	3.24	3.71	3.97	4.12
150 Bushels	3.67	3.03	2.95	2.59	2.53	2.61	2.70
225 Bushels	. 3.54	2.61	5,49	2.38	2,37	2,28	2.19

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Table 20. -- Average Cost Per Bushel for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 50 Percent of the Time and Corn 50 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961.

Annual Hours of	•• •• ••	Capact	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	nd Dowble-Line	Model Grain E	levators		
Operation and Average Load Size Received		Single-Line Plants	t as		Double-Line Plants	e Plants		1
	750 B.P.H.	1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.H.	4500 B.P.H.	
300 Hows:	: (Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	-
75 Bushels	16.84	13.70	13.75	10.32	10.87	11.33	11.50	104-
150 Bushels	15.39	10.60	78.6	20.6	8,40	8.41	8.22	•
225 Bushels	14.96	10.09	8.61	8.65	96°2	7.58	7.17	
600 Hours:	•• •• •							
75 Bushels	42.6	7.62	7.71	5.79	6.18	6.51	6.67	
150 Bushels	8.43	5.86	5.50	5.02	4.68	4.72	79.4	
225 Bushels	8.18	5.57	62.4	4.79	4.43	4.24	4.03	;
900 Hours:	·• •• ·							
75 Bushels	6.72	5.55	5.76	4.70	06.4	5.13	5.25	
150 Bushels	90. 9	4.28	†0°†	3.76	3.79	3.78	3.68	
225 Bushels	5.91	90•4	3.52	3.51	3.33	3.41	3.21	
					(00)	(000+1000)		1

(continued)

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Table 20. -- Average Cost Per Bushel for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 50 Percent of the Time and Corn 50 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961--Continued.

Annual Hour s of		Capaci	ty of Single an	nd Double-Line	Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	evators	
Operation and Average Load Size Received	÷ ÷ ÷	Single-Line Plants	ts		Double-Line Plants	Plants	
	750 B.P.H.	750 B.P.H. : 1500 B.P.H.	2250 B.P.H.	: 2250 B.P.H.	3000 B.P.H.	3750 B.P.E.	4500 B.P.E.
1200 Hours:	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)
75 Bushels	5.41	42.4	5.24	3.95	4.32	84.4	105 - ま
150 Bushels	16.41	3.53	3.44	3.33	3.09	3.16	3.22
225 Bushels	4.77	3.32	2.96	2.98	2.90	2.79	2,68
1500 Hours:	•• •• (
75 Bushels	4.79	††† • †	4.51	3.59	3.80	4.11	40.14
150 Bushels	4.22	3.15	3.21	2.89	2.86	2,85	2.82
225 Bushels	4.08	2,96	2.80	2.72	2.54	2.57	2,41

Table 21. -- Average Cost Per Bushel for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of the Time and Corn 75 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961.

Operation and Average Load Single-Line Plants Double-Line Plants Size Received 1750 B.P.H.; 1500 B.P.H.; 12250 B.P.H.; 2250 B.P.H.; 3000 B.P.H.; 3750 B.P.H.; 4500 B.P.H. 300 Hours: (Gents) (G	Annual Hours of		Capaci	ty of Single a	nd Double-Line	ity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators	evators	
class (Gents)	and Load ived	S.	ngle-Line Plan	ct cs		Double-Line	Plants	
els 19.35 14.59 13.64 11.62 11.55 11.59 11.40 els 19.35 14.59 13.64 10.40 9.58 9.30 8.91 els 17.89 12.08 10.70 10.40 9.58 9.30 8.91 els 17.47 11.58 9.70 10.01 9.14 8.61 8.08 els 9.83 6.73 6.00 5.81 5.35 5.24 5.05 els 9.60 6.43 5.43 5.57 5.09 4.84 4.55 els 7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 5.27 els 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.28 4.05 3.66 3.64 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66 3.64 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.64 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 els 6.95 6.95 els 6.		750 B.P.H.	1	ł	l	Ì	3750 B.P.H.	
els 19.35 14.59 13.64 11.62 11.55 11.59 11.40 els 17.89 12.08 10.70 10.40 9.58 9.30 8.91 els 17.47 11.58 9.70 10.01 9.14 8.61 8.08 els 10.68 8.14 7.69 6.52 6.58 6.71 6.69 els 9.60 5.81 5.35 5.24 5.05 els 9.60 5.81 5.35 5.24 5.05 els 7.74 5.95 5.81 5.09 4.84 4.55 els 7.74 4.42 4.28 4.05 5.36 5.27 els 7.12 4.91 4.02 5.25 5.30 5.27 els 7.12 4.91 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.64	 m	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)	(Cents)
els 17.89 12.08 10.70 10.40 9.58 9.30 8.91 els 17.47 11.58 9.70 10.01 9.14 8.61 8.08 els 10.68 8.14 7.69 6.52 6.58 6.71 6.69 els 9.83 6.73 6.00 5.81 5.35 5.24 5.05 els 9.60 6.43 5.43 5.57 5.09 4.84 4.55 els 7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 5.27 els 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.08 4.05 4.05 4.02 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.64	75 Bushels	19.35	14.59	13.64	11.62	11.55	11.59	11.40
els 17.47 11.58 9.70 10.01 9.14 8.61 els 10.68 8.14 7.69 6.52 6.58 6.71 els 9.83 6.73 6.00 5.81 5.35 5.24 els 9.60 6.43 5.43 5.57 5.09 4.84 els 7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 els 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.08 3.78 3.66	150 Bushels	17.89	12.08	10.70	10.40	9.58	9.30	8.91
els 10.68 8.14 7.69 6.52 6.58 6.71 els 9.83 6.73 6.00 5.81 5.35 5.24 els 9.60 6.43 5.43 5.57 5.09 4.84 els 7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 els 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.28 4.05 4.22 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66	225 Bushels	17.47	11.58	9.70	10.01	9.14	8.61	8,08
els 10.68 8.14 7.69 6.52 6.58 6.71 els 9.83 6.73 6.00 5.81 5.35 5.24 els 9.60 6.43 5.43 5.57 5.09 4.84 els 7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 els 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.28 4.05 4.22 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66	600 Hours:	•• •• •						
els 9.83 6.73 6.00 5.81 5.35 5.24 els 9.60 6.43 5.43 5.57 5.09 4.84 els 7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 els 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.28 4.05 4.22 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66	75 Bushels	10.68	8.14	69.4	6.52	6.58	6.71	69•9
els 9.60 6.43 5.43 5.57 5.09 4.84 els 7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 els 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.28 4.05 4.22 els 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66	150 Bushels	9.83	6.73	00*9	5.81	5.35	5.24	5.05
els: 7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 els: 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.05 4.22 els: 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66	Bushels	09•6	6.43	5.43	5.57	60•5	78°	4.55
7.74 5.95 5.80 5.34 5.25 5.30 7.12 4.91 4.42 4.28 4.05 4.22 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66	900 Hours:	••••						
7.12 4.91 4.42 4.28 4.05 4.22 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66	75 Bushels	7.74	5.95	5.80	5.34	5.25	5.30	5.27
; 6.95 4.68 4.00 4.08 3.78 3.66	150 Bushels	7.12	16.4	74.42	4.28	4.05	4.22	70.4
	225 Bushels	6.95	4.68	00.4	4.08	3.78	3.66	3.64

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Table 21. -- Average Cost Per Bushel for Model Grain Elevators Operating Under Various Conditions and Receiving Grain 25 Percent of the Time, Michigan, 1961-Continued.

	1	1	-1	07-					
		4500 B.P.H.	(Cents)	4.57	3,38	2.99	4.15	3.05	2.74
evators	Plants	3750 В.Р.Н.	(Cents)	179.11	3.47	3.18	4.26	3.19	2.80
fodel Grain El	Double-Line Plants	3000 В.Р. Н.	(Cents)	ħ9 ° ħ	3.52	3.35	†0°†	3.12	2.89
Double-Line M		2250 B.P.H.	(Cents)	4.39	3.85	3.41	4.07	3.32	3.18
Capacity of Single and Double-Line Model Grain Elevators		2250 B.P.H.	(Cents)	5.25	3.73	3.32	4.52	3.52	2.96
Capacity	Single-Line Plants		(Cents)	5.11	3.99	3.81	4.77	3.55	3.31
	Sing	750 B.P.H.	(Cents)	6.27	5.74	5. 60	5.41	7.95	4.81
: Annual Hours of :	Operation and Average Load :		H.: 1500 B.P.H.: 2250 B.P.H.: 300 (Cents) (Cents) (Cents) 5.11 5.25 4.39 3.99 3.73 3.85 3.81 3.32 4.07 4.77 4.52 4.07 3.55 3.52 3.32 3.31 2.96 3.18	225 Bushels					

2800 3000 3200 150 Bushels, a Receiving Mix of 50 Percent Grain and 50 Percent Corn, and Operating Various Hours Per Figure 5. -- Short-Run Average Cost Curves for Model Grain Elevators Receiving an Average Load Size of Similar curves could be developed for other operating situations by using These curves developed from average the average cost data contained in cost data contained in table 20. 2600 2400 tables 19, 20, and 21. 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000 2200 Year, Michigan, 1961. Note: 4500 B.P.H. - Double-Line 3750 B.P.H. - Double-Line -----3000 B.P.H. - Double-Line 2250 B.P.H. - Double-Line 2250 B.P.H. - Single-Line 1500 B.P.H. - Single-Line 750 B.P.H. - Single-Line 800 8 **\$** 15.00 13.00 3.00 21.00 7.00 19.00 9.00 5.00 17.00 11.00 Cost Per Bushel Average

Annual Volume (1,000 Bushels)

short-run average cost curves in figure 5. However, figure 5 also shows that as the capacity of elevators was increased that unit handling costs for any given volume also increased. This is evidenced by the fact that the short-run average cost curve for the higher capacity plants is higher in each case than the lower capacity plants. This is due to the higher valued durable assets and fixed cost associated with their ownership.

