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# Evaluation of Investments in Rice-Soybean Rotations in the Delta of Mississippi

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# Evaluation of Investments in Rice-Soybean Rotations in the Delta of Mississippi

Removal of government restrictions on rice production triggered an increase in production in Mississippi---harvested acreage increased from 62,000 in 1973 to 108,000 in 1974 and 171,000 in 1975 [1, 2]. A still larger acreage may be planted this year. Increases in acreage likely will be on land planted to rice for the first time and much of it must be put to grade

(“formed”). Rice production also requires investment in irrigation wells and equipment for putting water on the growing crop. In addition, producers may find it to their advantage to provide on-farm drying and storage of any new production before selling it to a mill.

Farmers who are considering the production of rice for the first time or who are thinking of expanding

their existing rice acreage need a basis for estimating the profitability of the investment required. This involves the formulation of their expectations of future conditions<sup>1</sup> and the incorporation of these into decision-making---a process that becomes more difficult when decisions involve a flow of returns over long periods of time, as is true for investments in rice production.

## Objectives

Our study was designed to generate information to assist farmers in appraising the feasibility of investing in the land forming, the irrigation wells and equipment and the drying-storing facilities needed for an efficient rice operation. Specifically, our attempt was

to determine the number of years required to “pay back” a given per acre investment in rice production or, alternatively, to determine the investment per acre that could be recaptured over a specified number of years.

## Procedure and Sources of Data

Gross income per acre was estimated for the years 1976-1990 for rice and soybeans grown in two rotations (Table 1), for continuous soybeans grown on clay soil and for solid cotton grown on clay soil. We assumed three yield levels<sup>2</sup> for each crop and converted produc-

tion to value, using three different prices for each crop (Table 2).

Estimates of the cost of producing an acre of each crop in 1976 were made, based on production practices that we obtained from published reports of previous research [3, 4]. We used 1975 prices

of production inputs except for those cost items with a machinery component, for which we used estimates of 1976 machinery and equipment prices provided by distributors in the area.

Variable costs (“direct expense”) accounted for the bulk of the es-

<sup>1</sup>Numbers in brackets refer to literature cited at the end of this bulletin.

<sup>2</sup>Their estimates of crop yields and of actual or relative prices for products produced and resources used in production and their expectations with regard to changes in laws, regulations and other man-made constraints that impinge either directly or indirectly upon the success of their venture.

The yield of soybeans grown in rice-soybean rotation was assumed to be three bushels higher than that of soybeans grown continuously. This yield difference is reflected in the differences in net returns reported in Tables 4 and 5.

estimated total cost of producing each crop in 1976 (Table 3). However, our estimates do not reflect all fixed costs ("indirect ex-

pense") that would be entailed in bringing new land into a rice-soybean rotation.<sup>3</sup> Labor and machinery ownership and opera-

tion are the production items we expect to experience the greatest cost increases in the next few years. Consequently, costs of these items for 1977 and subsequent years were increased over our 1976 estimates by 2.5 percent per year compounded annually. Because no rice can be grown in the year when land is being put to grade, a cost equivalent to the net income that could have been realized from producing continuous soybeans or solid cotton was charged to the rice-soybean rotations in 1976.

Net income per acre from each crop was calculated by subtracting total specified expenses in each year from the 15 years from our estimates of gross annual income.<sup>4</sup> Thus, our estimates of net income for solid cotton and for continuous soybeans are the returns to operation, management, land and general farm overhead. For rice

**Table 1. Two Rice-Soybean Rotations, Clay Soils, Delta of Mississippi, 1976-1990.**

Year	One Year Rice One Year Soybeans	One Year Rice Two Year Soybean
1	None (land forming)	None (land forming)
2	Rice	Rice
3	Rice	Rice
4	Soybeans	Soybeans
5	Soybeans	Soybeans
6	Rice	Rice
7	Soybeans	Soybeans
8	Rice	Soybeans
9	Soybeans	Rice
10	Rice	Soybeans
11	Soybeans	Soybeans
12	Rice	Rice
13	Soybeans	Soybeans
14	Rice	Soybeans
15	Soybeans	Rice

