

**SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCING ALFALFA HAY  
(FLOOD IRRIGATION)  
San Benito County, 1967**

H. Bill Collins, Farm Advisor

Philip S. Parsons, Extension Economist

150 acres on a 250 acre farm  
Yield -- 6 tons per acre in 5 cuttings

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor cost per acre			
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity Cost	Total
<b>Cultural Costs</b>					
Irrigate, 6 times	4.8	\$7.20		Power to pump 48 acre inches \$13.91	\$ 21.11
Rodent control	.2	.37	\$ .20	1½ lbs. bait @ \$1.04	2.13
Weed control (contract)				½ of acreage 2.62	2.62
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$7.57</b>	<b>\$ .20</b>	<b>(\$4.31/ton)</b>	<b>\$ 18.09</b>
<b>Harvest Costs</b>					
Swath, 5 times	1.25	\$ 2.31	\$ 4.75		\$ 7.06
Rake, 5 times	1.5	2.78	2.06		4.84
Bale, 5 times	1.0	1.85	2.92	(Wire @ \$1/ton)	10.77
Haul to roadside and stack (2 men)	4.0	6.00	1.20		7.20
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COST</b>		<b>\$12.94</b>	<b>\$10.93</b>	<b>(\$4.98/ton)</b>	<b>\$ 29.87</b>
<b>Cash Overhead</b>					
Misc., office, interest on operating capital, insurance, etc.					\$ 2.79
Taxes on equipment					1.50
Land rent					60.00
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>				<b>(\$10.72/ton)</b>	<b>\$ 64.29</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>				<b>(\$20.02/ton)</b>	<b>\$120.02</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT</b>				5% of 6 tons @ \$26.00	7.80
<b>Investment Overhead</b>					
			<u>Annual Cost Per Acre</u>		
<u>INVESTMENT</u>		<u>PER ACRE</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
2 ton truck		\$ 21.33	\$ 2.13	\$ .75	
½ ton pickup truck		10.00	1.00	.35	
2 30 HP wheel tractors		43.33	2.89	1.52	
14 foot swather		38.55	4.82	1.35	
8 foot rake		5.00	.49	.18	
3 wire baler		41.81	4.18	1.46	
gopher bait applicator		1.83	.18	.06	
bale loader		2.95	.29	.10	
Alfalfa stand (4 years)		55.30	13.83	1.66	
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT COSTS</b>		<b>\$220.10</b>	<b>\$29.81</b>	<b>\$7.43</b>	<b>\$ 37.24</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>					<b>\$165.06</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER TON</b>					<b>\$ 27.51</b>

**SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH AN ALFALFA STAND  
FLOOD IRRIGATION  
San Benito County, 1967**

H. Bill Collins, Farm Advisor

Philip S. Parsons, Extension Economist

150 acres of alfalfa on a 250 acre farm

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor cost per acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity Cost		
<b>Cultural Costs</b>						
Plow	.5	\$ .93	\$ 1.49			\$ 2.42
Disc, 4 times	1.3	2.40	4.58			6.93
Landplane, 2 times	.7	1.30	3.06			4.36
Shape borders and ends	.3	.56	.33			.89
Fertilize (contract)				fertilizer applied	\$13.50	13.50
Plant and roll	.4	.74	.61	20 lbs. of seed @ 60¢	12.00	13.35
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$5.93</b>	<b>\$10.07</b>		<b>\$25.50</b>	<b>\$41.50</b>
<b>Cash Overhead</b>						
Misc., office, interest on operating capital, insurance, etc.						\$ 2.08
Taxes on equipment						.80
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>						<b>\$ 2.88</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>						<b>\$44.38</b>
<b>Investment Overhead</b>						
	<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>PER ACRE</u>	<u>Annual Cost Per Acre</u>			
			<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>		
	75 HP Crawler tractor	\$ 49.00	\$2.45	\$1.72		
	2 30 HP Wheel tractors	43.33	2.89	1.52		
	3 bottom plow	1.29	.09	.05		
	10½ foot disc	2.08	.21	.07		
	Seed drill	2.70	.18	.09		
	12 foot spike harrow	.60	.03	.02		
	12 foot ringroller	2.52	.25	.09		
	10 foot landplane	5.68	.28	.17		
	10 foot scraper	1.50	.15	.05		
	6 foot subsoiler	4.50	.45	.16		
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT OVERHEAD</b>		<b>\$113.20</b>	<b>\$6.98</b>	<b>\$3.94</b>		<b>\$10.92</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF STAND</b>						<b>\$55.30</b>

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**COST OF ALFALFA HAY PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS**

Yield -- tons per acre	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cost per ton	\$39.04	\$32.12	\$27.51	\$24.21	\$21.74	\$19.82	\$18.28

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Hourly cash costs used: 75 HP crawler tractor \$2.52, 30 HP wheel tractors \$.82, swather \$3.80, rake \$.55, plow \$.45, disc \$1.00, alfalfa drill \$.70, baler \$2.10, landplane \$1.85; Labor including fringe benefits: skilled \$1.85, irrigator and unskilled \$1.50.