

**SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH ALFALFA  
San Joaquin County - 1980**

Man labor @ \$4.00 per hour total and equipment operator @ \$5.20. Tractors: 125 hp crawler; cash costs \$15; 70 hp wheel tractor \$7.00.

Operation	Hours per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost per Acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
<b>Cultural costs</b>						
Subsoil, 2x	2.00	\$ 5.20	\$15.00			\$ 20.20
Disc, 2x	0.30	1.56	4.50			6.06
Landplane, 4x	0.75	3.90	11.25			15.15
Border preparation, custom \$10/A				Custom border	\$10.00	10.00
Harrow checks, 2x	0.20	1.04	1.40			2.44
W.D. roller, 1x	0.10	.52	.70			1.22
Fertilize				Materials & appli. 500# 6-20-20 XB, \$240/T, \$4.50/A ea.	64.50	64.50
Weed control, post-emergence Plant				Custom applied 25# seed @ \$2.50/lb + plant by airplane	17.00 62.50 5.00	17.00 67.50
Cover seed	0.10	.52	.70			1.22
Ditches	0.10	.52	1.50			2.02
Repairs, except tractor			6.00			6.00
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$13.26</b>	<b>\$41.05</b>		<b>\$159.00</b>	<b>\$213.31</b>
<b>Cash overhead</b>						
Misc., office, etc.					\$12.80	\$ 12.80
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>					<b>\$12.80</b>	<b>\$ 12.80</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>						<b>\$226.11</b>
<b>Investment</b>						
				Annual Cost		
		Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest	12%	
Equipment		\$100	\$10.00	\$	6.00	
Tractors:						
125 hp crawler \$2.15 x \$4 dep/hr			8.60		7.74	
70 WD - \$4.00			.80		.48	
Total			<u>\$19.40</u>		<u>\$14.22</u>	
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>\$259.73</b>

Source: Mick Canevari and E. A. Yeary; Establishing a Stand of Alfalfa for Hay Production, San Joaquin County, University of California Cooperative Extension, 1980.

**SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA**  
**San Joaquin County - 1980**

**Yield: 7 tons. Labor rates including fringe benefits, \$4.00 and \$5.20 per hour.**

Operation	Hours per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost per Acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
<b>Cultural costs</b>						
Irrigate, 8x (well & pump)	8.0	\$32.00		Water 4.5' @ \$13.50	\$60.75	\$ 92.75
Ditch	0.1	.52	\$1.50			2.02
Insect control, 3x				Contract	40.00	40.00
Fertilizers	0.5			Spring appl. @ 0-20-0	4.50 28.75	33.25
Winter weed control				Contract	30.00	30.00
Crop loan interest					4.00	4.00
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COST</b>		<b>\$32.52</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>		<b>\$168.00</b>	<b>\$202.02</b>
<b>Custom harvest costs</b>						
Swath 6x, raking, bale	20.0			Custom \$20/ton @ 7 tons	\$140.00	\$140.00
Bankout, \$4.00/ton				7 tons @ \$4.00	28.00	28.00
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COST</b>					<b>\$168.00</b>	<b>\$168.00</b>
<b>Cash overhead</b>						
Misc., office, etc.		(8% of cultural & harvest costs)			\$ 29.60	\$ 29.60
Taxes on equipment					1.50	1.50
Rent		(25% of 7 tons @ \$120)			210.00	210.00
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>					<b>\$241.10</b>	<b>\$241.10</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>						<b>\$611.12</b>
<b>Management (add if wanted)</b>		(5% of 7 tons @ \$120/ton)			\$42.00	
<b>Investment</b>						
		Annual Cost				
	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest 12%			
Equipment	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$ 6.00			
Crop stand	259.73	64.93	15.58			
Total	\$359.73	\$74.93	\$21.58			\$111.51
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>\$722.63</b>
<b>COST PER TON @ 7-TON YIELD</b>						<b>\$103.23</b>

**COST OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS**

Yield per Acre (tons)	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cost of production per ton	\$134.93	\$116.44	\$103.23	\$93.33	\$85.63	\$79.46

Source: University of California Cooperative Extension, "Sample Costs to Produce Alfalfa in San Joaquin County - 1980."