**Table 2. Annual gross income per acre for rice, soybeans and cotton, specified product price and yield situations, Delta of Mississippi, 1976-1990.**

Product price	Rice yields (bushels)			Soybeans yields (bushels)			Cotton yields (pounds of lint) <sup>1</sup>		
	90	100	110	23	28	33	500	550	
	----- (Dollars) -----								
Rice:									
3.00	270.00	300.00	330.00						
3.75	337.50	375.00	412.50						
4.50	405.00	450.00	495.00						
Soybeans:									
4.50				103.50	126.00	148.50			
5.00				115.00	140.00	165.00			
5.50				126.50	154.00	181.50			
Cotton <sup>2</sup> :									
.40							238.75	262.63	
.45							273.44	300.78	
.50							308.13	338.94	

<sup>1</sup>Includes the value of seed produced based on 1.55 pounds of seed per pound of lint.

<sup>2</sup>Price of cottonseed per pound was set at \$.05, \$.0625, and \$.075 when lint prices were \$.40, and \$.50 per pound, respectively.

<sup>3</sup>The prorated annual cost of the investment in land forming, irrigation wells and equipment, and dry storing facilities is reflected in our comparisons of net returns from new rice-soybean rotation with returns from continuous soybeans and solid cotton (Tables 4 and 5).

<sup>4</sup>The results presented in Tables 4 and 5 were computed from the average net income for the years 1976-1990.

Table 3. Estimated cost of producing one acre of rice, soybeans and cotton, usual input practices, clay soil, Delta of Mississippi, 1976.

Item	Rice <sup>1</sup> with per acre yields (bushels) of			Soybeans <sup>2</sup> with per acre yields (bushels) of			Solid cotton <sup>3</sup> with per acre yields (pounds of lint) of		
	90	100	110	23	28	33	500	550	600
	------(Dollars)-----								
Direct expense <sup>4</sup>	186.72	190.72	194.72	45.10	45.50	45.90	213.82	218.32	222.82
Fixed expense <sup>5</sup>	31.63	31.63	31.63	14.31	14.31	14.31	47.37	47.37	47.37
Total expense <sup>6</sup>	218.35	222.35	226.35	59.41	59.81	60.21	261.19	265.69	270.19

Source: [3] with 1976 estimates of machinery and equipment costs.

Rice behind soybeans with 110-120 DBHP tractor.

Continuous soybeans, 8 row-equipment.

Solid cotton, 38-40 inch rows, 8 row-equipment.

Includes direct expenses for tractor and equipment, special equipment, labor, production materials, variable harvesting costs, other miscellaneous production costs and interest on operating capital.

Includes ownership costs of tractor, equipment and special harvesting equipment. Does not include fixed costs on irrigation well, charges for land forming or fixed costs for drying and storage of rice on the farm.

Sum of direct expense and fixed expense.

Soybeans grown in a new rice-*facilities was not charged to the* soybeans and rice grown in a new  
 soybean rotation, however, our *rice-soybean rotation, but is* rotation the estimated net returns  
 estimates of net income are the *reflected in our comparisons of net* from continuous soybeans and  
 differences between gross income *returns from a new rice soybean* solid cotton. Finally, the  
 and specified costs. *rotation with returns from con-* differences in net income were dis-  
*tinuous soybeans and solid cotton.)* counted to their 1976 value, using  
*annual cost of the investment in* We then subtracted from the es- discount rates of seven, nine and  
*land forming, irrigation wells and* timated per acre net returns to eleven percent as follows:  
*equipment, and drying-storing*

$$(1) V_o = \sum_{n=1}^t \frac{NI_{rn} - NI_{an}}{(1+i)^n}$$

Where  $V_o$  = the present value of the stream of per acre net income differences

$NI_{rn}$  = the estimated net income per acre from a rice-soybean system of rotation in year  $n$

$NI_{an}$  = the estimated net income per acre from either the continuous soybean or solid cotton alternative in year  $n$

$n$  = a particular year in the planning period ( $n = 1, 2, \dots, t$ )

$t$  = the planning period in years

$i$  = the rate used to discount the stream of net income differences

$\sum_{n=1}^t$  = the summation of the discounted stream of per acre net income differences for any number of years up to  $t = 15$  (i.e., the planning period is varied by years, 1, 2, 3, . . . , 15).

