

P R O J E C T E D C O S T S F O R

P R O D U C I N G A L F A L F A

I N

T E H A M A C O U N T Y

The costs projected here are based on the best land in Tehama County.

One cost sheet shows costs to you if you own all the equipment, and one if you contract all harvesting operations. According to this study the contract harvesting costs more.

I hope you will take your operation and place costs beside the categories that we have and see how your costs compare.

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INVESTMENT FOR ALFALFA

Tehama County -- April, 1967

Based on 100 acres of alfalfa on a 400 acre farm

Item	Cost	Annual Use (acres)	Cost Per Acre	Life (Yrs.)	Depreciation	Interest	Cash Fuel	Costs Per Repairs	Hour Total
W. Tractor 40 H.P.	5600	400	14.00	15	.93	.42	.68	.56	1.24
Disc offset 9'	1200	400	3.00	10	.30	.09	-	.80	.80
Spike Harrow 24'	600	400	1.50	20	.08	.05	-	.24	.24
Border Disc single	325	400	.81	10	.08	.02	-	.20	.20
Cultipaker 12'	840	200	4.20	10	.42	.13	-	.40	.40
Springtooth 20'	1050	300	3.50	10	.35	.11	-	.70	.70
Swather 12'	6300	100	63.00	8	7.88	1.89	.30	3.25	3.55
Wheel Rake 8'	700	100	7.00	10	.70	.21	-	.20	.20
Baler P.T.O. Twine	3100	100	31.00	10	3.10	.93	-	.95	.95
Sprayer 200 gal.	800	400	2.00	5	.40	.06	.30	.40	.70
Subsoiler 3 shank	500	400	1.25	10	.13	.04	-	.60	.60
Pickup 1/2 ton	2500	400	6.25	5	1.00	.23			
TOTAL			137.50		15.37	4.18			
Total less swather & baler			43.50		4.39	1.36			

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA

Tehama County -- March 27, 1967

Production data: 6 tons. Flood.

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and labor cost per acre			Total
		Labor (2.22)	Fuel and repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity Cost	
Cultural costs:					
Spring tooth 2 times	.24	.54	.46		1.00
Irrigate 8 times	2.00	4.44			4.44
Maintenance	.20	.44	2.00		2.44
Weed control ditches	.15	.33	.29	Weed material \$9/gal.	9.62
Irrigation pump cost for 4. Ac. Ft.					10.00
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		5.75	2.75		26.51
Harvest costs:					
Swath & condition 5 times	1.45	3.22	5.15		8.37
Wheel Rake	1.30	2.88	2.61		5.49
Bale	1.50	3.35	3.29	Wire @ \$1.00 ton x 6	12.64
Haul				Contract @ \$3.50 x 6	21.00
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS		9.45	11.05		47.50
Cash overhead					
Misc., office, etc.					3.70
Taxes					10.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					13.70
TOTAL CASH COST					87.71
Management 5% of 6 tons @ 24.00					7.20
INVESTMENT					
	<u>Per Acre</u>			<u>Annual Cost</u>	
				Depreciation	Interest
Land	850.00				51.00
Pipeline	65.00	15 yrs.		4.33	1.95
Well & pump, irrigation system	85.00			4.25	2.55
Equipment	137.50			15.37	4.18
Stand	30.59	5 yrs.		6.12	.92
Total	1168.00			30.07	60.60
TOTAL COST PER ACRE					185.58
Cost per ton @ 6 ton yield					30.93

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA

Tehama County -- March 27, 1967

Production data: 6 tons. Flood.

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and labor cost per acre			Total
		Labor	Fuel and repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity Cost	
Cultural costs:					
Spring tooth 2 times	.24	.54	.46		1.00
Irrigate 8 times	2.00	4.44			4.44
Maintenance	.20	.44	2.00		2.44
Weed control ditches	.15	.33	.29	Weed material \$9./gal.	9.62
Irrigation pump cost for 4 ac. ft.					10.00
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		5.75	2.75		26.51
Harvest costs:					
Swath & condition 5 times				Contract at \$3./A.	15.00
Wheel Rake 5 times	1.30	2.88	2.61		5.49
Bale				Contract at \$4.7 x 6	24.00
Haul				Contract at \$3.50T x 6	21.00
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS		2.88	2.61		65.49
Cash overhead					
Misc., office, etc.					4.60
Taxes					10.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					14.60
TOTAL CASH COST					106.60
Management 5% of 6 ton @ 24.00					7.20
INVESTMENT	Per Acre	Annual Cost			
		Depreciation	Interest		
Land	850.00		51.00		
Pipeline	65.00	4.33	1.95		
Irrigation system	85.00	4.25	2.55		
Equipment	43.50	4.39	1.36		
Stand	30.59	6.12	.92		
Total	1074.00	19.09	57.78		76.87
TOTAL COST PER ACRE					190.67
Cost per ton @6 ton yield					31.78

Available for profit--Cost per acre \$185.58

Yield Tons	Price per ton				
	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$24.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
5	-85.58	-75.58	-65.58	-55.58	-45.58
6	-65.58	-53.58	-41.58	-29.58	-17.58
7	-45.58	-31.58	-17.58	- 3.58	10.42
8	-25.58	-9.58	6.42	22.42	38.42
9	-5.58	12.42	30.42	48.42	66.42

Basis of Alfalfa Cost Study

1. Based on 100 acres of alfalfa on a 400 acre farm. Other crops will be grown such as walnuts, grain crops, sugar beets, etc. The equipment use is based on the total acreage use.
2. Labor costs are based on \$2.22 hourly rate. This includes cash wages, compensation insurance, social security, etc.
3. Interest is figured on cost per acre figure. Only 3% is charged if no salvage value is figured. If salvaged then full 6% is charged.

Example: Tractor $\$5600 \div 400$ acres = $\$14.00/\text{Ac.}$
 $\$14.00/\text{Ac.} \times .03 = .42/\text{Ac.}$ interest.

On the swather a salvage figure was used.

4/18/67

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UC Cooperative Extension