

Sample Costs to Produce Alfalfa Hay in Kern County - 1969

Man labor \$1.75 per hour total and equipment operator \$1.90

which includes employer's Social Security and Workman's Compensation insurance payments.

50 h.p. wheel diesel tractor per hour cash costs \$1.50, depreciation 75¢ and interest 40¢.

Roy M. Barnes, Farm Advisor

Edward A. Yeary, Farm Advisor-Statewide

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per acre	Per ton	Per acre	Per ton
<u>Pre-Harvest Cash Costs</u>				
Irrigate 13 times: labor 8 hrs.	\$ 14.00			
Power for 4½ ac. ft. water @ \$6.50	29.25			
Fertilize: 44 lbs. phosphate	11.00			
Bulk spread fertilizer	2.00			
Weed control: including application	10.00			
Insect control: total	5.00			
Taxes	18.00			
Repairs to irrigation system & equipment except tractor	3.50			
Miscellaneous labor, materials, 1 hr., man and tractor	4.50			
Business expense, office, car, etc, 6% of pre-harvest and harvest costs	9.90			
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	\$107.15	\$12.60		
<u>Harvesting Costs</u>				
Swath 7 X: contract \$2.25 per time	\$ 15.75			
Turn: contract, 7X at 50¢	3.50			
Bale: contract, \$4.00 per ton	34.00			
Roadside: contract \$1.75 per ton	14.90			
TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS	\$ 68.15	\$ 8.02		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$175.30	\$20.62		
<u>Depreciation</u>				
Irrigation system and equipment, \$200.00, 12 year life	\$ 16.65			
Tractor: 1 hr.	.75			
Stand: cost \$76.75, 3 years	25.60			
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$ 43.00	\$ 5.06		
<u>Interest on investment at 7%</u>				
Irrigation system and equipment: ½ cost \$100.00	\$ 7.00			
Tractor 1 hr.	.40			
Stand: ½ cost \$38.38	2.70			
Land: \$800.00 per acre	56.00			
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	\$ 66.10	\$ 7.78		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$284.40	\$33.46		

No allowance has been included for the cost of management. No income from sheep grazing has been indicated, although this is sometimes earned by hay growers. Costs are based on a yield of 8½ tons per acre average, with a three year stand life. Costs per acre are rounded to the nearest 5¢.

ALFALFA HAY

Sample
Flow

Activity	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Irrigate		3.33	3.33	6.65	6.65	6.65
Fertilize						
Weed Control		10.00				
Insect Control						
Taxes				9.00		
Repairs	1.75					
Misc. labor, Materials, Etc.	2.25					
Business Expense		.90	.90	.90	.90	.90
Harvest			9.74	9.74	9.74	9.74
Depreciation	3.58	3.58	3.58	3.58	3.58	3.58
Interest on investment	5.51	5.51	5.51	5.51	5.51	5.51
Total	13.09	23.32	23.06	35.38	26.38	26.38

PLANTING DEPTH:

Depth of seeding should not exceed one and one-half inches in a light soil, or three-fourths of an inch in heavier soils.

FERTILIZATION:

If any fertilizer is needed, it will be phosphate. In some fields around Arvin, Wheeler Ridge, Rosedale, and McFarland, tests have shown a phosphate deficiency. If the use of phosphate on other crops has given economical gains, then phosphate should be applied on alfalfa. At any rate, 80 lbs. to 100 lbs. of phosphate, (200 to 240 lbs. of Treble Super Phosphate), is all that would be needed.

IRRIGATION:

Irrigation will depend upon the kind of soil. Usually, two irrigations per cutting are sufficient. Water should not be allowed to stand for any length of time in the hot weather since this will kill out the plants. For good growth in Kern County, from 40 to 50 inches of water will be required in a season.

WEED CONTROL:

Mechanical: If the crop is cut at the proper time, the new growth at the crown has started. When exposed to light and heat, this new crop grows rapidly, soon covering the ground. In so doing, shades out the grass and weed seeds that otherwise would have a chance to germinate.

Chemical: Ask for "Weed Control Recommendations" published annually by the University of California. It contains the latest chemicals that are registered for use on alfalfa hay and the weed they control.