Table 4. Excess of Net Returns Per Acre From Two Rice-Soybean Rotations Over Continuous Soybeans, for Specified Yields and Prices of Rice and Soybeans and Specified Rates of Discount on Investment, by Number of Years Required to "Payback" Investment in Rice-Soybean Rotations, Clay Soils, Delta of Mississippi, 1976-1990\*

Year	One Year Rice - One Year Soybean Rotation										One Year Rice - Two Year Soybean Rotation									
	26 bu. Soybeans - 90 bu. Rice 1/					31 bu. Soybeans - 100 bu. Rice 2/					26 bu. Soybeans - 90 bu. Rice 1/					31 bu. Soybeans - 100 bu. Rice 2/				
	4.50SB 3.00R (1)	5.00SB 3.75R (2)	5.50SB 4.50R (3)	5.00SB 3.75R (4)	5.50SB 4.50R (5)	4.50SB 3.00R (6)	5.00SB 3.75R (7)	5.50SB 4.50R (8)	5.00SB 3.75R (9)	5.50SB 4.50R (10)	4.50SB 3.00R (11)	5.00SB 3.75R (12)	5.50SB 4.50R (13)	5.00SB 3.75R (14)	5.50SB 4.50R (15)	4.50SB 3.00R (16)	5.00SB 3.75R (17)	5.50SB 4.50R (18)		
1	\$-41	-52	-63	-62	-75	-88	-82	-98	-113	-41	-52	-63	-62	-75	-88	-82	-98	-113		
2	-36	3	41	-53	-13	27	-70	-28	14	-36	2	41	-53	-13	27	-70	-28	14		
3	-34	50	134	-48	34	132	-62	34	130	-34	50	132	-62	34	130	-62	34	130		
4	-24	61	146	-38	53	144	-52	45	142	-24	61	146	-38	53	144	-52	45	142		
5	-15	72	158	-29	64	156	-43	56	154	-15	72	158	-29	64	156	-43	56	154		
6	-16	107	231	-28	105	238	-43	103	245	-16	107	231	-28	105	238	-39	103	245		
7	-8	116	241	-20	114	248	-31	112	256	-8	116	241	-20	114	248	-31	112	256		
8	-11	146	303	-20	149	318	-30	152	334	0	125	250	-12	123	257	-23	121	265		
9	-4	154	311	-13	157	329	-23	160	342	-4	151	306	-14	154	321	-23	156	336		
10	-9	178	364	-16	185	386	-23	193	409	3	158	314	-7	161	329	-16	164	344		
11	-3	184	371	-10	192	394	-17	200	416	9	165	322	-1	168	337	-10	171	351		
12	-8	204	416	-13	216	444	-19	227	473	3	185	366	-4	192	387	-12	198	408		
13	-3	210	422	-8	222	451	-13	233	480	9	191	373	1	198	394	-7	204	415		
14	-8	225	459	-12	240	493	-17	255	527	14	196	379	6	203	400	-2	210	421		
15	-4	230	465	-8	245	499	-12	260	533	7	210	413	1	220	439	-5	230	465		
----- (% discount rate) -----																				
1	\$-40	-51	-62	-61	-74	-86	-81	-96	-111	-40	-51	-62	-61	-74	-86	-81	-96	-111		