Economy of operation is definitely related to capacity utilization. Annual volume reflects an increase in annual hours of operation, since annual volume is a direct function of hours of operation and hourly receiving capacity. Thus, as annual volume or annual hours of operation increase the plants annual capacity is more nearly utilized and average costs per bushel decrease.

The average cost curves for receiving 75 bushel loads did not show as great a volume range as do the plants when they are receiving 150 or 225 bushel loads. This is due to the volume limitations created by the time required to position and receive 75 bushel loads. This condition was especially noticeable for the double-line plants.

The initial point on each of the above average cost curves represents the point at which the various model plants are operating 300 hours per year. The end points are for 1500 hours of operation per year. It will be noted that the average cost between plants is much flatter for 1500 hours

than when operating only 300 hours. This shows that as the plants operate more hours per year that differences in unit costs between plants decrease.

A multiple regression equation was used to determine the net relationship between the above factors (plant size, annual hours of operation, receiving mix, and average load size received) and total cost. The equation used, which conforms very closely with the observed total cost output relationships, is as follows:

$$TC = A + B_1X_1 + B_2X_2 + B_3X_3 + B_4X_4$$

where TC is the total annual cost, X_1 is the scale of plant or plant size, X_2 is the average load size received, X_3 is the total annual volume of small grain received, and X_4 is the total annual volume of corn received.

A separate regression was made for the single and doubleline plants. The resulting statistics for each are shown in table 22.

It should be noted that the partial regression coefficient for the average load size was negative in both cases. This indicates that as the average load size received increases that total annual cost will decrease. This was expected because the smaller loads not only required more man hours and electric power per hour of operation but total annual volume is also limited in many cases where small loads were being received. Higher total cost for the smaller loads can also be observed in figures 4 and 5. In both cases the total annual cost for

Table 22.--Regression Coefficients and Associated Statistics for Model Single and Double-Line Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Type of Statistic	Single-Line Plants	Double-Line Plants
Value of a	+21329.1649	+28155.4186
Values of b-Partial Regression Coefficients:	n	
Plant Size (X ₁)	+3.7073	+5.3003
Average Load Size (X2)	-27.4155	-70.2899
Total Volume Grain (X3)	+.0120	+.0130
Total Volume Corn (X)	+.0180	+.0187
Standard Errors of Regression Coefficients:		
Plant Size (X ₁)	+.2967	+.2990
Average Load Size (X2)	+2.6526	+4.0395
Total Volume Grain (X3)	+.0006	+.0004
Total Volume Corn (X)	+.0009	+.0006
R, Multiple Correlation Coeff	icient +.9685	+.9740
R ² , Coefficient of Determinat	ion +.9361	+•9475

a Statistics are expressed in dollars.

receiving 75 bushel loads is higher than for receiving 150 and 225 bushel loads. Total cost was positively correlated with plant size, total volume of grain and total volume of corn.

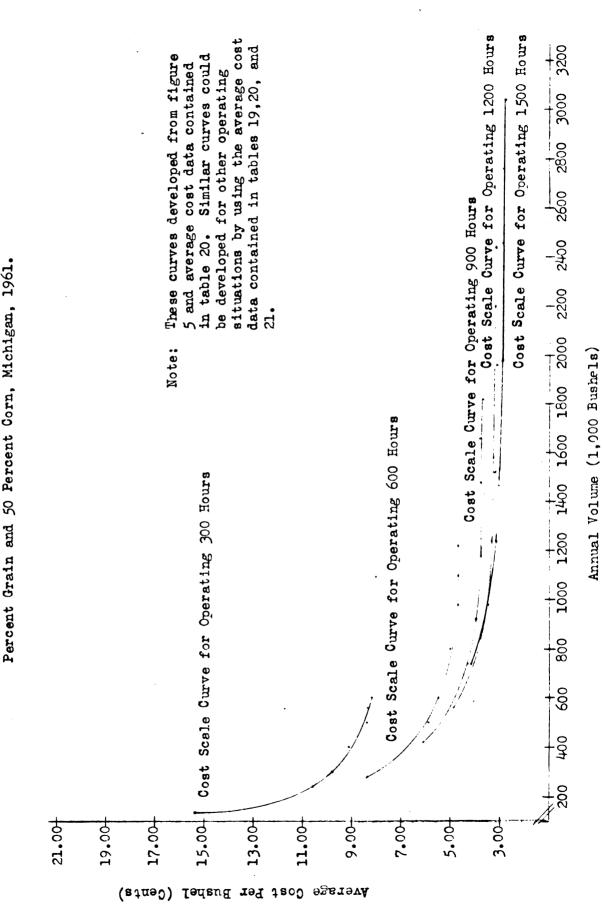
Long-Run Average Cost Curves and Economies of Scale in Model Plants

In the long-run the firm can change the quantities of land, buildings, machinery, management, and all other resources because all resources are variable. The long-run can be thought of as a series of alternative short-run situations into any one of which the firm can move. The long-run average cost curve then shows the least possible cost per unit of producing various outputs when the firm has time to build any desired scale of plant.

The long-run average cost curve is constructed by holding all factors constant, except the size of plant. By using the data contained in figure 5 a family of long-run average cost curves can be constructed for the model plants developed in this study, figure 6. The family of short-run average cost curves of figure 5 are constructed by holding all factors constant, except hours of operation. Whereas, the family of long-run average cost curves of figure 6 are constructed by holding all factors constant, except plant size. Each point on the curves in figure 6 correspond to a similar point on the short-run average cost curves of figure 5.31 These long-run average cost curves are therefore composed of segments or points of the various short-run average cost curves representing

³¹ The initial point on each of the long-run average cost curves of figure 6 correspond with the points making up the 750 bushel per hour short-run average cost curve of figure 5. The end point on each of these long-run average cost curves corresponds with the 4500 bushel per hour short-run curve of figure 5.

Figure 6.--A Family of Cost Scale Long-Run Average Cost Curves for Model Grain Elevators Operating Various Hours Per Year, Receiving an Average Load Size of 150 Bushels, and A Receiving Mix of



the different scales of plant which the firm conceivably could build.

The primary purpose of long-run average cost curves is for showing economies or diseconomies of scale. That the height of the long-run average cost curve decreases as annual volume increases means that as the scale of plant increases the short-run average cost curve lies at successively lower levels as well as farther to the right. This phenomenon is called economies of scale.

The long-run average cost curves of figure 6 show that economies of scale in plant costs exist throughout the range of volumes included in this study.

The configuration of these cost-scale curves, however, is of note. Economies of scale are much more evident and greater for plants operating 300 hours per year than for those operating 1500 hours per year. This is evidenced by the down-ward sloping long-run average cost curve for plants operating 300 hours as opposed to the rather flat long-run average cost curve for those operating 1500 hours. Each set of curves tends to become flatter as the number of hours of operation is increased. The logic that develops from this is that if plants are used at capacity during a high proportion of their annual operating time scale economies are significant. On the other hand if plants are utilized below capacity or at a normal rate for a large proportion of the annual operating time, scale economies though still existing are negligible.

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Annual hours of operation and plant capacity utilization therefore have a profound influence on economies of scale in the operation of grain elevators. The harvest season, assumed to be 100 hours, accounts for a larger share of the annual hours of operation for the smaller hours of operation than for the larger hours of operation. Thus, if elevator management desires economies of operation during the harvest season it would pay to construct a larger plant to take advantage of the economies of scale that are present. If management is concerned with economies of scale in the plants entire operation then it would not pay to construct the largest possible plant because of the very small economies of scale present in these operations. Such economies as are available would be much more quickly offset by increasing transportation costs to deliver grain to the plant.

