

SAMPLE COSTS

FOR IRRIGATED PASTURE

[**STANISLAUS COUNTY**] 1965

This sheet is for use as a guide in determining irrigated ~~permanent~~ pasture inputs and costs for a specific set of conditions. It is designed to help growers analyze their practices with a view toward increasing efficiency of production. Along with similar sheets on other crops, it also can be used as a basis for making cost comparisons with most profitable alternatives. The figures in the tables are not intended to represent average costs for irrigated pasture in Stanislaus County. A large proportion of these pastures are planted on land not well adapted to other crops and costs may vary widely between individual situations.

Prepared by:

Earl H. Olson and William E. Mason
Farm Advisors

Agricultural Extension Service, University of California,

Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, College of Agriculture,
University of California, and United States Department of Agriculture co-operating.
Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914.
George B. Alcorn, Director, California Agricultural Extension Service.

SAMPLE COSTS FOR IRRIGATED PASTURE
Stanislaus County-1965

	COST PER ACRE	
	Sample Cost	Your Cost
Cash Costs:		
Land preparation, seed, plant and extra 1st year - costs - \$22.40 ÷ 6 years	\$ 3.73	
Mow, fertilize, drag, fence work, etc.- 3 man and 1½ tractor hours	6.00	
Irrigation labor - 6 man hours @ \$1.50	9.00	
Irrigation water - power and district tax	*7.00	
Fertilizer - average per year	10.00	
County taxes	7.50	
Misc. cash costs	5.00	
Total Cash Costs	\$ 48.23	
Depreciation:		
Irrigation system - original cost \$60 (20 yr. life)	\$ 3.00	
Tractor - 2½ hrs. incl. 1/6 1st yr. hours @ 60¢	1.50	
Fences - cost \$30 - 12 yr. life	2.50	
Total Depreciation	\$ 7.00	
Total Cash and Depreciation Cost	\$ 55.23	
Interest on Investment @ 6%		
Land @\$800	\$ 48.00	
Irrigation system - on 1/2 cost (\$30)	1.80	
Tractor - 2½ hours incl. 1/6 1st yr. hours @ 25¢	.63	
Fences - on 1/2 cost (\$15)	.90	
Total Interest on Investment	\$ 51.33	
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$106.56	

Man labor at \$1.50 per hour, including Social Security and Compensation Insurance; tractor per hour cash cost \$1.00 and \$1.25, depreciation 60¢ and interest 25¢

*Oakdale Irrigation District - \$7.00; T.I.D. - \$1.00; M.I.D. - no charge

Cost per Animal Unit Month** at Varying Production Levels¹

Production Level - AUM per acre	8	10	12	14	16
Cash and Depreciation Cost	\$ 6.90	\$ 5.52	\$ 4.60	\$ 3.95	\$ 3.45
Your Total Cost	\$13.32	\$10.66	\$ 8.88	\$ 7.61	\$ 6.66

**Animal Unit Month (AUM) = 400 pounds total digestible nutrients (TDN) or 0.4 tons hay¹ with no change in costs per acre. Any added costs per acre required to obtain the higher carrying capacities would increase AUM costs accordingly.

**LAND PREPARATION, PLANTING AND ADDITIONAL FIRST-YEAR
SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH AN IRRIGATED PASTURE**

	Costs Per Acre	
	Sample Costs	Your Cost
Cash Costs:		
Land preparation: disc, level chisel, border work & plant	\$ 12.00	
Seed: 12 lbs. total at average of 45¢/lb.	5.40	
Extra irrigations: 2 man hrs.	3.00	
Extra clippings (2): 1/2 hr. man and tractor	2.00	
Total Cash Costs	\$ 22.40	
Depreciation on Tractor: 4 hrs. @ 60¢	2.40	
Interest on Tractor: 4 hrs. @ 25¢	1.00	
Total Extra First-Year Establishment Costs	\$ 25.80	

One-sixth of the above costs are included in the other table.

MEASUREMENT OF FEED OBTAINED FROM PASTURE

To compare the cost of feed from pasture with alternative forages, it is necessary to know how much other feed is replaced by the pasture. An animal unit month (AUM) may be used as a unit of measurement. It is equivalent to 400 pounds of total digestible nutrients, or 13.3 pounds of TDN per day for a month. Feed requirements for animals on pasture can be converted to this basis.

Animal unit conversion factors for different kinds, ages, and sizes of animals may be obtained from farm advisors. Animal unit months can be converted to approximate tons of hay equivalent, since hay is roughly figured at 50% TDN or 1,000 pounds per ton. Therefore, 1 AUM = 0.4 tons of hay, or 2.5 AUM = 1 ton of hay.

The amount of feed obtained from a pasture is influenced greatly by grazing practices. Also, all types of stock do not utilize pasture to the same degree of efficiency. Milking cows may use only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the available feed that growing stock might use. Also, sufficient stock must be on hand to fully utilize feed produced. Therefore, in determining the amount of feed which may be obtained from a pasture, one should consider whether it will be used to maximum capacity.