2	-35	1	38	-52	-14	25	-69	-29	12	-35	1	38	-52	-14	25	-69	-29	12		
3	-24	46	126	-48	38	124	-62	30	121	-48	46	126	-48	38	124	-62	30	121		
4	-24	57	138	-38	48	135	-52	40	133	-24	57	138	-38	48	136	-52	41	133		
5	-16	66	148	-30	58	146	-44	50	143	-16	66	148	-30	58	146	-44	50	143		
6	-17	98	213	-29	95	219	-40	92	225	-17	98	213	-29	95	219	-40	92	225		
7	-10	106	222	-22	103	228	-33	100	234	-10	106	222	-22	103	228	-33	100	234		
8	-13	132	276	-22	133	288	-26	135	301	-3	114	230	-15	111	236	-27	108	242		
9	-7	138	283	-16	140	296	-26	141	309	-7	136	279	-16	137	291	-26	138	303		
10	-10	158	327	-18	164	345	-26	169	364	-1	142	286	-11	143	298	-21	145	310		
11	-5	164	333	-13	169	352	-21	174	370	4	148	292	-6	149	304	-16	150	316		
12	-10	179	368	-16	188	392	-23	196	416	0	164	327	-9	168	344	-17	172	361		
13	-5	184	374	-12	193	397	-23	201	421	4	168	332	-4	172	350	-13	177	367		
14	-10	196	402	-16	207	430	-21	218	458	8	173	337	-1	177	354	-9	181	371		
15	-6	200	407	-12	211	435	-18	222	462	3	183	363	-4	190	384	-12	197	405		
----- (11% discount rate) -----																				
1	\$-40	-50	-60	-60	-72	-85	-80	-94	-109	-40	-50	-60	-60	-72	-85	-80	-94	-109		
2	-35	0	36	-51	-14	22	-68	-30	9	-35	0	36	-51	-14	22	-68	-30	9		
3	-33	43	119	-47	34	116	-61	26	113	-33	43	119	-47	34	116	-61	26	113		
4	-24	52	130	-38	44	127	-52	36	124	-24	52	130	-38	44	127	-52	36	124		
5	-17	61	139	-31	53	136	-44	44	133	-17	61	139	-31	53	136	-44	44	133		
6	-18	90	198	-30	86	202	-42	83	207	-18	90	198	-30	86	202	-42	83	207		
7	-12	97	206	-23	93	210	-35	90	214	-12	97	206	-23	93	210	-35	90	214		
8	-14	119	252	-24	119	262	-34	119	273	-6	103	213	-18	100	217	-30	96	221		
9	-9	125	258	-19	125	269	-29	125	279	-9	122	254	-19	122	264	-29	122	273		
10	-12	141	294	-21	145	310	-29	148	325	-4	128	259	-14	127	269	-25	127	279		
11	-8	146	300	-16	149	315	-25	153	330	0	132	264	-10	132	274	-20	132	284		
12	-11	158	328	-19	164	347	-26	170	367	-3	145	293	-12	147	307	-22	149	320		
13	-8	162	332	-16	168	352	-23	174	371	0	148	297	-9	151	311	-18	153	325		
14	-12	172	354	-18	179	377	-25	187	400	3	152	301	-6	154	317	-15	157	328		
15	-9	174	358	-16	182	380	-22	190	403	0	160	320	-9	164	337	-17	168	354		