From an operating standpoint rather large economies of scale do exist between different sized plants for short periods of operation. Harvest season operating conditions are a case in point. However, looked at from an annual operating standpoint rather small economies of scale do exist between plants. How full utilization of plant capacity by adding complementary sidelines influences the operating implications of these scale relations cannot be developed here. However it suggests that sideline activities would tend to reduce the importance of scale economies derived from harvest season handling and improve the competitive position of small firms.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this study an economic engineering approach was used to determine the relative operating economies of different sized grain elevators in the receiving and assembling of grain for shipment to other elevators, terminal storage or processing plants. The primary objectives were to develop some economic benchmarks to aid in the formulation of operating policies and to develop some tools to be used in planning for the most efficient use of resources in the future. The secondary objective was to develop some guides which would help management in making future economic adjustments, especially in the construction of new elevators. It was hoped that the guides developed in this study would prove useful to management and the people who formulate the operating policies of grain elevators, especially those concerned with proposed reorganization and expansion programs.

Seven model plants were developed, ranging in size from 750 to 4500 bushels per hour. These hypothetical plants were developed in detail and all costs were estimated as accurately as possible. Different operating situations were developed and all operating costs were estimated as influenced by these operating conditions.

Each plant was equipped with similar machinery and equipment, the principal difference being in size and number depending on whether it was a single or double-line plant. Consistancy

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in method was maintained in estimating operating cost and annual volume for each plant.

Decreasing per unit cost is not a function only of plant size, rather it is a function of many factors, some of which management cannot control or alter. Factors affecting plant utilization are more important in determining economies of operation than plant size. Average load size received, receiving mix, and hours of operation are important as well as the actual receiving capacity of the different model plants. Average load size received and receiving mix depend on the type of farming carried on in the area and are beyond the control of management. Management can influence, to some extent, the actual hours of operation by the size of plant selected and operating decisions regarding sideline activities.

Plants with low capacity utilization, 300 hours of operation, had the greatest economies of scale. The per unit cost at these production levels, however, was considerably higher than for plants with a higher degree of plant utilization. This was due to high per unit fixed cost at these levels of production.

Plants with a high degree of plant utilization, 1500 hours of operation, showed some economies of scale between the smaller sized plants but very little between the larger sized plants.

Plant operating efficiency as indicated by capacity utilization was therefore more important in determining the observed economies than plant scale or size. Plant capacity

utilization is primarily a function of annual hours of operation, receiving mix and average load size received. The higher the annual hours of operation the better the plants capacities are utilized. However, the seasonal nature of agricultural production prevents elevators from actually receiving grain many hours per year. Volume handled in a given period is more important because a large portion of annual volume is usually received during a relatively short harvest season.

Management interested in only harvest season economy should therefore build a larger plant to take advantage of the economies of scale that are present when operating during this period. However, if the firm is more interested in annual operating economy then they should consider a somewhat smaller scale of plant depending on the annual hours of operation. They should choose that size of plant which will allow them to operate as economically as possible in a given area including plant as well as transportation costs.

The average load size received has an influence on annual volume and cost. This is due to the fact that it requires a certain amount of time to position and unload a vehicle regardless of the plants receiving capacity. There is also a delay between each load received. Annual volume and plant utilization is therefore reduced when small loads are received. Average load size as a cost factor is particularly important during the harvest season.

Each model plant showed downward sloping average cost

curves for each average load size received. Scale economies do not exist between model plants when receiving an average load size of 75 bushels. However they do exist between the various plants when receiving 225 bushel average loads. This occurs because as larger loads are received hourly receiving capacities are not reduced and less time is devoted to operating delays. This results in better plant utilization and lower cost operations.

The affect of receiving mix on plant capacity utilization is due to the fact that the receiving capacity for corn is reduced to 50 percent of the plants rated receiving capacity. Therefore, the higher the proportion of grain received the higher the annual volume and thus the lower are unit operating costs for a given number of hours of operation or a given volume.

The conclusion drawn from this discussion is that managers confronted with seasonal production may not build a least cost scale of plant for the grain merchandising operation. A smaller cost plant may be more desirable if it allows adequate flexibility in handling the various volumes of the different commodities and at the same time minimizes average unit costs on an annual basis. Elevator management should provide a facility which can handle expected volume increases and then plan to use the facility as near capacity as possible.

Successful planning of future elevator construction and the reorganization of present operations depends on the determination of future as well as present needs. Physical as well

as economic adjustments will be required if elevators are to keep up with rapidly changing conditions. Management considering reorganization should take these changes into consideration before large investments are made in facilities that may prove obsolete or uneconomical long before their useful life has expired.

The results of this study indicate that firm adjustments should not be based on plant size alone. Since a small plant can receive grain at about the same per unit cost as larger plants attempts should be made to fully utilize existing capacity before considering larger plants. One such adjustment is to build new grain merchandising facilities to correspond with existing environmental and plant conditions or built with the expectation of adjusting the rest of the plants operations around this operation.

Plant flexibility is required in planning multi-purpose grain merchandising operations. This is especially true if the grain merchandising facilities are to be fully utilized by adding or adjusting plant activities around this operation. Grain merchandising facilities should be flexible enough to be able to receive all the various crops produced within an area, the different volumes of each commodity received from year to year, the different load sizes received, and the different proportions of each commodity received from year.

Flexibility can be obtained by using dual purpose machinery and equipment, by building receiving facilities that can handle large as well as small loads, by having several small storage bins rather than large bins, and by having double-line rather than single-line plants.

Based on scale relationships alone, the number of plants now operating in the Michigan elevator industry should not be expected to decrease greatly. The analysis shows that with operations, based on 600 to 900 hours per year actual scale economies are not great. The small economies of scale observed would not offset the added transportation cost of fewer but larger plants. However, reorganization and adjustments might be made in plant receiving rates so that harvest volumes can be received faster.

Further study is needed to determine the feasibility and affect of adjustments made to increase plant capacity utilization. This problem is closely related to agricultural production and environmental conditions within an area and might be considered as part of a location study. However, a more appropriate approach would be to study the cost scale relations of other elevator activities and their affect on plant capacity utilization. This could be done by using the model plants developed in this study and then adding other activities such as, drying, permanent storage, feed mixing and grinding, grain banks, and other sideline activities. In-plant complementary and competitive relationships could be observed and studied as they affect the overall operation and capacity utilization. In this way the entire firm could be evaluated in terms of cost scale relations and adjustments could be recommended accordingly.

Another area closely related to plant location which needs further investigation is the area of transportation and its affect on elevator operations and cost. This is especially important to multi-plant firms that are concerned with combining two or more plants into a single operation. The results of this study tend to indicate that several small plants would be just as efficient as one larger plant. However, this study was based on the grain merchandising operation only and further investigation is needed to determine the transportation advantages or disadvantages associated with larger plants.

APPENDIX A DURABLE ASSET INVESTMENT ESTIMATES

APPENDIX A

DURABLE ASSET INVESTMENT ESTIMATES

The fixed assets needed are: land and land improvements, buildings (commonly called the plants work area), storage facilities, machinery and equipment, cob burner, railroad siding, trucking equipment, office building and office furnishings. Different techniques were employed in making each of these estimates and are therefore discussed separately.

Estimated Investment in Land and Land Improvements

For the purpose of this study land was valued at \$1,250.00 per acre. It was assumed that this would also cover the cost of any land improvements. This figure was arrived at by studying the value at which land and land improvements were carried on the books of elevators actually operating in Michigan. This figure will not apply to all areas of the state but is included as representative. Table 23 shows the land provided for each of the various model plants and the total investment in land and land improvements.

Table 23:--Estimated Investment in Land and Land Improvements for Model Grain Elevators,
Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Acres Pro- vided Per Plant	Estimated Cost Per Acre	Estimated Total Investment Per Plant
(B.P.H.)	(acres)	(dollars)	(dollars)
750 B.P.H Single-Line	2	\$1250	\$2500
1500 B.P.H Single-Line	2 1 2	1250	3125
2250 B.P.H Single-Line	3	1250	3750
2250 B.P.H Double-Line	3	1250	3750
3000 B.P.H Double-Line	3 1	1250	4375
3750 B.P.H Double-Line	4	1250	5000
4500 B.P.H Double-Line	4 1	1250	5625

Estimated Investment in Buildings for Model Plants

The plant designs used in this study were obtained from elevator designers and builders now operating in Michigan. They represent the most common type of facility being built in Michigan during 1961.

The actual building cost estimates were made by estimating the above ground cubic foot capacity of the different model plants.

The drive area was then calculated at 45 cents per cubic foot and the work area was calculated at 55 cents per cubic foot. These per cubic foot cost estimates were derived from cost data of buildings actually constructed in Michigan during 1960, and from engineering

estimates.

Table 24 shows the estimated building cost for the various model plants. These estimates include only the cost of the steel frame buildings with concrete foundations and basement. The cost of all machinery, equipment and equipment installation are figured separately. Each model plants building requirements and cost were estimated individually.

