

COST OF GROWING IRRIGATED PERMANENT PASTURE
(Assumed yield 5.6 tons alfalfa hay equivalent)

	Per Acre	Per ton Hay Equivalent
<u>Labor</u>		
Mow, fertilize, drag, fence work, etc. 3 man hrs. and 2 tractor hrs. for season	\$ 5.50	
Irrigation	11.00	
Total labor and field power	\$16.50	\$2.94
<u>Materials</u>		
Water: power for 5 acre feet	10.00	
Fertilizers and misc. -- annual average	7.00	
Total material cost	\$17.00	\$3.04
<u>Cash Overhead</u>		
General expense -- phone, car, etc. (5% of labor & material	1.68	
County taxes	4.00	
Repairs and misc.	2.00	
Total cash overhead	7.68	1.37
Total cash labor and field power costs	\$41.18	\$ 7.35
<u>Depreciation</u>		
Stand \$24 cost -- 6 year life	4.00	
Irrigation facilities: \$60 cost	3.50	
Fences \$20 cost - 15 years life	1.33	
Other equipment: \$20 - 10 years life	2.00	
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$10.83	\$1.93
<u>Interest on Investment @5%</u>		
Stand, facilities, and equipment ($\frac{1}{2}$ original cost - \$62)	\$ 3.10	
Land valued at \$400	20.00	
TOTAL INTEREST	\$23.10	\$ 4.13
Total Cost of Production	\$75.11	\$13.41

Summary of Costs

\$75.11 per acre for 5.6 tons of feed (hay equivalent)
2.8 tons of total digestible nutrients
1.34 cost per 100 pounds of total digestible nutrients

THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
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IRRIGATED PASTURE IN KINGS COUNTY

Irrigated pasture is one of the least expensive sources of nutrients for livestock of all classes. It does not require the attention which most other crops do, but yields will vary considerably, depending upon the individual's management practices and upon the soil fertility, and alkalinity.

Requirements - Irrigated pasture will grow on a wide variety of soils. The range of species available permits planting on soils too alkaline or too shallow for most other crops. On the other hand, on good soils more productive or more palatable species may be used, although on these good soils the grower should consider planting alfalfa for pasture, rather than a so-called permanent pasture mixture.

Market Outlook - Since irrigated pasture is harvested by the livestock themselves, it is wise for the individual who does not have livestock to consider where he will obtain them for harvesting. In 1954, when it appears that feed will be in good supply, it is especially important to do this.

Yield - In the cost data on the opposite page an annual yield of 14 annual months of pasture is assumed. This is an alfalfa hay equivalent of 5.6 tons per acre and is higher than most dairymen obtain in practice. Use of a rotational system will improve yield, and the highest yield may be expected if use is made of the daily ration system of pasturing. This means limiting the stock by means of an electric fence to just as much of a field as they will feed off closely in a single day. For maximum yields a field should be permitted a recovery period of about 24 days. Yield will vary from month to month depending upon the season. The number of animals per acre should be adjusted to production.

How Much Stock - You can use to advantage about 1 acre of irrigated pasture for each dairy cow in the herd - including the dry and young stock. To utilize a good pasture with beef feeders would require about 3 weaner calves or 2 yearlings per acre for 8 or 9 months. A good pasture should carry about 9 feeder lambs per acre during the good pasture season. Hogs can make good use of irrigated pasture at about 3.5 sows and their offspring per acre. Overstocking or overgrazing reduces production.

Planting Recommendations - Refer to Agricultural Extension Service, Circular 125, "Irrigated Pastures in California", or consult the farm advisor.

Cost of Stand - On levelled land you should be able to prepare land and seed permanent irrigated pasture in Kings county for around \$24.00 per acre. It was at first considered that a good stand, properly grazed and fertilized, would last indefinitely. Recent thinking is that the stand will not last over six years, that land capable of growing other crops should be rotated to row crops especially, in order to control bermuda grass.