\* The results were computed from the program not income for the years 1976-1990.

Year	One Year Rice - One Year Soybean Rotation										One Year Rice - Two Year Soybean Rotation									
	26 bu. Soybeans - 90 bu. Rice 1/					31 bu. Soybeans - 100 bu. Rice 2/					26 bu. Soybeans - 90 bu. Rice 1/					31 bu. Soybeans - 100 bu. Rice 2/				
	4.50SB4/ 3.00R	5.00SB4/ 3.75R	5.50SB4/ 4.50R	5.00SB 3.00R	5.50SB 3.75R	6.00SB 4.50R	6.50SB 5.25R	7.00SB 6.00R	7.50SB 6.75R	8.00SB 7.50R	8.50SB 8.25R	9.00SB 9.00R	9.50SB 9.75R	10.00SB 10.50R	10.50SB 11.25R	11.00SB 12.00R	11.50SB 12.75R	12.00SB 13.50R	12.50SB 14.25R	13.00SB 15.00R
1	\$ 21	-11	-44	3	-33	-68	-15	-54	-93	21	11	-44	3	-33	-68	-15	-54	-93		
2	86	82	78	73	70	66	61	58	55	86	82	78	73	70	66	61	58	55		
3	144	167	190	137	163	190	130	160	190	144	167	190	137	163	190	130	160	190		
4	208	214	220	203	212	221	219	216	212	208	214	220	203	212	221	219	216	212		
5	268	259	250	265	259	252	262	258	253	268	259	250	265	259	252	262	258	253		
6	316	328	341	317	335	352	319	341	364	316	328	341	317	335	352	319	341	364		
7	370	370	369	374	377	381	377	385	392	370	370	369	374	377	381	377	385	392		
8	410	430	448	419	444	469	426	457	489	422	422	409	396	426	448	426	457	489		
9	460	467	474	469	482	495	477	496	515	460	464	469	469	479	489	477	493	508		
10	496	520	543	508	540	571	520	560	599	507	501	494	517	516	534	517	531	534		
11	541	554	567	554	575	596	567	596	624	552	535	518	563	551	539	574	567	559		
12	572	600	628	588	626	663	604	651	698	583	581	578	597	602	608	611	622	633		
13	613	631	650	630	658	686	647	684	721	624	624	601	624	626	628	654	655	656		
14	639	670	702	659	701	743	679	731	783	661	642	622	678	664	650	694	686	677		
15	676	699	722	697	730	764	717	761	805	687	679	671	705	705	704	724	731	737		
1	\$ 21	-11	-43	3	-32	-67	-15	-53	-91	21	-11	-43	3	-32	-67	-15	-53	-91		
2	83	78	74	71	67	63	58	55	51	83	78	74	71	67	63	58	55	51		
3	138	159	180	131	155	180	124	152	179	138	159	180	131	155	180	124	152	179		
4	197	203	209	192	200	209	187	198	209	197	203	209	192	200	209	187	198	209		
5	252	244	236	249	243	236	246	241	237	252	249	243	236	246	241	237	236	241		
6	295	306	317	295	311	327	296	316	336	295	306	317	295	311	327	296	316	336		
7	343	342	342	345	348	352	347	354	361	343	342	342	345	348	352	347	354	361		
8	378	394	410	384	406	427	389	417	444	388	376	365	391	383	375	395	390	385		
9	420	426	432	427	438	450	434	450	467	420	424	428	427	436	444	433	448	461		
10	450	470	490	460	486	513	469	503	537	460	454	448	467	466	466	475	479	483		
11	487	498	509	497	515	533	508	533	557	496	482	468	505	495	486	513	508	503		
12	512	535	558	525	556	587	537	577	616	521	519	516	532	536	539	543	552	562		
13	544	559	575	557	581	605	571	603	634	553	543	534	565	561	557	577	578	580		
14	564	590	616	580	615	650	596	640	684	582	567	551	595	585	574	608	603	597		
15	592	612	632	609	637	666	625	663	700	602	595	588	616	616	615	631	637	642		
1	\$ 20	-11	-42	3	-32	-66	-15	-52	-89	20	-11	-42	3	-32	-66	-15	-52	-89		
2	80	76	71	68	64	59	56	52	48	80	76	71	68	64	59	56	52	48		
3	132	152	171	125	148	170	118	143	169	132	152	171	125	148	170	118	143	169		
4	188	193	198	182	190	197	177	187	197	188	193	197	182	190	197	177	187	197		
5	238	230	222	234	228	222	230	226	222	238	222	234	222	230	222	230	226	222		
6	276	286	295	276	290	303	275	293	311	276	286	295	276	290	303	275	293	311		
7	318	318	317	319	322	325	320	327	333	318	318	317	319	322	325	320	327	333		
8	349	363	376	353	372	391	357	381	405	357	347	337	359	352	345	358	354	354		
9	385	390	395	390	400	410	394	410	424	385	388	390	390	397	404	394	407	418		
10	410	426	443	417	440	463	424	454	483	417	412	408	423	423	422	429	433	436		
11	439	449	459	448	463	479	456	478	499	447	435	424	446	438	438	440	457	453		
12	460	479	498	479	496	522	480	513	547	467	467	462	476	479	482	484	492	500		
13	485	498	512	495	516	536	506	534	561	492	484	476	502	499	496	511	513	515		
14	501	522	543	513	542	571	526	562	599	516	502	489	525	517	509	535	542	548		
15	522	539	555	535	559	583	548	580	612	530	524	518	542	541	540	553	558	562		

\* The results were computed from the average net income for the years 1976-1990.  
 1/ Compared with solid cotton yielding 500 pounds of lint per acre.  
 2/ Compared with solid cotton yielding 550 pounds of lint per acre.  
 3/ Compared with solid cotton yielding 600 pounds of lint per acre.  
 4/ Prices of lint were \$.40, \$.45 and \$.50 per pound when soybeans and rice were priced at \$4.50 - \$3.00, \$5.00 - \$3.75, and \$5.50 - \$4.50 per bushel, respectively.