Table 24:-- Estimated Investment in Buildings for Model Grain Elevators,
Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Estimated Cost of Building Construction		
(B.P.H.)	(dollars)		
750 B.P.H Single-Line	\$1 2,650		
1500 B.P.H Single-Line	14,600		
2250 B.P.H Single-Line	16,450		
2250 B.P.H Double-Line	29,000		
3000 B.P.H Double-Line	30,000		
3750 B.P.H Double-Line	34,300		
4500 B.P.H Double-Line	35,800		

Estimated Investment in Storage Facilities

For the purpose of this study each plant was equipped with what appears to be adequate storage space for the assembling process

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that they perform. The range in storage capacity was 20,000 bushels for the 750 bushel per hour plant to 120,000 bushels for the 4500 bushel per hour plant. Storage capacity was increased between model plants in 20,000 bushel increments. Stave silos with hoppered bottoms are used. These silos are very common in Michigan and are available in a variety of sizes and capacities.

Each model plant is equipped with at least 6 siles, the larger plants having more than six. The number of siles is increased to obtain the desired storage capacity rather than increasing the sile sizes. Table 25 shows the number of siles provided for each model plant, total storage capacity and the estimated investment made in each case.

The actual cost estimates for the various sized silos, with hoppered bottoms, were based on data obtained from construction companies. The foundations, roof and head house costs were then estimated by using cost data from buildings actually constructed in Michigan during 1960. The total cost shown below includes the silo with hoppered bottoms, foundation, roof, and head house. The head house provided will house the shipping scales, elevator legs, overhead screw conveyor and necessary spouting.

Table 25:-- Estimated Investment in Storage Facilities for Model Grain Elevators,
Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Number of Bins	Capacity Per Bin	Approximate Total Storage Capacity	Estimated Investment In Storage Facilities
(B.P.H.) 750 B.P.H Single-Line	6	(Bu.) 3,333	(Bu.) 20,000	(dollars) \$23,200
1500 B.P.H Single-Line	6	6,666	40,000	37,200
2250 B.P.H Single-Line	6	10,000	60,000	46,750
2250 B.P.H Double-Line	6	10,000	60,000	46,750
3000 B.P.H Double-Line	8	10,000	80,000	61,950
3750 B.P.H Double-Line	10	10,000	100,000	77,450
4500 B.P.H Double-Line	12	10,000	120,000	92,950

The storage bins provided for the model plants are not the most economical from the standpoint of investment per bushel. The same amount of storage could be provided at less total cost by having fewer but larger silos. This is due to the fact that the per bushel cost for storage silos decreases as the size of the silo (diameter) increases. It would therefore be cheaper to use the largest possible silos and use as few as possible. However, from a flexible standpoint this is not desirable because it would be possible to have an entire silo tied up with only a small quantity of material. The purpose of the silos provided for each model plant are for ease of operation and are to provide an adequate number of bins so that the plants could operate in as efficient a manner as is possible.

Estimated Investment in Machinery and Equipment

Each plant is equipped with the same machinery and equipment, The only difference being in size and number. The machinery and equipment requirements for the model plants were obtained through actual observations and from equipment specifications for plants actually constructed during 1960.

Tables 26 through 30 contain a detailed list of the equipment provided for each operating phase of the 2250 bushel per hour double-line model plant and the estimated cost of each piece of equipment. Table 31 shows the miscellaneous equipment provided for each of the model plants.

Table 26:-- Equipment List and Estimated Equipment Investment for The Receiving Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity,
Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Capacity	List Price a	Total Cost b
Truck Hoist	2	Cradle Capacity- 4 ton	\$2609	\$2843
Shaker Dump Pit	2	300 Bushels	3424	3666
Itemized Total	• • •	•••	•••	\$6509
I _n stallation	• • •	•••	•••	2413
Total Installed Cost	•••	•••	•••	\$8922

a Where applicable the list price includes motor, starter, push button, speed reducer, spouting and any other necessary accessories.

b Total cost includes 4% Michigan sales tax and freight f.o.b. the factory to Lansing, Michigan.

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The actual cost estimates included in the above tables were obtained from machinery manufactures catalogs and from elevator equipment installation contractors. The various pieces of equipment for which costs were estimated are those which are most commonly found within the state.

The estimated machinery costs include the manufactures list price, plus accessories, plus 4% Michigan sales tax, plus freight from the factory to Lansing, Michigan, and plus a 40% (of list price) installation charge. Discounts were allowed where applicable, but were not known in all cases.

Table 27: -- Equipment L. st and Estimated Equipment Investment for The Cleaning Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator. 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity. Michigan. 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Capacity	List Price a	Total Cost b
Ear Corn Crusher	2	800 B.P.HShelled corn	\$1642	\$1734
Intake Leg	2	1260 B.P.H.	4376	4695
Two Way Valve	2	8-inch outlet	80	86
Garner Bin	2	100 Bushels	360	39 4
Corn Sheller and Corn Cob Blower	2	900-1100 B.P.H.	797 5	8521
Garner Bin	2	100 Bushels	.360	394
Grain Cleaner C	2	1500 B.P.H.	6004	6395
Screenings Screw Conveyord	2	6-inch.Screw Conveyor	1699	1816
Dust Collector ^e	2	Companion to Cleaner	4885	5241
Scales Hopper	2	Companion to Scales	215	231
Spouting	• • •	8-inch Spouting	440	472
Itemized Total	•••	•••	• • •	\$29979
Installation	• • •	•••	• • •	11,214
Total Installed Cost	•••	•••	•••	\$41,193

² Where applicable the list price includes motor, starter, push

button, speed reducer, spouting and any other necessary accessories.

b Total cost includes 4% Michigan sales tax and freight f.o.b. the factory to Lansing, Michigan.

factory to lansing, michigan.

C List price includes 4 sets of extra screens for each cleaner.

d List price includes sacking spout and valve for each conveyor.

e List price includes a dust bin with a capacity of one truck load for each dust collector.

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Table 28:- Equipment List and Estimated Equipment Investment for The Weighing Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Capacity	List Price a	Total Cost b
Auto-Matic Receiving Scales	2	6 Bushel Dump 1800B.P.H.	\$4020	\$443 8
Scales Hopper	2	Companion to Scales	215	231
Testing Equipment ^C	2	•••	1411	1537
Spouting	•••	8-inch Spouting	361	387
Itemized Total	• • •	•••	• • •	\$6593
Installation	•••	•••	• • •	1866
Total Installed Cost	• • •	•••	• • •	\$8459

Where applicable the list price includes motor, starter, push button, speed reducer, spouting and any other necessary accessories.

Therefore, the above prices for some pieces of equipment may be over stated.

Michigan sales tax was included for all items estimated. However, certain items used in processing grain are tax exempt depending on the particular situation and use involved. Since these exemptions depend on the individual situation it was included in all cases.

b Total cost includes 4% Michigan sales tax and freight f.o.b. the factory to Lansing, Michigan.

List price includes moisture tester, weight per bushel tester, work bench and other necessary accessories.

Table 29:--Equipment List and Estimated Equipment Investment for The Storage Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Capacity	List Price a	Total Cost b
Main Leg	2	1260 В.Р.Н.	\$5408	\$ 5802
Distributor	2	8-inch	958	1021
Head House Screw Conteyor	1	14-inch Screw Conveyor	1894	2027
Bin Slides and Shut Offs	6	•••	360	387
Spouting	• • •	8-inch Spouting	690	7 <i>3</i> 9
Itemized Total	•••	•••	• • •	\$9976
Installation	•••	•••	• • •	3724
Total Installed Cost	• • • ,	•••	• • •	\$13700

Where applicable the list price includes motor, starter, push button, speed reducer, spouting and any other necessary accessories.

An installation charge of 40% (of list price) was included for all machinery which requires installation. This figure was based on data obtained from elevators actually constructed in Michigan during 1960 and from elevator equipment installation contractors.

A figure of 40% may be high for some of the smaller items but it appears to be a fairly representative average installation charge for all items involved.

b Total cost includes 4% Michigan sales tax and freight f.o.b. the factory to Lansing, Michigan.

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Table 30:--Equipment List and Estimated Equipment Investment for The Load-Out Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan. 1961.

Item .	Quan- tity	Capacity	List Price a	Total Cost b
Basement Screw Conveyor	r 1	14-inch Screw Conveyor	\$ 1888	\$2020
Load-Out Leg	1	2850 B.P.H.	3573	3832
Distributor	1	8-inch	135	144
Scales Hopper	1	Companion to Scales	108	116
Auto-Matic Shipping Scales	1	10 Bushel Dump, 2400B.P.H.	1645	1816
Scales Hopper	1	Companion to Scales	108	116
Load-Out Spouting ^C	• • •	•••	689	737
Itemized Total	•••	•••	•••	\$8781
Installation	•••	•••	• • •	3258
Total Installed Cost	• • •	•••	• • •	\$12039

a Where applicable the list price includes motor, starter, push button, speed reducer, spouting and any other necessary accessories.

Freight was calculated from the factory to Lansing, Michigan.

