

Table 42. A Standard of Labor and Material Inputs and Costs for Potato Production in Kern County, with a yield of 200 sacks per acre.

	Man labor	Horse labor	13 h.p. tractor	1½-ton truck	Cost per acre	Cost per cwt.
	Hours per acre				Dollars	
Disk before plowing	.5		.5		.55	
Irrigate before plowing	4.0				1.20	
Plow	2.0		2.0		2.20	
Disk, harrow, and float	2.0	2.0	1.0		1.70	
Total land preparation	8.5	2.0	3.5		5.65	.03
Dipping	3.0				.90	
Cutting, 13 sacks at 11½¢*	5.0				1.50	
Hauling, seed and fertilizer	1.0	2.0			.60	
Planting, seed and fertilizer	3.0		1.5		2.10	
Cultivate and furrow, 3 times	6.0	12.0			3.60	
Irrigate	18.0				5.40	
Miscellaneous	4.0	2.0	.5	.5	2.65	
Total cultural labor	48.5	18.0	5.5	.5	22.40	.11
Digging	5.0		2.5		3.50	.02
Picking, 200 sacks at 9¢*	55.0				18.00	.09
Sewing sacks at 1¢ each	4.0				2.00	.01
Hauling, 10 tons at 75¢*	7.5			2.5	7.50	.04
Loading on cars*	5.0				2.50	.01
Weighing charge*					1.50	.01
Total labor cost	125.0	18.0	8.0	3.0	57.40	.29
Irrigation, power for pumping					10.00	
Seed potatoes, 13 sacks at \$2.25					29.25	
Materials for dipping, 13 sacks at 2½¢					.33	
Fertilizer, 500 lbs. at \$1.80					9.00	
Sacks and twine, 200 at 11¢					22.00	.11
Total material cost					70.58	.35
General expense, estimated at 5% of above costs					6.40	
County taxes					2.00	
Machinery repairs (other than tractor and truck)					1.50	
Compensation insurance					.75	
Total cash-overhead costs					10.65	.05
Subtotal, current cash costs					138.63	.69
Investment and investment overhead, based on a 40-acre unit	Original cost	Average value	5% interest	Depreciation		
	Dollars per acre					
General improvements	12.00	6.00	.30	.40		
Irrigation system	60.00	30.00	1.50	4.00		
Tillage equipment	12.00	6.00	.30	1.20		
Planting and dipping equipment	6.00	3.00	.15	.30		
Digging equipment	10.00	5.00	.25	.75		
Misc. eqt. and hand tools	2.00	1.00	.05	.20		
Land	200.00	200.00	10.00			
Total investment	302.00	251.00				
Total depreciation				6.85	6.85	.04
Subtotal, cash and depreciation costs					145.48	.73
Total interest on investment			12.55		12.55	.06
Total, all costs					158.03	.79

The above table provides for the minimum essentials of labor and materials and assumes their provision in a most economical manner. Conditions assumed are in the Shafter area but would, with slight modifications, be suited to other valley areas. Labor costs are computed at the following hourly rates: man labor, \$0.30; horse labor, \$0.15; 13-drawbar horsepower tractor, \$0.80; 1½-ton truck, \$1.50.

*Items marked thus are paid for at the contract rate shown.

Table 43. A Standard of Costs of Producing Potatoes with Different Yields for Conditions that Prevail in Kern County

Yield, hundredweight or sacks per acre	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400
	Dollars per acre							
Cultural labor costs	20.00	21.00	22.00	22.40	24.00	26.00	28.00	30.00
Harvesting and loading costs	11.50	19.50	27.50	35.00	43.50	51.50	59.50	67.50
Total labor cost	31.50	40.50	49.50	57.40	67.50	77.50	87.50	97.50
Total material costs, seed, water, fertilizer, and sacks	43.50	52.00	61.50	70.58	82.50	94.00	105.00	116.00
Total cash-overhead costs	6.75	8.00	9.30	10.65	12.15	13.65	15.15	16.65
Depreciation on improvements and equip.	6.70	6.75	6.80	6.85	6.95	7.10	7.30	7.50
Subtotal, all costs except interest	88.45	107.25	127.10	145.48	169.10	192.25	214.95	237.65
Interest on investment at 5%	10.00	10.75	11.75	12.55	13.30	14.05	14.80	15.55
Total all costs	98.45	118.00	138.85	158.03	182.40	206.30	229.75	253.20
	Dollars per hundredweight or sack							
Cultural labor cost per cwt.	.40	.21	.15	.11	.10	.09	.08	.07
Harvesting cost	.23	.19	.18	.18	.17	.17	.17	.17
Total labor cost	.63	.40	.33	.29	.27	.26	.25	.24
Total material cost	.87	.52	.41	.35	.33	.31	.30	.29
Cash-overhead cost	.13	.08	.06	.05	.05	.05	.04	.04
Depreciation	.13	.07	.05	.04	.03	.02	.02	.02
Subtotal, all costs except interest	1.76	1.07	.85	.73	.68	.64	.61	.59
Interest on investment	.20	.11	.08	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04
Total, all costs	1.96	1.18	.93	.79	.73	.69	.65	.63

Potato yields of 200 sacks an acre can usually be obtained on the best lands in the southern San Joaquin Valley. With best of climatic and cultural conditions plus additional fertilization and a longer growing period, yields as high as 400 sacks could occasionally be obtained. However, on poorer soils or with poorer management, yields could conceivably drop as low as 50 sacks. The above compilation is presented to show the probable range in costs for differences in yield. Low yields are assumed to be associated with lower priced land and less cultural care and fertilization, while heavier yields are assumed to be on higher priced land and to have required greater outlays for cultural care, fertilization, etc., than those shown in detail in the previous table for the 200-sack yield.