# Application to Investment in a Rice-Soybean Rotation<sup>5</sup>

The discounted net incomes (Tables 4 and 5) represent the additional net income that would be available to repay the investment in land forming, irrigation wells and equipment, and drying-storing facilities.<sup>6</sup> Once these investments have been recaptured these additions to net income would become increased returns to operator management, land and general farm overhead.

*Returns to investment and length of "payback" period*---The results reported in Tables 4 and 5 may be used in two ways. Suppose that a soybean producer has been attaining yields of 28 bushels per acre. He is considering forming his land for rice production and using a rotation of rice in one year and soybeans in one year. He expects to average 100 bushels per acre from rice and 31 bushels from soybeans following rice in the rotation. He also expects to receive an average price of \$5.00 per bushel for soybeans, \$3.75 for rice. He wishes to know how much investment per acre for land forming, for an irrigation system and for drying-storing facilities could be paid back in six years, using a discount rate of seven percent. Looking at column

(5) of Table 4, under the seven percent discount rate, he finds that an investment of \$105 per acre could be repaid in six years.

Or suppose that the same producer estimates that he must invest \$145 per acre to get into rice production and wishes to know how many years it will take to repay this investment under the yield, product prices and discount rate specified in the above example. In Column (5) of Table 4, under the seven percent discount rate, he finds that a payback period of eight years would be required to return the \$145 investment. The repayment period and the investment required for other yield levels, for other prices of rice and soybeans and for a rotation of one year of rice and two years of soybeans can be determined for discount rates of seven, nine and eleven percent by interpreting Table 4 in the same manner. Table 5 contains the same information for producers who are considering a change from solid cotton to a rice-soybean rotation.

*Price that rice must bring for rice-soybean rotations to compete with continuous soybeans*---Rice would have to be priced at above \$3.00 for a rice-soybean rotation to return a

positive return on investment. For example, rice would have to bring \$3.76 per bushel to recapture a \$ investment per acre within years, if soybeans bring \$4.50 and a nine percent discount rate is used (Figure 1).<sup>7</sup> With this price for soybeans and the same discount rate, rice would have to bring \$ to return an investment of \$100 per acre in 12 years.

*Price that cotton must bring to compete with rice-soybean rotations*---A price of only 20 cents per pound of lint<sup>8</sup> would be required for solid cotton yielding 500 pounds of lint per acre to compete effectively with the rice-soybean rotation under conditions of \$3.00 rice, \$ soybeans, a \$325 per acre investment in a rice-soybean rotation and a two-year payback period with a nine percent discount rate (Figure 2).<sup>9</sup> A lower investment in soybean rotations and a longer payback period would require higher cotton prices for cotton to remain competitive, holding all other assumptions constant. Cotton still needs to bring only 15 cents to compete with an investment of \$100 per acre in a soybean rotation using a 15-year payback period.

<sup>5</sup>The results of this study are applicable only to situations where land forming is required for rice production.

<sup>6</sup>We believe that our estimates of profitability and of the lengths of "payback" periods are conservative because we held yields and prices constant through 1990 while allowing labor and machinery ownership and operation costs to increase by 2.5 percent per year compounded annually.

<sup>7</sup>The price of rice did not vary more than five cents per bushel above or below the curves shown in Figure 1 for the three yield situations and the two rice-soybean rotations.

<sup>8</sup>Includes the value of seed which was computed by adding 1.25 cents for each 5-cent increase in lint price (seed were considered to have no value with lint at 20 cents or lower).

<sup>9</sup>The price of cotton lint did not vary more than one cent per pound above or below the curves shown in Figure 2 for the three yield situations and the two rice-soybean rotations.

