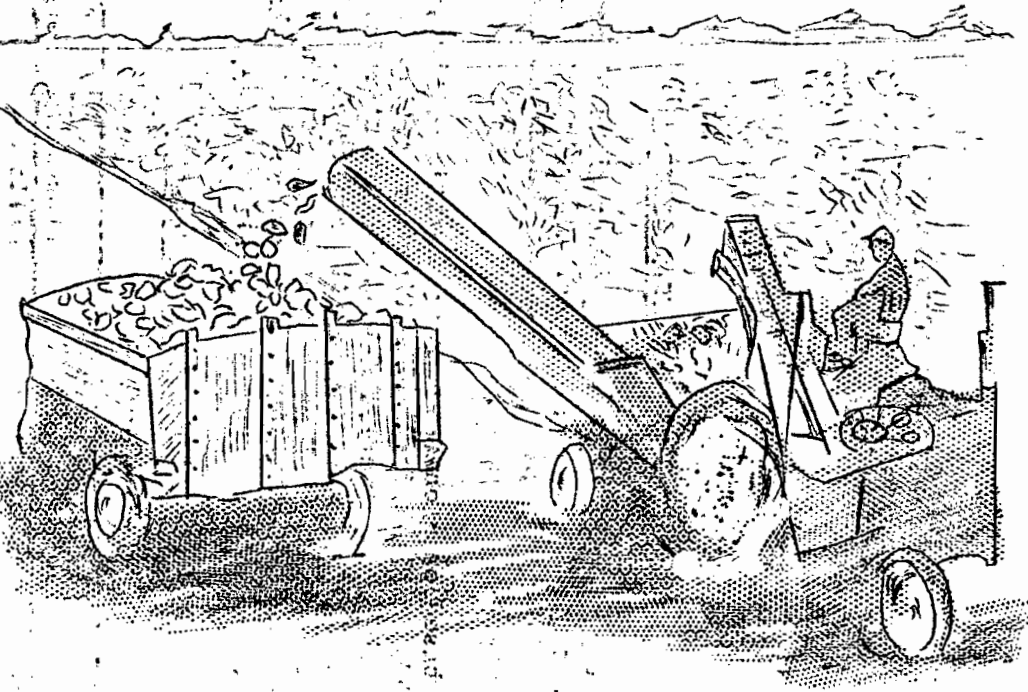


COST OF DIGGING SUGAR BEETS IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

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COST OF DIGGING SUGAR BEETS

Should a sugar beet grower own his own digger or should he contract for the harvesting operation? This publication was written and calculated to help the grower make his choice. Naturally, no value can be put on the convenience of having a machine at hand when the grower wants it.

This cost study is based on a one-row digger costing \$3,850, and a \$5,400 tractor that will be tied up 50 per cent of its operating hours pulling the digger. Also yield is assumed to be 20 tons per acre. Please note that interest, taxes and insurance are charged against equipment. Using this study as a guide, the cost of other diggers can be calculated. A grower whose costs are the same as in the study would have to have about 60 acres of sugar beets if commercial harvest costs are \$1.50 per ton (Exclusive of handling) to justify this digger.

COST OF DIGGING SUGAR BEETS

Overhead costs

	Cost	Life	Depre- ciation	Interest ^{1/}	Taxes and Interest ^{2/}	Total
Digger - 1 row	\$3,850	10	\$385	\$115.50	\$57.75	\$558.25
Tractor	2,700	10	270	81.00	40.50	391.50
TOTAL:			\$655	\$196.50	\$98.25	\$949.75

Cash Costs

Cash costs per hour

	Fuel	Repairs	Labor	Total	Hours/A	Cost/A
Digging	--	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$ 3.00	3.3	\$ 12.71
Tractor	.38	.47		.85		

Total Cost of Digging Per Acre and Per Ton

Acres	Over-head		Total	
	Cash	Over-head	Per A.	Per Ton
25	\$37.99	\$12.71	\$50.70	\$ 2.54
50	19.00	12.71	31.71	1.59
75	12.66	12.71	25.37	1.27
100	9.50	12.71	22.21	1.11

1/ 6 per cent of one-half new cost.

2/ 1½ per cent of new cost.

3/ 40 HP wheel diesel - one-half share charged to digging.

4/ 20 tons per acre yield assumed.