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FIELD

CORN

COSTS IN

STANISLAUS

COUNTY

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Stanislaus County  
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COSTS TO PRODUCE FIELD CORN IN STANISLAUS COUNTY\*

OPERATION	HOURS PER ACRE	CASH AND LABOR COSTS PER ACRE			SAMPLE COSTS	
		LABOR	FUEL AND REPAIRS - EQUIP.	MATERIAL & OTHER COSTS	EASTSIDE	WESTSIDE
<b>CULTURAL:</b>						
Land Preparation	2.5	\$2.90	\$3.00		\$ 5.90	\$ 7.00
Planting (2 men)	.5	1.15	.60	Seed: 13 lbs. @.26 \$ 3.40	5.15	5.15
Cultivate: 2x & Fertilize	1.5	1.75	1.80	Nitrogen: 100 lbs. @.13 13.00	16.55	16.55
Irrigation: 1 Pre & 4 Crop	3.0	3.45	1.20	Water: 3 ft. 1.50	6.15	19.20
Taxes				6.00	6.00	6.00
Miscellaneous Overhead		2.00	1.20	1.35	4.55	4.55
<b>Total Cultural Costs</b>		<b>\$11.25</b>	<b>\$7.80</b>	<b>\$25.25</b>	<b>\$44.30</b>	<b>\$58.45</b>
<b>HARVEST</b>						
Pick				CONTRACT 10.00		
Drying				5,000 lbs. @ \$4.00/ton 10.00		
Haul				@ \$2.00/ton 5.00		
<b>Total Harvest Costs</b>					<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Total Cash and Labor Costs</b>					<b>\$59.30</b>	<b>\$83.45</b>
<b>COSTS/CWT. AT VARYING YIELDS</b>		<b>INVESTMENT PER ACRE</b>			<b>ANNUAL COSTS</b>	
	<b>Cost Per Cwt.</b>	<b>Land</b>	<b>PER ACRE</b>	<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>** INTEREST @ 6%</b>	
<b>Lbs. Corn/Acre</b>	<b>Eastside Westside</b>	<b>Irr. System</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$ 3.00</b>	<b>(20 yrs.) 1.80</b>	
2,000	\$5.75 \$6.45	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>(20 yrs.) 1.20</b>	
3,000	3.80 4.30	<b>Tractor &amp; Truck</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>(10 yrs.) .90</b>	
4,000	2.85 3.20	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>(10 yrs.) .75</b>	
5,000	2.30 2.55	<b>Total</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>\$10.50</b>	<b>\$34.65</b>	
6,000	1.90 2.15		<b>\$655.00</b>			
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>					<b>\$114.45</b>	<b>\$128.60</b>
<b>COST PER CWT. @ 5,000 LBS. YIELD</b>					<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.55</b>

\*Operations listed are for Eastside conditions. Westside costs are higher as indicated.

\*\*Interest figured at 6 per cent on one-half of original cost.

CORN CAN BE A PROFITABLE CROP ONLY IF COSTS ARE  
BELOW AVERAGE AND YIELDS ARE ABOVE AVERAGE;

The table on the opposite page shows sample costs of growing corn in Stanislaus County. They are based on typical operations for good farming practices and are not intended to represent average costs. (Average production is about 3000 lbs. corn per acre.)

These costs are based on an owner-operator management. Where your crops are grown on a cash or crop share rental basis, rent should be substituted for interest on land, interest and depreciation on buildings and irrigation systems, land taxes and any other items paid for by the land owner.

Interest on investments is shown at 6%. Even if property is free from indebtedness, this item should be included in costs comparable to income that might be obtained from equivalent investments in other securities or income-producing property.

PROFIT OR LOSS?

The present "price-cost squeeze" makes it difficult to produce corn at a profit. Custom harvesting, shelling and drying may run \$25-\$30 an acre on a 2½-ton crop of shelled corn. Selling at harvest time has been "costing the grower" as much as \$8 a ton or \$20 an acre for a 2½-ton crop. This can easily mean the profit or possibly even "red ink." Only good farmers on good land should attempt this crop.