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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE LETTUCE IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1979

By J. W. Huffman and E. A. Yearly

YIELD: Based on 635-47 lb. cartons per acre
 HARVEST: April through October
 PLANT: December 15 through August 7

TOTAL LABOR COSTS/HR*

Cl. I Tractor Driver	7.86
Cl. II Tractor Driver	7.74
Irrigator	6.67
Other Labor	6.55

HOURLY TRACTOR COSTS

			<u>Cash Costs</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>
80 h.p. Crawler Diesel			12.19	5.42	2.78
50 h.p. Wheel Diesel			4.61	1.11	.67

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Tractor Used</u>	<u>Hours/Acre</u>	<u>Labor</u>	<u>Fuel & Repairs</u>	<u>Contract and Materials</u>	<u>Total/Acre</u>
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CULTURAL

Cover Crop & Manure					Proportion to Lettuce	38.00
Disc & Roll 3x	C-80	0.69	5.34	10.24		15.58
Chisel 2x	C-80	1.00	7.74	13.29		21.03
Landplane 2x	C-80	0.52	4.02	7.72		11.74
List & Preplant Fertilizer					Contract @ \$6.50/Ac 400# 12-12-12 @ \$43.00	49.50
Shape Beds & Roll	WD-50	0.25	1.94	1.28		3.22
Plant-4 Bed Planter	WD-50	0.50	3.93	3.08	2.0# mini-coated seed @ \$12.50/lb.	32.01
Herbicide**					Contract @ \$8.00/Ac. Materials \$10.00	18.00
Irrigate 6x (1 pre, 2 Sprinkler, 3 Furrow)		10.00	66.70	11.00	2 Ac Ft @ \$12.50/Ft. for power, \$3.00 booster pump	105.70
Thin Fertilizer, 2x		14.00	91.70			91.70
Pest Control 3x					Contract @ \$5.75/Ac 140# N. 60# P. @ \$66.50	78.00
Cultivate 5x	WD-50	2.0	15.72	11.02	Contract @ \$6.00/Ac Materials \$45.00	63.00
Weed		8.0	52.40			26.74
Miscellaneous		4.0	28.20	8.27		52.40
						36.47

<u>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</u>	643.09
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Overhead

Business Costs: Office & Business Expense, etc., @ 12% Cultural Costs	77.17
Taxes: Equipment, except Tractors	4.00
Rent: \$450.00/Ac., 6 Months to Lettuce	225.00

<u>TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS</u>	306.17
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<u>TOTAL CULTURAL AND OVERHEAD COSTS</u>	949.26
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Harvest

Harvesting - Contract @ \$2.50 per Carton (includes selling cost)	1,587.50
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<u>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</u>	1,587.50
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<u>TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVEST COSTS</u>	2,536.76
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<u>ANNUAL COSTS</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest - 12%</u>
50% Charged to Lettuce, Tractors are on an Hourly Basis	Buildings	50.00	2.50	3.00
	Irrig. System	90.00	9.00	5.40
	Tractors	150.00	15.03	7.98
	Equipment	100.00	10.00	6.00
	Portable Irrig. Sys.	25.00	2.50	1.50
		<u>\$415.00</u>	<u>\$39.03</u>	<u>\$23.88</u>
	6 Months (Except Tractors and Equipment) to Lettuce			62.91

<u>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</u>	2,599.67
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<u>COST PER CARTON</u>	4.09
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SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD-CARTONS PER ACRE	435	535	635	735	835
Cost to Grow	949.26	949.26	949.26	949.26	949.26
Harvest Costs @ 2.50/ctn.	1087.50	1337.50	1587.50	1837.50	2087.50
Annual Costs	62.91	62.91	62.91	62.91	62.91
TOTAL COST PER ACRE	2099.67	2349.67	2599.67	2849.67	3099.67
Cost Per Carton	4.83	4.39	4.09	3.88	3.71

Management has not been included as a cost of production in this study. It may be as much as 5% of the farm value of the crop.

* Labor costs per hour include fringe benefits paid by the farmer. Social security, workmen's compensation, unemployment, health plan, vacation, pension plan, and paid holidays.

** Herbicide: Kerb® applied at planting in 6" bands over the seed line at the rate of 1-1/2 lbs. a.i. per treated acre was the most commonly used material to control weeds in lettuce in 1978. Overhead or sprinkler irrigation is essential to the performance of this material.

For weeds not controlled by Kerb®, a Balan®- Chemhoe® combination is preferred. This is a preplant soil incorporated operation and results in uniformly shaped rows and an excellent seed bed. This operation costs about \$30.00 per acre. This includes \$15.00 (contract) for incorporation and \$15.00 for materials, 3 pints Balan® (1.5 lbs. a.i. per treated acre) and 3 quarts Chemhoe® (0.56 lbs. a.i. per treated acre). Either furrow or overhead irrigation can be followed with this combination.