AF-VS-54

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW ALFALFA HAY?

Here is a sample set of production costs for alfalfa hay to help you make your own estimates. Don't take these figures as your costs but consider your farm, your yield and your wage and tractor rates and pumping costs. The following example is based on a yield of 7 tons per acre from 6 cuttings. Wage rate used is $1.00 an hour for all labor and the light tractor for mowing, raking, etc. is estimated to have a total cost including depreciation and repair of $1.25 an hour.

Ralph L. Worrell *  Wilson E. Pendery *  Burt B. Burlingame**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Costs</th>
<th>My Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per acre</td>
<td>Per ton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miscel. harrow, fertilize etc. 2 man hours and 1 tractor hour per acre  
Irrigation 10 to 12 times - 6 hr.  
Cut 6 times at .4 hr. man and light tractor = 2.4 hr.  
Rake and turn 6 times = 2.6 hr.  
Baling contract at $1 a ton  
Haul out and pile contract @ $1.50 per ton  
Total labor and field power  
Irrigation water 1 acre feet @ $2.50  
Fertilizer - 400 lbs. single super phosphate  
Total material cost  
General expense, office, car, operating capital, etc.  
County taxes $6.00  
Miscel., repairs, insurance, etc.  
Total cash overhead cost  
TOTAL CASH COST  
Depreciation  
Stand cost $25 per acre 3 years  
Irrigation facilities $110  
Equipment, mower, rake and miscel. except tractor cost $20 - 10 yrs.  
Total depreciation  
Interest on investment at 5%  
Stand on $2 cost - $12.50  
Irrig. system and equip. on $55.  
Land at $500 an acre  
Total interest on investment  
TOTAL ALL COSTS  
Less possible pasture 1 animal month per A.  
Net cost of hay - roadside or farmstead

The above sample costs show a net cost after deducting some pasturage of $18.73 per ton. To lower this cost would require larger scale more economical operations or a higher yield per acre or both.

* Farm Advisor  
** Extension Farm Management Specialist