

Production data:
2000 lbs., in shell,
per acre

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALMONDS
in Butte County under
NONTILLAGE

Operation	Hours		Fuel and Repairs	Cash and labor cost per acre		Total
	Per Acre	Labor		Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
Prune	8.0	\$18.00				\$18.00
File brush	3.0	5.25				5.25
Buck brush	0.3	.83	.47			1.30
Fertilize (contract) 2X				3½ lb. N/tr. + \$2/ac.	\$21.25	21.25
Spray 3X	1.0	2.50	4.45	Various	40.00	46.95
Place & remove heaters and burn 3X, 1.5 @ \$2.50 1.5 @ \$1.75	3.0	6.38	2.10	300 gal. oil (5 call-outs)	38.85	47.33
Lighting		5.66				5.66
Check thermometers	0.7	2.10	1.16			3.26
Fill heaters	1.5	3.75	2.10			5.85
Strip spray 2X	0.6	1.50	1.14	Various weed killers	5.00	7.64
Mow 6X	1.5	3.75	3.65			7.40
Drag	0.3	.75	.42			1.17
Walk and clean	0.2	.35	.10			.45
Irrigate (sprinklers) 4X	4.0	7.00		Power to pump 24 ac. in.	12.87	19.87
Flame 3X	1.5	3.75	3.10	Propane	5.55	12.40
Bees				2 hives @ \$2	4.00	4.00
Total Labor		61.57				
10% Soc. Sec. & Workmen's Compensation		6.16				6.16
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		\$67.73	\$18.69		\$127.52	213.94
Harvest Costs:						
Knock	2.0	6.00	3.70			9.70
Pole	4.0	7.00				7.00
Rake	0.5	.88				.88
Sweep	1.0	2.50	1.50			4.00
Pick up	1.0	3.00	3.50			6.50
Haul to huller	1.0	2.25	1.50			3.75
Hull	1.5	4.50	2.00			6.50
Total Labor		26.13				
10% Soc. Sec., etc.		2.61				2.61
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS		28.74	12.20			40.94
Cash overhead:						
Misc., office, etc.						12.66
Taxes						35.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD						47.66
TOTAL CASH COST						\$302.54
Management 5% of 2000 lb. @ 31c						31.00

OCT 30 1970
AGRICULTURE

INVESTMENT	Per Acre	Annual Cost		Total
		Depreciation	Interest	
Land	\$1000.00		60.00	
Trees	1000.00	28.60	30.00	
Irrigation system	200.00	13.33	6.00	
Buildings	55.00	1.83	1.65	
Cultural Equipment	225.03	20.39	6.76	
Harvest Equipment	226.58	18.52	6.82	
Orchard heaters (20)	160.00	13.33	4.80	
Total	\$2866.61	96.00	116.03	212.03

TOTAL COST PER ACRE \$545.57
Cost per pound @ 2000 lb. yield 27.2¢

The production costs in this study are based on a 160-acre operation. A yield of one ton per acre, in shell, was used as a basis for figuring costs. A yield of one ton per acre is far better than the county average but is well within the range of the better orchards in the county.

Labor rates per hour as used in this study are \$1.75 for unskilled help, \$2.25 for semi-skilled help, \$2.50 for skilled help and \$3.00 for the knocker and huller operator. An additional 10% must be added to these rates to cover the cost to the grower of Social Security and Workmen's Compensation.

Cultural Equipment for a 160-Acre
Almond Orchard under Nontillage

1 - Diesel wheel tractor, 50 HP	\$7,500
1 - Gasoline wheel tractor, used, 30 HP	2,000
1 - 4 WD Jeep or equal	3,300
1 - Truck, 1½ ton, used	1,000
1 - Orchard sprayer	6,500
1 - Weed sprayer and boom, trailer mounted	750
3 - Heater oil service trailers	2,250
1 - 12-foot chopper	2,450
1 - 7-foot flail mower	800
1 - Flamer	1,300
1 - Front-end loader with brush rake attachment	1,800
2 - Sprinkler pipe trailers	400
1 - Chain saw and miscellaneous pruning equipment	600
2 - Heater oil storage tanks and pumps	2,000
1 - Fuel storage tank and pump	500
Thermometers and frost alarm	200
Soil moisture meter and blocks	150
Shop tools	2,000
Orchard heater lighting equipment	500
	\$36,000

Harvest Equipment

1 - Pick-up machine	\$8,500
1 - Knocker	6,500
1 - Sweeper	2,400
3 - Carts	1,200
	\$18,600

Hulling Plant

1 - Receiving pit	1,200
1 - Pre-cleaner and stoner, used	1,800
1 - Huller, used	6,000
2 - Air separators	2,500
Miscellaneous elevators, conveyors, bins, motors	3,500
Dust collectors and blowers	650
Electric service and wiring	2,000
	\$17,650
1 - Metal building 40 x 60 x 15 side wall on 4" slab, including shop space	\$ 8,800
* * * * * *	* * * * * *

Fred Montgomery, Harry Mead and Sam Lewis, almond growers at Durham, Butte County; Clem Meith, University of California Farm Advisors' Office, Oroville; and Phil Parsons, Extension Economist, University of California, Davis; cooperated in preparing the data presented here.

* * *