

COST OF ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Fresno County Westside - 1966

Cost of production of a crop will vary from one farm to another depending on size of operation, soil characteristics, water costs, extent of insect and weed control, etc.

This work sheet gives an example of costs to produce alfalfa seed on a minimum 80-acre planting and may or may not be typical of any one farm. It includes all those cultural operations and costs generally experienced to produce the crop in this area. Growers are encouraged to figure their own costs using the columns provided taking into account the actual operations they carry out.

No allowance has been made for the cost of management.

NOTES

1. This cost study is based on a 750 lbs. per acre field-run yield with a 20% clean-out resulting in a 600 lbs. per acre clean seed yield.
2. Post-harvest windrowing and burning the straw is assumed. Westside practices vary. Some growers chop and scatter the straw by means of a harvester attachment. Although residue risk is involved, some growers bale the straw for dry stock feed.
3. With aphid resistant varieties, insect control costs will run approximately \$5 per acre less.
4. Insecticide costs will vary depending upon the particular insect problems arising. In general, costs will range between \$20 to \$35 per acre. In most cases four treatments are necessary.
5. Cleaning costs include use of the clipper, gravity and Rice rolls cleaners. It is assumed that for any one field, on the average 10% of the clean seed will have to be re-run over the Rice rolls or the magnetic cleaners.
6. Since seed alfalfa has not been shown to respond to fertilization, no allowance for fertilizer has been made. However, in order to hasten establishment of a new fall-planted stand, 200 to 300 pounds per acre of a 16-20-0 or similar mix may be desirable. This practice would increase the cost of establishing a stand by about \$15 per acre or \$5 per acre per year.
7. Since cost of harvesting and processing will vary with yield, a table has been included to show variation of net cost of production per acre and per pound for varying clean seed yields per acre.

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Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California and County of Fresno co-operating.

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Cost Analysis Work Sheet

Sample costs to produce Certified Alfalfa Seed on the west side of Fresno County. Based on a yield of 600 lbs. of cleaned seed per acre. Man labor \$1.30 per hour total, and equipment operator \$1.60. Seventy h.p. tracklayer per hour cash costs \$3.50 depreciation \$1.50 and interest \$.90. Fifty h.p. wheel diesel tractor per hour cash costs \$1.20, depreciation \$.60 and interest \$.30.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per <u>Acres</u>	Per <u>Pound</u>	Per <u>Acres</u>	Per <u>Pound</u>
PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS:				
Field Clean up: windrow 7.5 ac. per hour man and wheel tractor		.37		
Burner: contract \$1.50 per acre		1.50		
Chisel 1 time: 1/3 hour per acre man and tracklayer		1.70		
Irrigate: fall irrigation; 1 1/4 acre feet at \$8.		10.00		
winter irrigation 3/4 acre foot at \$8.		6.00		
2 summer irrigations 1 acre foot labor: 11 hours		8.00 14.30		
Disc or Harrow: 1/8 hour per acre; fall 2 times spring 2 times; 1/2 hour man and tracklayer		2.55		
Furrow out and Cultivate: 1/2 hour per acre man and wheel tractor		1.40		
Cultivate 2 times: total 1/2 hour man and wheel tractor		1.40		
Cultipak and roll: 1/4 hour man and wheel tractor		.70		
Hand Weed: total 12 hours per acre		15.60		
Clip Back: flail chopper		3.00		
Miscellaneous tractor work on borders, ditches, etc. 1/2 hour man and tracklayer		2.55		
Insect Control: materials applications 5 times		21.25 8.75		
Bee Rental: 3 colonies at \$5.50		16.50		
Defoliation: contract; materials and application		5.50		
Taxes:		7.70		
Repairs to equipment except tractors		1.50		
General Expense: auto, office, insurance, operating capital, etc.		9.50		
Total Pre-Harvest Costs		139.77		23.3¢
HARVESTING AND PROCESSING COSTS				
Harvest and Haul: 600 lbs. clean seed at 2¢		12.00		
Cleaning and Bagging: \$1.50 cwt. field run; 750 lbs. at \$1.50 cwt.		11.25		
Re-run: 60 lbs. at \$1.50		.90		
Bags: 50¢ cwt. clean seed		3.00		
Fees: certification fee and certified seed council; 25¢ cwt. clean seed		1.50		
field inspection 20¢ acre		.20		
Total Harvesting and Processing Costs		28.85		4.8¢
TOTAL CASH COSTS		168.62		28.1¢

COST OF ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION - FRESNO

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Pound</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Pound</u>
DEPRECIATION				
<u>Establish Stand</u>				
Deep plow	2.55			
Chisel	2.55			
Disc 3 times	3.83			
Land plane 2 times	2.55			
Float 1 time	.64			
List beds	1.28			
Cultipak	.70			
Plant	.70			
Seed: 1 lb. at \$2.50	2.50			
Irrigate: power	8.00			
labor	4.77			
Hand weeding	15.00			
Misc. overhead	2.70			
Interest and				
Depreciation on equipment	6.90			
Total	54.67			
Stand depreciated over 3 years		18.22		
Irrigation equipment and well				
\$240 cost 12 years life		20.00		
Tracklayer: 1 1/3 hours at \$1.50		2.00		
Wheel Tractor: 1 3/8 hours at 60¢		.83		
Other Equipment: \$14 cost 10 year life		1.40		
Total Depreciation		42.45	7.1¢	
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 6%				
Irrigation equipment and well: ½ cost \$120		7.20		
Tracklayer: 1 1/3 hours at 90¢		1.20		
Wheel Tractor: 1 3/8 hours at 30¢		.41		
Other Equipment: ½ cost \$7		.42		
Stand: ½ cost \$27.34		1.64		
Land: \$500		30.00		
Total Interest on Investment		40.87	6.8¢	
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION		251.94	42.0¢	
CREDIT for sheep grazing		5.00		
NET COST OF PRODUCTION		246.94	41.2¢	

SAMPLE COSTS AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield: lbs./Acre:	400	<u>Average</u>			<u>Exceptional</u>			1200
		500	600	700	800	900	1000	
<u>Cash Costs:</u>								
Per acre - \$	159.07	163.85	168.62	173.40	178.17	182.95	187.72	197.27
Per pound - ¢	39.8	32.8	28.1	24.8	22.3	20.3	18.8	16.4
<u>Net Total all Costs:</u>								
Per acre - \$	237.39	242.17	246.94	251.72	256.49	261.27	266.04	275.59
Per pound - ¢	59.3	48.4	41.2	36.0	32.1	29.0	26.6	23.0

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