Railroad freight rates of less than car load lots were used in all cases.

Miscellaneous equipment was also estimated for each model plant.

The same procedure was used in making these estimates as was used in

b Total cost includes 4% Michigan sales tax and freight f.o.b.

the factory to Lansing, Michigan.

List price includes flexible load-out spout for trucks and for railroad boxcars, necessary spouting and spout holder for loading railroad boxcars.

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Table 31:--Miscellaneous Equipment List and Estimated Equipment Investment for a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Capacity	List Price a	Total Cost b
Manlift ^C	1	1 man capacity	\$1 244	\$1830
Tools	• • •	•••	229	246
Ladders	1	40'Extension	140	150
	2	15 ^t and 12 ^t	38	41
	1	10' Step Ladder	:15	16
Grain Scoops	4	•••	29	32
Brooms (House Type)	6	•••	15	16
Brooms (Push Type)	2	•••	7	7
Car Movers (Jacks)	2	•••	30	32
Rope	1001	1-inch	20	22
Car Puller Hooks	2	•••	16	18
Bag Trucks	1	•••	48	51
Portable Scales	1	1,000 pounds	81	87
Trouble Lights	2	•••	90	99
Electric Lenterns	2	Battery Type	15	16
Price Board	1	18" x 30"	16	. 17
Fire Extinguishers	5	Water or Anti-Freeze	204	223
	3	Dry Chemical Type	140	153
Itemized Total	• • •	•••	• • •	3056

Where applicable the list price includes motor, starter, push button, speed reducer, spouting and any other necessary accessories.

C Total cost includes installation in addition to sales tax and freight.

b Total cost includes 4% Michigan sales tax and freight f.o.b. the factory to Lansing, Michigan

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making the estimates for all other machinery and equipment.

Estimated Investment in Office Buildings

The office buildings provided for the model plants used in this study are separate buildings from the main elevator building. They range in size from 480 square feet to 720 square feet. The space required was obtained from elevators actually visited and from elevator designers and builders now operating in Michigan. Each office has a private manager's office, two toilets, storage closet, an area for the clerical staff, adequate room for waiting on eustomers and necessary space for displays. The office space provided for each plant is shown in table 32. It was assumed that an office larger than 30' x 24' would not be required for the grain merchandising operation.

Office building cost were estimated at \$16.00 per square foot. This includes the entire building, less furniture and office equipment. The estimated investments in office buildings are for concrete block and brick structures. The \$16.00 per square foot was derived from similar types of buildings constructed in Michigan during 1960.

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Table 32:--Estimated Investment in Office Buildings and Office Space Provided for Each Model Grain Elevator, Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Office Size	Square Feet Provided	Estimated Cost of Office Building
(B.P.H.)			(dollars)
750 B.P.HSingle-Line	24' x 20'	480	\$ 7650
1500 B.P.HSingle-Line	24' x 20'	480	7 650
2250 B.P.HSingle-Line	24 x 24	5 7 6	9200
2250 B.P.HDouble-Line	24' x 24'	576	9200
3000B.P.HDouble-Line	30" x 24"	720	11500
3750 B.P.HDouble-Line	30° x 24°	720	11500
4500 B.P.HDouble-Line	30' x 24'	720	11500

Istimated Investment in Office Furniture and Equipment

For the purpose of this study audits of existing plants were used as the primary source of information in regards to required office equipment. Table 33 shows a detailed list of the office equipment provided for the 2250 bushel per hour double-line model plant and the estimated cost of each item of equipment provided.

The office furniture and equipment estimates were made by using manufactures catalogs and by consulting various agencies selling the desired items. The estimated costs include 4% Michigan sales tax, freight from the factory to Lansing, Michigan, and installation where applicable. A miscellaneous category was also

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Table 33:--Equipment List and Estimated Equipment Investment for Office Equipment for a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quantity	List Price	Total Cost
Desk	2	\$ 245	\$ 268
Desk Chairs	3	137	150
Office Chairs	6	192	211
File Cabinet	2	122	134
Storage Cabinet	2	140	153
Manager's File and Safe	1	75	82
Office Machine Stand	1	49	54
Bookcase	1.	35	38
Testing Equipment	1 set	706 ^b	768
Office Machines	•••	1000°	1095
Price Board	1	16	18
Wall Clock	-1	14	15
Fire Extinguisher	1	30	33
Stove	1	350	504 ^d
Itemized Total	• • •	• • •	\$3523
Miscellaneous	• • •	• • •	325 ^e
Total	• • •	• • •	\$3848
			•

a Total cost includes 4% Michigan sales tax and freight f.o.b.

the factory to Lansing, Michigan.
List price includes moisture tester, weight per bushel tester, work bench and other necessary accessories.

C List price includes an allowance for a calculator, typewriter, billing machines and check machine.

d Total cost includes installation in addition to sales tax and freight.

Allowance is to cover miscellaneous items such as pencil sharpeners, wastebaskets, display counters, bulletin board, desk lamps and customer counter.

included for items such as wastebaskets, pencil sharpeners, desk lamps, bulletin boards and display counters.

Estimated Investment in Railroad Siding

Emough railroad siding was provided for each of the model plants so that they would not run out of storage space during the harvest season. Space was provided for the switch and for clearance between the switch and main track. The railroad siding provided should be more than adequate for moving empty cars into loading position and for storing both empty and loaded boxcars. Table 34 shows the maximum number of railroad boxcars that can be spotted at each plant, the feet of track required and the total estimated cost of the railroad siding.

An average boxcar size of 1800 bushels was assumed and an average length of 50 feet per car was used. The number of boxcars required per day, assuming that a switch is made every day, was determined by the plants maximum receiving capacity.

Table 34:-- Estimated Investment in Railroad Siding for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan 1961.

Plant Capacity	Number of Railroad Boxcars to Be Spotted	Feet of Track Provided	Estimated Investment in Railroad Siding Facilities
(B.P.H.)			
750 B.P.HSingle-Line	4 boxcars	350	\$8,100
1500 B.P.HSingle-Line	6 boxcars	550	9,300
2250 B.P.HSingle-Line	8 boxcars	750	10,500
2250 B.P.HDouble-Line	10 boxcars	950	12,900
3000 B.P.HDouble-Line	12 boxcars	1150	14,100
3750B.P.HDouble-Line	14 boxcars	1350	15,300
4500 B.P.HDouble-Line	16 boxcars	1550	16,500

The actual cost estimates were based on cost data obtained from a railroad company now operating in Michigan. The switch itself and enough track for car clearance, between the main track and the siding, cost about \$4,500. The remaining track will cost from \$10,00 to \$12,00 per foot, depending on the particular situation. For the purpose of this study the \$4,500 base price plus \$10 per foot for the remaining track was used.

Estimated Investment in Trucking Equipment

Trucking equipment provided for each model plant was simply one two-ton truck with grain box. The truck for each plant was estimated at \$4,300. This estimate was obtained by contacting

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several truck dealers.

Estimated Investment in Corn Cob Burners

Cob burners were provided for each plant according to the size of corn sheller. The cob burner used for all plants was estimated at \$7,000 each and was based on data obtained from elevator contractors now operating in Michigan. This estimated price includes only the cob burner, all necessary spouting was included as part of the corn sheller or cob blower. The larger plants were equipped with two cob burners of equal size.

APPENDIX B
FIXED COST ESTIMATES

APPENDIX B

FIXED COST ESTIMATES

The fixed cost category includes all those costs associated with owning the physical assets and have no direct relation to the actual operation of the model plants. These annual fixed expenses are based entirely on total investment in the various durable assets and do not vary as operating conditions are varied. The following fixed expenses are included in this category: insurance on buildings and all equipment; maintenance and repairs; personal property taxes; and interest on investment. Each of these costs were estimated on an annual basis and the techniques used were those that correspond with existing Michigan conditions and practices. Each of the cost included in this category are discussed separately.

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation expense comprised the major fixed expense for the model plants. It was a function of total investment in the various fixed assets and the rate of depreciation. The estimated life and annual depreciation allowed for each piece of equipment provided for the various operating phases are presented in tables 35 through 41 for the 2250 bushel per hour double-line model plant.

Table 42 shows the total annual depreciation expense allowed for the 2250 bushel per hour double-line model plant. The total annual depreciation expense allowed for each plant corresponded very closely with the depreciation expense found in existing Michigan elevators. No depreciation was estimated for land and land

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improvements.

