



cost of producing...

Gravenstein Apples

in sonoma county

University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Rm. 400, Co. Administration Ctr.
2555 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, California
Liberty 2-4312 Ext.294

The yield per acre, as shown in these tables, has not deviated too far from the 1961 production average. As the yield goes up, so does the net return per acre. Improved cultural practices are playing an important role to raise yields and keep this crop on a paying basis.

FIVE-YEAR PRODUCTION DATA

Year	Acreage		Production		Value	
	Non-Bearing	Bearing	Tons per Acre	Total Tons	Per Ton	Total
1957	1,006	8,576	10.42	89,350	45.43	4,091,248
1958	1,005	8,521	11.20	95,341	39.28	3,745,067
1959	1,420	8,616	11.90	102,896	45.56	4,688,019
1960	1,673	8,354	9.24	77,212	59.47	4,591,570
1961	1,471	8,541	12.84	109,703	52.90	5,807,240
Av'g.	1,315	8,522	11.12	94,900	48.55	4,584,629

COSTS IN ORCHARDS OF VARYING YIELDS

Yield-tons per acre	8	10	12	16	20
Cultural labor and material costs	270.00	281.00	292.20	300.00	305.00
Harvesting at around \$18 per ton	152.00	185.00	216.50	270.00	360.00
Cash over head costs	60.00	68.00	73.44	79.00	83.00
Depreciation and Interest	176.03	176.03	176.03	176.03	176.03
Total cost per acre	658.03	710.03	758.17	825.03	924.03
Total cost per ton	82.25	71.00	63.18	51.56	46.20

Compiled by Kim O. Roberts, Farm Advisor and Arthur Shultis, Extension Economist

1,000 5/62

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.

VARIETY DIVISION OF BEARING ACREAGE

While 60% of the bearing acreage is made up of Gravenstein production, the late varieties are very significant in the over-all picture. From the standpoint of producing, certainly these late varieties are more costly; and growers will want to take into consideration the extra spraying costs when comparing orchards to this complete cost study for Gravensteins.

Gravenstein - - - - -	60%
Rome- - - - -	12%
Jonathan- - - - -	8%
Delicious - - - - -	7%
Delicious, Golden - -	5%
Newtown - - - - -	1%
all others- - - - -	7%

1961 MARKET MOVEMENT & PRICES

The following table shows that the apple production in Sonoma County each year is becoming a more important processing enterprise.

	Per cent of total crop	Average price per ton
Canned	38	\$ 55.20
Dried	29	43.40
Juice-Cider	18	31.80
Fresh	10	102.00
Fermenting	3	5.00
Chops	1	30.00
Vinegar	1	10.00

COSTS OF PRODUCING APPLES IN SONOMA COUNTY

This study is intended to bring up to date the input costs involved in producing an apple crop under present conditions and current production levels. Information used to prepare this report was gathered from growers who represent well managed orchards. Eighty acres is considered adequate to classify an operation capable of supporting the equipment needed to do all the jobs.

Cost studies are made available to set forth the facts as they exist. They take into consideration those operations or costs actually being employed by growers. Extras or practices felt needed but not in common use are not included.

This report will enable growers to compare costs and yields with an average situation to fully evaluate the economic progress of their operations. Costs will vary from orchard to orchard. However, by comparing differences in practices, costs and yields, a grower will be able to analyze a single orchard or entire operation by using this cost study as a standard.

SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS OF PRODUCING GRAVENSTEIN APPLES

Sonoma County, with a yield of 12 tons per acre.

	Man	Trac-	Truck	Cost per Acre	Cost per Ton
	Labor	tor			
Hours per Acre					
Pruning	45			\$ 60.75	
Brush disposal	4	1		6.65	
Apply fertilizers	1	1		2.60	
Spraying, 6 times, Sprayer 3 hr at \$1	4	4		17.20	
Cultivation	3	3		8.60	
Thinning	45			60.75	
Propping and removal of props	6	3		11.85	
Miscellaneous, new trees, etc.	6	2	2	14.80	
Total cultural labor and field power	114	14	2	183.20	\$15.27
Picking, shipping, canning, ground fruit	114			153.90	12.82
Supervision of picking	10			15.00	1.25
Loading bins, hauling to packing house	14	6	7	41.60	3.47
Bin rent				6.00	.50
Total harvesting cost	138	6	7	216.50	18.04
Total labor and field power costs	252	20	9	399.70	33.31
Fertilizers, annual average all materials				30.00	
Spray materials				75.00	
Miscellaneous, other materials, new trees, etc.				4.00	
Total material costs				109.00	9.08
Total labor, field power, and materials				508.70	42.39
General expense, office, phone, pickup use, etc., at 5% of above				25.44	
County taxes, land, trees, buildings, and equipment, \$350 @ 7%				24.50	
Repairs to equipment not included elsewhere				6.00	
Insurance, Workmen's Compensation, Liability, Social Security, Fire				17.50	
Total cash overhead costs				73.44	6.12
Total cash costs				582.14	48.51
Investment Overhead based on 80 acres of operation	Original cost 80 acres	Average Invest.	6% Int.	Depre- ciation	
		Dollars per Acre			
Trees - Cost \$1,000; life, 30 yrs.	80,000	500.00	30.00	33.33	
Building for equipment	4,000	25.00	1.50	1.25	
Tillage equipment	1,200	7.50	.45	1.50	
Sprayer	6,000	37.50	2.25	5.00	
Tractors, trucks, fork lift, trailer	18,000	112.50	6.75	15.00	
Help housing	10,000	62.50	3.75	6.25	
Miscellaneous, props, ladders, etc.	8,000	50.00	3.00	6.00	
Land	80,000	1000.00	60.00	---	
Total investment and depreciation	207,720	1795.00		68.33	68.33
Total cash and depreciation					650.47
Interest on investment			107.70		107.70
Total all costs of production					\$758.17
					\$63.18

Labor costs above are figured at the following hourly rates: man labor, \$1.35; tractor and truck drivers \$1.50; 30 hp wheel tractor and fork lift, \$1.10; 30 hp crawler tractor, \$1.50; pickup \$1.50; and 2-ton truck, \$2.00. These tractor and truck rates are cash costs only for fuel, repairs, and license and insurance in the case of trucks. Depreciation and interest on investment appears for all equipment in the lower part of the above table.

Interest on investment is figured at 6% of the average lifetime value of depreciable items, which is estimated at half of the new costs at current prices.