



## **Grade 4 Harvesting Demonstration Resource: Equipment Cost Comparison**

Cost of a new John Deere combine (2016 estimate): \$350,000.00

Cost of a threshing outfit (1915 estimate): \$3600.00

Equipment cost breakdown based on J.I. Case catalogue, 1915:

J.I. Case threshing machine (depending on size) \$335.00 - \$600.00

+

Steam engine to operate threshing machine (depending on size) \$1225.00- \$3000.00

OR

Tractor to operate threshing machine (depending on size) \$1350.00- \$2500.00

Note: Another harvest cost then and now is hiring workers to help. Harvest crews in 1915 were much bigger than harvest crews today, because today machines do more of the work. One advertisement in the May 20, 1915 Nor-West Farmer magazine offered "field pitchers" on a threshing crew \$3.00 per day. Room and board were offered to each member of the crew for \$0.50 per day.

## **Price of Wheat Cost Comparison – 1916 & 2008**

Average price of wheat in Saskatchewan in 1916\*: \$47.04 per tonne (\$1.28 per bushel)

Average price of wheat in Saskatchewan in 2008\*\*: \$193.82 per tonne (\$5.27 per bushel)

\* *From prairie roots: The remarkable story of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool* by Garry Lawrence Fairbairn, 1984

\*\*WDM Correspondence from Viterra Inc., September 1, 2009