Table 35:-- Equipment List and Estimated Annual Depreciation for The Receiving Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Total Cost	Estimated Life	Annual Depreciation
		(dollars)	(years)	(dollars)
Truck Holst	2	\$2843	17	\$167
Shaker Dump Pit	2	3666	20	183
Itemized Total	• • •	\$6509	• • •	\$350
Installation	• • •	2413	• • •	130
Total Installed Cost	•••	\$8922	• • •	\$480

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Table 36:-- Equipment List and Estimated Annual Depreciation for The Cleaning Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Total Cost	Estimated Life	Annual Depreciation
		(dollars)	(years)	(dollars)
Ear Corn Crusher	2	\$1734	12	\$1 45
Intake Leg	2	4695	20	235
Two Way Valve	2	86	20	4
Garner Bin	2	394	20	20
Corn Sheller and Corn Cob Blower	2	8521	15	568
Garner Bin	2	394	20	20
Grain Cleaner	2	6395	18	355
Screenings Screw Conveyor	2	1816	20	9 1
Dust Collector	2	5241	20	262
Scales Hopper	2	231	20	12
Spouting	• • •	472	10	47
Itemized Total	• • •	\$29979	•••	\$17 59
Installation	• • •	11214	• • •	658
Total Installed Cost	• • •	\$41193	• • •	\$2417

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Table 37:--Equipment List and Estimated Annual Depreciation for The Weighing Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Total Cost	Estimated Life	Annual Depreciation
		(dollars)	(years)	(dollars)
Auto-Matic Receiving Scales	2	\$443 8	15	\$296
Scales Hopper	2	231	20	12
Testing Equipment	2	1537	10	1 54
Spouting	• • •	387	10	39
Itemized Total	• • •	\$6593	• • •	\$501
Installation	• • •	1866	• • •	129
Total Installed Cost	• • •	\$8459	•••	\$630

Table 38:--Equipment List and Estimated Annual Depreciation for The Storage Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Total Cost	Estimated Life	Annual Depreciation
Main Leg	2	(dollars) \$5802	(years) 20	(dollars) \$ 290
Distributor	2	1021	20	5 1
Head House Screw Conveyor	1	2027	20	101
Bin Slides and Shut Offs	6	3 8 7	25	15
Spouting	• • •	7 39	10	74
Itemized Total	• • •	\$9976	• • •	\$531
Installation	• • •	3724	• • •	199
Total Installed Cost	•••	\$13700	•••	\$730

Table 39:--Equipment List and Estimated Annual Depreciation for The Load-Out Phase of a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Total Cost	Estimated Life	Annual Depreciation
		(dollars)	(years)	(dollars)
Basement Screw Conveyor	1	\$2020	20	\$101
Load-Out Leg	1	3832	20	192
Distributor	1	144	20	7
Scales Hopper	1	116	20	6
Auto-Matic Shipping Scales	1	1816	15	121
Scales Hopper	1	116	20	6
Load-Out Spouting	• • •	737	10	74
Itemized Total	• • •	\$8781	• • •	\$ 50 7
Installation	• • •	3258	•••	188
Total Installed Cost	•••	\$12039	• • •	\$695

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Table 40:-- Miscellaneous Equipment List and Estimated Annual Depreciation for a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Total Cost	Estimated Life	Annual Depreciation
		(dollars)	(years)	(dollars)
Manlift	1	\$1 830	20	\$ 92
Tools	• • •	2 46	10	25
Ladders	4	201	10	21
Grain Scoops	4	32	6	5
Brooms	8	23	1	20
Car Movers (Jacks)	2	32	10	3
Rope	100*	22	6	4
Car Puller Hooks	2	18	16	2
Bag Trucks	1	51	10	5
Portable Scales	1	87	10	9
Trouble Lights	2	99	10	10
Electric Lanters	2	16	5	3
Price Board	1	17	10	2
Fire Extinguishers	8	376	10	37
Itemized Total	•••	\$3056	• • •	\$238

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Table 41:--Equipment List and Estimated Annual Depreciation for Office Equipment for a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Item	Quan- tity	Total Cost	Estimated Life	Annual Depreciation
		(dollars)	(years)	(dollars)
Desk	2	\$ 268	15	\$ 18
Desk Chairs	3	150	10	15
Office Chairs	6	211	10	21
File Cabinet	2	1 34	15	9
Storage Cabinet	2	153	15	10
Manager's File and Safe	1	82	20	4
Office Machine Stand	1	54	10	5
Bookcase	1	38	20	2
Testing Equipment	l set	768	10	77
Office Machines	•••	1095	10	110
Price Board	1	18	10	2
Wall Clock	1	15	10	2
Fire Extinguisher	1	33	10	3
Stove	1	504	10	50
Itemized Total	• • •	\$3523	3.4.4	\$328
Miscellaneous	• • •	325	•••	33
Total	111	\$3848	•••	\$361

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Table 42:-- Estimated Investment In Durable Assets and Annual Depreciation For a Model Double-Line Grain Elevator, 2250 Bushel Per Hour Capacity, Michigan, 1961.

Durable Asset	Total Estimated Investment	Annual ^a Depreciation Rate	Annual Depreciation
Land and Land Improvements	\$3,7 50	• • •	•••
Buildings	29,000	2.5 Percent	\$ 7 25
Storage Facilities	46,750	2.5 Percent	1,169
Machinery and Equipment	87,369	Straight Line	^b 5,190
Corn Cob Burner	7,000	20 years	350
Railread Siding	12,900	2.5 Percent	323
Trucking Equipment	4,300	6 years	717
Office Building	9,200	2.5 Percent	230
Office Equipment	3,848	Straight Line	c 361
To tal	\$204,117		\$9,065

a The depreciation rate used here is based mainly on physical factors such as type and quality of construction. Shorter useful lives than allowed above are often used for accounting purposes, in making constuction loans and in business planning. No allowance is made here for obsolescence. Depreciation rates are based on manager's recommendations, observations of existing country grain elevators and reference to the following published material; "Income Tax Depreciation and Obsolescence, Estimated Useful Lives and Depreciation Rates," Bulleting F, U.S. Treasury Department, 1942; E.H. Boeckh, "Boeckh's Manual of Apprisals," 5th edition, Cincinatti, Ohio, 1956, pages 711-27; and "Consolidated Catalogs," 7th edition, Chicago, Illinois, 1949. page 270.

Depreciation was figured separately for each individual piece of equipment. For details see Equipment List, tables 35 through 40.

c Depreciation was figured separately for each individual piece of equipment. For details see Office Equipment List, table 41.

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Insurance Expense

Fixed insurance expenses included fire and extended coverage insurance on buildings, machinery and equipment, and on trucking equipment. All model plants had the same type of insurance coverage. The building and equipment insurance coverage included almost 100 percent protection from both fire and wind to the cost of the facilities provided for the model plants. The fixed truck insurance expense covered liability, collision and comprehensive insurance for the one truck provided for each plant. Inventory, liability, and workmen's compensation insurance costs were included as part of the variable expenses because the risk involved changed as operating conditions were varied. The estimated annual fixed cost of insurance for the various model plants is shown in table 43. These insurance estimates were based on rates in effect in 1960.

Personal Property Tax Expense

Personal property tax expenses vary widely within the state and there is no uniformity among counties in the property tax rates and assessment values. It was therefore, impossible to determine a uniform formula for establishing tax valuations. In order to obtain uniformity between plants it was assumed that all buildings and equipment were assessed at the same rate.

The procedure followed in this study was to estimate personal property tax at 4 percent of the average undepreciated value over the life of the fixed assets. The estimated annual personal property tax for the various model plants are shown in table 44.

Table 43:-- Estimated Fixed Insurance Expense for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Fire	Windstorm	Truck	Total
(B.P.H.)				
750 B.P.HSingle-Line	\$1 94	\$29	\$11 8	\$341
1500 B.P.HSingle-Line	237	35	118	390
2250 B.P.HSingle-Line	280	43	118	441
2250 B.P.HDouble-Line	427	50	118	595
3000 B.P.HDouble-Line	530	65	118	713
3750 B.P.HDouble-Line	587	71	118	776
4500 B.P.HDouble-Line	627	76	118	821

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Table 44:--Estimated Personal Property Tax Expense for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Total Investment	Estimated Annual Personal Property
(B.P.H.)	(dollars)	(dollars)
750 B.P.H Single-Line	\$110, 863	\$2,217
1500 B.P.H Single#Line	138,178	2,764
2250 B.P.H Single-Line	161,190	3,224
2250 B.P.H Double-Line	204,117	4,082
3000 B.P.H Double-Line	243,475	4,870
3750 B.P.H Double-Line	276,413	5,528
4500 B.P.H Double-Line	303,343	6,067

Repairs and Maintenance Expense

The procedure followed in this study was to estimate the total annual repair and maintenance expense for the model plants and then to allocate it between the fixed and variable expense categories.

Certain expenses, such as painting or other care given the exterior of the plant are a result of weathering, rather than volume. They tend to occur every few years regardless of volume and the amount included here was intended as a yearly average for this kind of expense.

Audits of existing plants were used as guides in determining the average annual repairs and maintenance paid by grain elevators.

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It was found that this expense amounted to about 2 percent of the total investment in fixed assets. Total annual repairs and maintanance was therefore calculated at 2 percent of the total investment in fixed assets. One-sixth of this figure was then allocated to the fixed expense category and the reamining prorated to variable expense according to hours of operation.