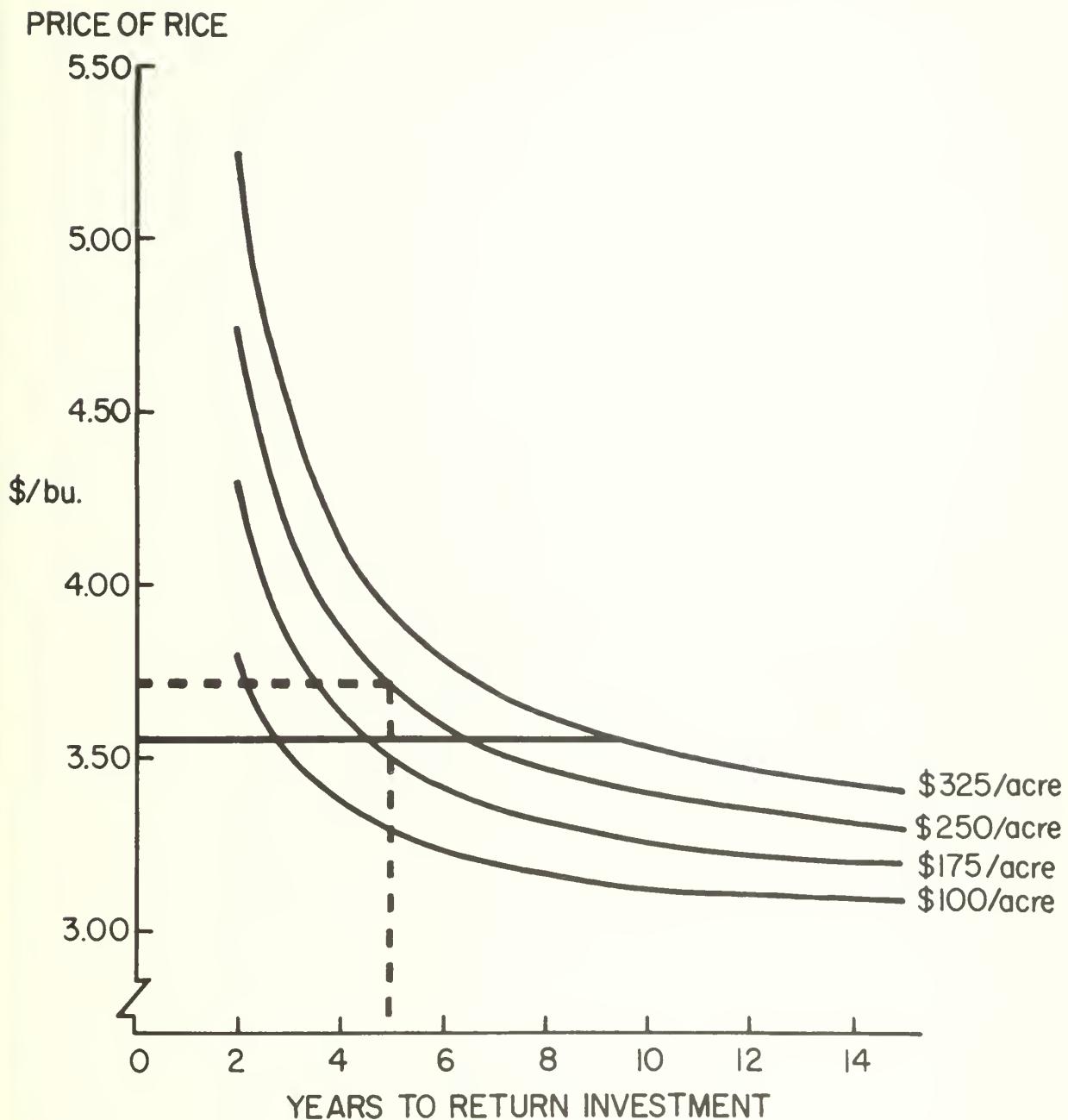


Figure 1. Price that rice must bring to return specified investments<sup>1</sup> in rice-soybean rotations, with \$4.50 soybeans and a 9 percent discount rate, by years required to repay investment, clay soils, Delta of Mississippi.

<sup>1</sup>An amount in addition to the net return from continuous soybeans yielding 23 bushels per acre and selling for \$4.50 per bushel.

