WHEAT

COSTS & GENERAL HINTS
ON PRODUCTION
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SUGGESTIONS ON GROWING WHEAT

By

David R. Woodruff, Farm Advisor

SOIL REQUIREMENTS

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Even if you do preirrigate check soil moisture at tillering stage to be sure ample moisture is present in the top six inches, otherwise reduced
COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET
SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE WHEAT IN KERN COUNTY - (Single Crop) - 1975
Based on man labor at $3.00 and $3.60 per hour; including compensation insurance and Social Security; 
80 h.p. wheel tractor cash cost per hour $3.60; Depreciation $1.45; Interest .65

David R. Woodruff, Farm Advisor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Hours Per Acre</th>
<th>Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre</th>
<th>Material and Equipment</th>
<th>Sample Costs</th>
<th>My Costs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>Fuel and Repairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land preparation</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigate: 1 pre, 4 crop</td>
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<td>21.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fertilize</td>
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<td>.70</td>
<td>.70</td>
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<td>Taxes</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous overhead</td>
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<td>3.50</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Cultural Costs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$33.80</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18.50</strong></td>
<td><strong>$78.80</strong></td>
<td><strong>$131.15</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Harvest

| Combine                 | Contract: $8.00 + .25/cwt. | $23.00          | $23.00 |
| Haul                    | Three tons @ $2.50/ton      | 7.50            | 7.50   |
| **Total Harvest Costs** |                             | **$30.50**      |        |

Total Cash and Labor Costs

Cash and Labor Cost Per Ton @ 30 Ton Yield $161.65 (53.88)

Costs At Varying Yields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pounds Per Acre</th>
<th>Total Cost Per Ton</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>$132.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>$107.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>$90.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>$78.90</td>
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<td>8,000</td>
<td>$69.95</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Per Acre</th>
<th>Depreciation</th>
<th>Interest 9%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
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<td>$72.00</td>
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<td>Irrigation system</td>
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<td>Tractor 3 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>1.65</td>
<td>.75</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>$85.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>$110.70</strong></td>
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</table>

TOTAL COST PER ACRE $272.35
TOTAL COST PER TON @ 6,000 LBS. YIELD $90.80

The costs of production in any agricultural enterprise will vary considerably from ranch to ranch. The input and cost data in this booklet are sample costs.

ABOUT THESE COST DATA -- They are intended to be used only as educational guides in assisting you to appraise and plan your own crop and livestock program.

*These cost data do not represent industry averages.*
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respond to phosphorus but applications over 80 to 100 pounds of P₂O₅ have not been economical.

IRRIGATION

There are four times when adequate moisture is important for good wheat production.

1. When plants are about six inches tall. At this stage they are completing tillering and starting elongation. Also at this time, the total number of potential florets per head are being determined.

2. A second critical period is when plants are in the boot and beginning to emerge from the boot. Shortly after this flowering begins. If moisture is short at this stage, the plant greatly reduces the number of florets pollinated, thus adjusting production to the current outlook for moisture.

3. If the soil moisture is near the critical level at blooming and is not improved shortly thereafter, reduced yield will result.

4. The fourth critical period occurs after the seed has begun to fill. At this time if water is not plentiful as much as 1000 pounds of yield may be lost. The most obvious sign is the many shriveled seed at harvest time. This irrigation is much more critical with the long maturing varieties.

HARVEST

Harvest usually begins about the first of June. Prolonged delay of harvesting certain varieties will result in shattering and yield loss, especially if located in a windy location.