Table 45 shows the total annual repairs and maintenance expense for the various model plants and the amount allocated as a fixed expense.

The repair and maintenance of such equipment as leg belts and buckets, car loading spouting, and spouting to and from bins are directly associated with volume. Repairs on electric motors and other moving equipment also tend to be closely associated with use and volume handled. Repairs of this type are included as a variable expense and are discussed in Appendix C.

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Table 45:--Estimated Repairs and Maintenance Expense for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Total Investment In Durable Assets	Total Annual Maintenance at 2% of Total Investment	Maintenance As A Fixed Expense, 1/6 of Total Maintenance
(B.P.H.)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
750 B.P.H Single-Line	\$110,863	\$2,217	\$370
1500 B.P.H Single-Line	138,178	2,764	461
2250 B.P.H Single-Line	161,190	3,224	537
2250 B.P.H Double-Line	204,117	4,082	68 0
3000 B.P.H Double-Line	243,475	4,870	812
3750 B.P.H Double-Line	276,413	5,528	921
4500 B.P.H Double-Line	303,343	6,067	1011

Interest on Investment

Long-term capital generally consists of deferred liabilities and ownership capital. Such capital is required regularly as contrasted with season capital which is needed only during harvests.

Interest on seasonal capital is subsequently discussed as a variable expense, whereas interest on long-term capital was considered here as a fixed expense.

This expense item is not entirely comparable to the interest expense commonly found in operating statements or audits. In actual practice, interest on deferred liabilities is usually shown in the operating expense statements. However, the cost of ownership

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capital may be shown as a stock dividend or, in the case of reserves and surplus, no interest cost will be shown. 32

The proportion of interest-incurring capital used generally varies considerably among elevators. Thus, to keep the models on a comparable basis, interest expense was calculated on all long-term capital. Long-term capital here refers to total investment per model plant in fixed durable assets.

An interest rate of 5 percent was applied to the average undepreciated value of the physical assets over the life of the assets. Following this procedure resulted in the annual interest on investments shown in table 46.

³² Thurston and Mutti, op.cit., page 22.

Table 46:--Estimated Annual Interest on Investment for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Plant Capacity	Total Investment in Durable Assets	Annual Interest on Invest- ment ^a	
(B.P.H.)	(dollars)	(dollars)	
750 B.P.HSingle-Line	\$11 0,863	\$ 2 , 772	
1500 B.P.HSingle-Line	138,178	3,454	
2250 B.P.HSingle-Line	161,190	4,030	
2250 B.P.HDouble-Line	204,117	5,103	
3000 B.P.HDouble-Line	243,475	6,087	
3750 B.P.HDouble-Line	276,413	6,910	
4500 B.P.HDouble-Line	303,343	7,584	

Interest on investment calculated at 5 percent of the average undepreciated value over the life of the assets.

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APPENDIX C VARIABLE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND COST ESTIMATES

APPENDIX C

VARIABLE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND COST ESTIMATES

The variable expense category includes all those costs associated with the plants actual operations and volume handled. The various expenses included in this category change in varying degrees with changes in volume and management decisions. The following expenses were included in this category: personnel expenses, which include the manager's salary, clerical wages, plant labor wages, workmen's compensation insurance, and social security taxes; utilities, power and light; repairs and maintenance; interest on seasonal capital; inventory insurance; general liability insurance; and miscellaneous expenses. Included in the miscellaneous expense category are such things as advertising, legal and auditing expenses, office supplies, plant supplies, telephone and telegraph, truck expenses, allowance for worthless accounts, office heat, and other general operating expenses.

Some of these variable expenses respond slowly to volume and size changes while others respond more proportionally to such changes. These expenses are not entirely variable in that they are partially fixed and partially variable. For this reason, each variable expense item was budgeted separately.

Labor Requirements and Labor Cost Estimates

Labor requirements were computed separately for each model plant operating under the various operating conditions set forth.

These requirements were calculated on a man-hours per load basis

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for each load size received.

The man-hours required per load were based on data obtained from observations made during visits to elevators operating throughout the state. These timings include enough time for all operations within the plants various operating phases and were based on actual timings made during these visits. A 25 percent delay factor was allowed to account for the operators untimed movements and to allow adequate time to move from one operation to another.

The same procedure was followed, for all model plants, for receiving both small grains and ear corn. These figures then became the basis for estimating the labor requirements for the model plants operating under the various conditions set forth.

In addition to the actual man-hours required for operating the plant, an allowance was also made for daily clean up and preventive maintenance. On the average about 45 minutes per 10 hour day is spent on cleaning and sweeping up the plants visited. The annual hours of operation were therefore converted to 10 hour days and 45 minutes per day allowed for each day of operation. One hour per 10 hour day was allowed for preventive maintenance. This allowance was for daily preventive maintenance such as, adjusting elevating legs and belts, ciling machinery, and for making other minor repairs.

One full time man was allowed for each plant regardless of the number of annual man hours required. During the harvest season, which was assumed to be 100 hours, part time labor was added until the man hours required per hour of operation was fulfilled.

Annual hours worked per man was calculated for an average week of 50 hours per week for 52 weeks. This gave a total of (50 x 52 = 2600 hours per year) 2600 hours per year. Additional part time help was added for all time required over 1, 2, 3, or 4 full time men (2600, 5200, 7800, or 10,400 man hours), up to and including 1300 hours. For all time over 1300 hours (1300 hours is equivalent to 6 months work at 50 hours per week) another full time man was added. It was found that on the average an elevator does not hire a man for over 6 months as part time labor. The same procedure was followed for both single and double-line plants.

It was assumed that overtime would be paid for all time over 40 hours per week. Therefore 520 of the 2600 hours was figured as overtime (40 hours per week x 52 weeks = 2080 hours per year and 2600 hours - 2080 hours = 520 hours overtime per year).

Regular time for full time labor was calculated at \$1.50 per hour and overtime was figured at time and a half at \$2.25 per hour. This resulted in the following annual cost per full time man:

2080 hours x \$1.50 per hour = \$3120

520 hours x 2.25 per hour = 1170 2600 hours \$4290 = Total Cost

The same over time ratio was maintained for all part time labor as was used for full time labor. The ratio being 80% at the regular rate and 20% at the overtime rate. Therefore, for each 100 hours of part time labor 80 hours was at the regular rate and 20 hours was at the overtime rate.

Regular time for part time labor was calculated at \$1.40_per hour and overtime was computed as time and a half or \$2.10 per hour. This resulted in the following cost per 100 hours of part time labor:

80 hours x \$1.40 per hour - \$112 20 hours x 2.10 per hour = 42 100 hours \$154 = Total Cost

Model Plants Cherical Requirements and Cost Estimates

On the average elevators in Michigan employ one office clerk for each five full time men employed in the plant. This figure was used in calculating office help requirements for each model plant.

It was assumed that each plant would require full time office help during the harvest season. Therefore, 100 hours of clerical help was included for each single-line plant and 200 hours for each double-line plant.

In addition to the harvest season requirements, one-fifth of an hour of clerical help was included for each required hour of plant labor.

All clerical help was calculated at \$1.25 per hour. A 40 hour week was assumed and all hourly estimates were rounded to a 40 hour week. At this rate a full time clerk would work 2080 hours per year (40 hours x 52 weeks - 2080 hours), which would amount to an annual salary of \$2600 (2080 hours x \$1.25 per hour = \$2600).

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Model Plant Management Requirements and Cost Estimates

Management cost would be overstated if the manager's salary was allocated entirely to the grain merchandising operation. The time spent by management or the manager on matters pertaining to grain and corn depends on several factors. One very important factor is the percent of the total operation that grain and corn merchandising represents. The following procedure was therefore used in allocating the manager's salary according to the annual hours of operation.

The salary paid a manager usually increases as the size of plant increases. This may be due to either a bonus or commission plan or simply an increased salary because of the larger business and increased responsibilities. The salaries used throughout this study ranged from \$5,200 per year for the 750 bushel per hour plant to \$10,200 per year for the 4500 bushel per hour plant. The \$1,000 increase in salary between plants appears to be reasonable in light of company audits and due to the fact that no allowance was made for a bonus or commission plan, which is a common practice in Michigan.

The manager's salary was allocated according to the number of annual hours of operation with each block of hours receiving a certain percent of the manager's annual salary. In allocating the manager's salary in this way it was assumed that if the plant received grain only a few hours per year that the grain merchandising operation was of relative less importance than if it received

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grain a greater number of hours per year.

The manager's annual salary, hours of operation and the respective percent of salary allocated to each are presented in table 47. The percentages used appear to be representative of conditions as they now exist in Michigan.

Table 47:--The Manager's Annual Salary Allocated According to Annual Hours of Operation For Model Grain Elevators, Michigan 1961.