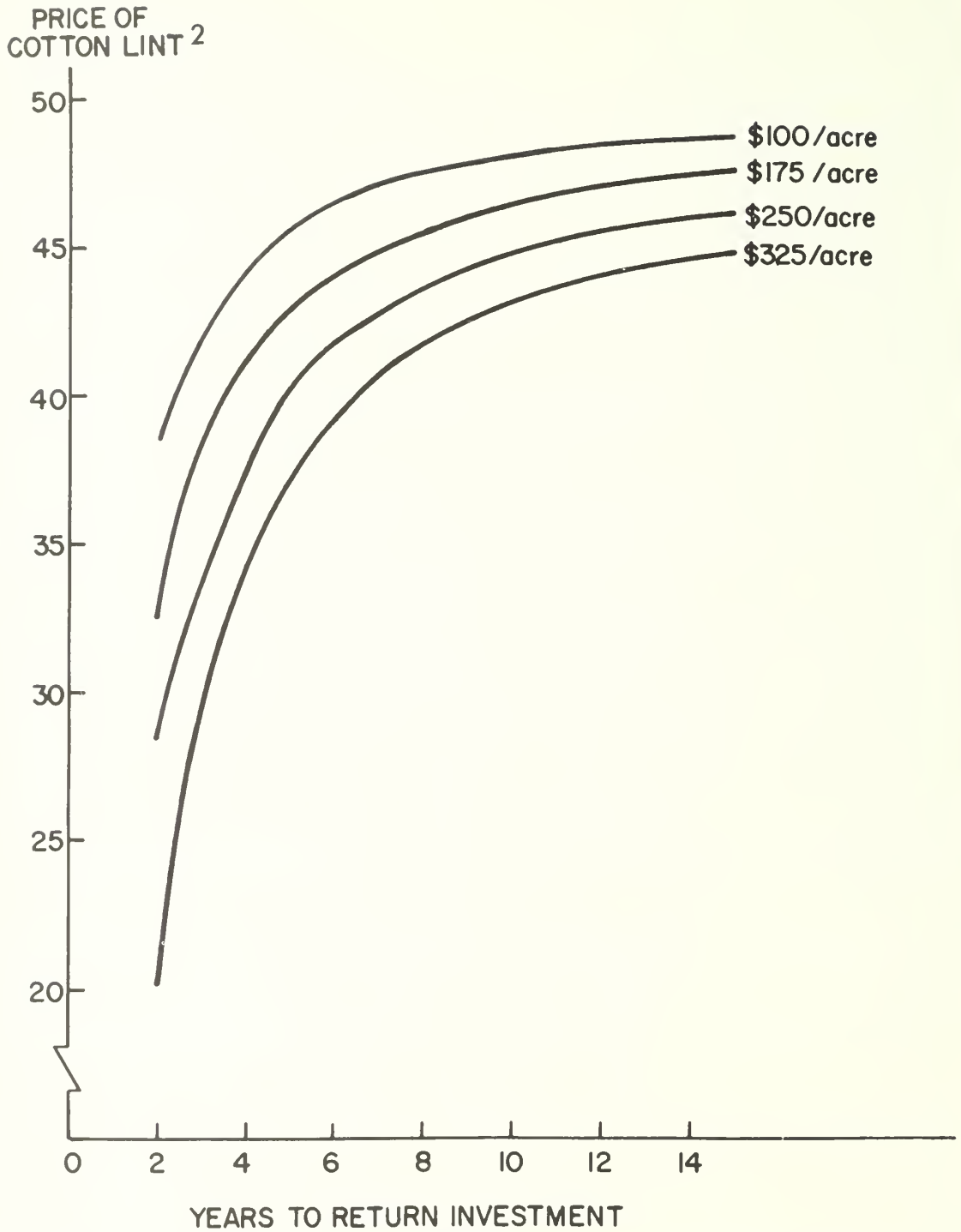


Figure 2. Price that cotton must bring to give a net return equal to the investment<sup>1</sup> in rice-soybean rotations, using a 9 percent discount rate, by years required to repay investment, clay soils, Delta of Mississippi.

<sup>1</sup>An amount equivalent to the net return from rice-soybean rotations with 90 bushel rice at \$3.00 and 26 bushel beans at \$4.50.

<sup>2</sup>Includes the value of seed which was computed by adding 1.25 cents for each 5-cent increase in lint price (seed were considered to have no value with lint at 20 cents or lower).