Plant Capacity	Manager's Annual Salary	Hours of Operation and Percent of Total Annual Salary				
		300	600	900	1200	1500
		25%	37.5%	50%	62.5%	75%
(B.P.H.)						
750 B.P.H Single-Line	\$5200	\$1 3 00 '	\$1 950 ·	\$2600	\$3250	\$3900
1500 B.P.H Single-Line	6200	1550	2 32 5	3100	3875	4 650
2250 B.P.H Single-Line	7 200	1800	2700	3600	4500	5400
2250 B.P.H Double-Line	7200	1800	2700	3600	4500	5400
3000 B.P.H Double-Line	8200	2050	3075	4100	5125	6150
3750 B.P.H Double-Line	9200	2300	3450	4600	5750	6900
4500 B.P.H Double-Line	10200	2550	3825	5100	6375	7650

Social Security Tax

Social security tax is directly related to the annual cost of wages and salaries. The employer pays. 3 percent of the employee's salary up to the point at which the annual salary reaches \$4800.

Above \$4800 salary, social security tax was not deducted. This

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This rate was used (3%) for computing the social security tax on all plant labor wages, clerical wages, and manager's salary.

Workmen's Compensation Insurance

Another expense item based on payroll is workmen's compensation insurance. The rate of the insurance per \$100 of payroll depends on the risk involved in the particular job covered. The highest rate being for those employees whose principal work is in the elevator and the lowest rate being for the office workers.

In budgeting this expense item an average rate of \$2.58 per \$100 coverage, based on annual payroll, was used. This is an average rate for the types of operation used in the model plants and is representative of rates used in Michigan during 1961.

Inventory Insurance

Inventory insurance was based on an annual average plant inventory. This annual average inventory is based on the model plants storage capacities (20,000 through 120,000 bushels) and the annual hours of operation. The annual hours of operation were assumed to represent the importance of the grain merchandising operation to the various model plants. The annual average inventory allowed for each of the model plants is shown in table 48.

Table 48:-- Annual Average Inventory for Model Grain Elevators
Michigan, 1961.

Model Plant Storage Capacities	Annual Hours Of Operation and Percent of Storage Capacity Allowed As Annual Average Inventory					
00202020	300 Hours	1200 Hours	1500 Hours			
	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	
(Bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	
20,000	6,000	8,000	10,000	12,000	14,000	
40,000	12,000	16,000	20,000	24,000	28,000	
60,000	18,000	24,000	30,000	36,000	42,000	
80,000	24,000	32,000	40,000	48,000	56,000	
100,000	30,000	40,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	
120,000	36,000	48,000	60,000	72,000	84,000	

Annual average inventory was converted to a dollar basis for the purpose of estimating insurance cost. An average price per bushel of storage was used for each plant. The average price was based on the average price of wheat and corn in 1960 and varied between the various receiving mixes as the percent of grain and corn received changed:

The cost of insurance coverage for the annual average inventory maintained by the model plants was estimated at 9.6 cents per \$100 of inventory, based on the value of the material stored. This is an average rate and is representative of rates used in Michigan during 1961.

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Interest on Seasonal Capital

It was assumed that the model plants would need operating capital in the form of cash for day to day operations. Capital would also be tied up in the form of inventories. The value of the annual average inventory, used in calculating inventory insurance, was therefore used in estimating the annual interest charge for operating capital. An interest rate of 5 percent was applied to the value of the annual average inventory to obtain the annual cost of operating capital.

General Liability Insurance

General liability insurance varies inversely with total annual sales and total annual volume. This insurance cost also varied depending on whether the plant had more than one truck hoist, manlift, and railroad sidings. Comprehensive and general liability insurance was estimated at \$100,000/\$300,000 bodily injury limits and \$25,000/\$50,000 property damage limits.

This insurance cost was estimated by converting total annual volume, for the various operating situations, to a dollar basis. This was done by using an average price of \$1.85 per bushel for wheat and \$1.10 per bushel for corn. The following rates, table 49, were then used in estimating the cost of this insurance for the various model plants, These are average rates and are representative of rates used in Michigan during 1961.

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Table 49:--General Liability Insurance Rates for Model Grain Elevators, Michigan, 1961.

Annual Value of Sales	Insurance Rate Cents Per \$100 of Sales			
(dollars)	(cents)			
0 - 650,000 650,001 - 1,150,000 1,150,001 - 1,650,000 1,650,001 - 2,150,000 2,150,001 - 2,650,000 3,150,001 - 3,150,000 3,650,001 - 4,150,000 4,150,001 - 4,650,000 4,650,001 - 5,150,000 5,150,001 - 6,150,000 6,150,001 - 6,650,000	2,50 cents/\$100 1.05 cents/\$100 .70 cents/\$100 .55 cents/\$100 .50 cents/\$100 .50 cents/\$100 .50 cents/\$100 .50 cents/\$100 .50 cents/\$100 .50 cents/\$100 .35 cents/\$100 .36 cents/\$100 .37 cents/\$100 .38 cents/\$100 .39 cents/\$100 .30 cents/\$100			

Maintenance As A Variable Expense

Total annual repairs and maintenance expense was calculated at 2 percent of the total investment in fixed assets. One-sixth of total annual repairs and maintenance was then allowed as a fixed expense (see Appendix B). This expense was to cover repairs resulting from weathering and time rather than volume handled. The remaining annual repairs and maintenance expense is included here as a variable expense to cover those repairs and maintenance requirements resulting from wear due to hours of operation and volume handled.

Maintenance as a variable expense was allocated assuming 1500 hours of annual operation as the maximum. A plant operating 1500 hours per year was therefore allocated 5/6th of the total

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maintenance expense as a variable expense and 1/6th as a fixed expense. A plant operating 1500 hours per year was the only point for which the total maintenance expense was allowed for each plant. Each smaller group of hours being reduced by 1/6th of the total annual repairs and maintenance expense.

Total annual repairs and maintenance expense was therefore allocated in the following way for each model plant: 1/6th as a fixed expense plus 1/6th for 300 hours of operation, 1/3rd for 600 hours of operation, 1/2 for 900 hours of operation, 2/3rds for 1200 hours of operation, and 5/6th for 1500 hours of operation.

<u>Utilities</u>

Electric power requirements were computed separately for each model plant operating under the various operating conditions set forth. These requirements were calculated on a kilowatts per hour basis for each piece of equipment that was operating for each of the various load sizes received. The total hourly consumption in kilowatts was then a simple addition of the kilowatts

The formula used in estimating kilowatt hours for each individual motor used in each model plant was as follows, see Max Kushlan, "Handbook of Industrial Electircity," McGraw-Hill Dook Company, Inc., New York and London, 1931, page 23-4.

 $KW = \frac{\text{Volts x Amps x 1.732 x P.F.}}{1,000}$

where; Volts = Voltage of the electrical system, 220 volts was used in all model plants.

Amps = Amps used by the electric motor. The motor manufactures recommended full load amperage was used in all cases.

^{1.372 =} A constant used when calculating the kilowatt hours of 3 phase motors.

P.F. = Power factor. A power factor of 80% was used for all motors less than 5 HP and a power factor of 85% was used for all motors 5HP and over.

1,000 = Watts per kilowatt.

KW = Kilowatts per hour.

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used by the individual pieces of equipment. The same procedure was followed for receiving both small grains and ear corn.

The actual time that each piece of equipment was operated, when receiving each of the various average load sizes, was obtained from data gathered when the plants were visited. These timings were used to determine the actual time per hour that the individual pieces of equipment were actually operating. Thus, adequate time was allowed for delays and idle periods when the various pieces of equipment were not operating.

The following monthly energy rates were used throughout this study in estimating the monthly cost of electric power.

Energy charge:

- \$1.40 per month which shall include 24 KWH or less, this is also the minimum charge per month,
 - 5.0¢ per KWH for the next 26 KWH,
 - 3.6¢ per KWH for the next 950 KWH,
 - 3.15¢ per KWH for the next 2,000 KWH,
 - 2.75% per KWH for the excess.

Electricity is charged on a monthly basis and depends on the kilowatt hours used during that month. Therefore the annual hours of operation for both small grains and ear corn were divided between the twelve months so that an accurate approximation could be obtained for each months operation. This resulted in July and August being the high months in regards to electricity consumption, followed by October, September, November, December and January.

The remaining 5 months were the low electricity consumption months.

The estimates obtained for electric power were assumed to include electric light consumption. Electric lights are but a

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minor part of total electricity charge.

Miscellaneous Expenses

This group of expenses was included to cover the many minor operating expenses faced by grain elevators. Company audits were reviewed to determine the percent of total operating expense that the items in this category accounted for. It was found that the expenses included in this group accounts for approximately 15% of total operating expenses (this includes both fixed and variable expenses). This group of expenses was therefore calculated at 15% of the total fixed and variable expenses. This 15% included the following items:

Advertising Legal and Auditing Office Supplies	2% 1% 1%
Plant Supplies	2%
Telephone and Telegraph Truck expense	1% 2%
Office Heat	1%
Other	5%
Total	15%

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