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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
 Stanislaus County

P. O. Box 1411
 Modesto, California

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ESTABLISHING A STAND OF ALFALFA HAY - EASTSIDE STANISLAUS COUNTY
 COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET

By

E. E. Stevenson, Farm Advisor

Burt B. Burlingame, Extension Economist

Man labor at \$1.75 per hour, including Soc. Security and Comp. Insurance. Medium tractor at \$1.30 cash cost per hour, 60¢ depreciation and 30¢ interest.

Sample Costs
per Acre

CASH COSTS

Disc 2x: 1 hr. man and wheel tractor	\$ 2.80
Plow or chisel - custom	5.00
Border preparation: 1/3 hr.	1.00
CC Cultivate & harrow: 1/4 hr.	.75
*Fertilize - 300 lbs. single super - custom applied	7.50
Seed 25 lbs. @ 55¢	13.75
Plant-broadcast: 1/6 hr.	.50
Harrow: 1/4 hr.	.75
Misc. labor, tractor, materials	4.00
Repairs to equipment, except tractors	1.00
Office, pickup, operating capital, etc.	1.00
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$ 38.05

DEPRECIATION

Med. tractor - 2 hrs. @ 60¢	1.20
Other equipment	1.25
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$ 2.45

INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 6%

Med. tractor - 2 hrs. @ 30¢	.60
Other equipment	.45
TOTAL INTEREST	\$ 1.05

TOTAL COST TO ESTABLISH ALFALFA STAND	\$ 41.55
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COMMENTS

General - The cultural operations used in the preparation of alfalfa seedbeds varies with the soil type, crop history, weather and the personal preference of the grower. There is no single method that is always right and the good grower does what he thinks is needed to make a good seedbed. Individual costs can be accordingly higher or lower than those suggested here.

*Fertilizer - Commercial fertilizers are not always applied preplant. However, we believe superphosphate or gypsum is good insurance.

Manure is usually beneficial and where available, is applied as part of the seedbed preparation.

Seed - Seeding rates vary from 15 to more than 30 lbs. per acre. The cost of seed varies considerably with supply and demand and with the variety selected.

COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET

ESTABLISHING A STAND OF ALFALFA HAY - WESTSIDE STANISLAUS COUNTY

Man labor at \$1.75 per hour, including Soc. Security and Compensation Insurance.
Tracklayer figured at \$2.66 cash cost per hour, \$1.78 depreciation and 80¢ interest;
medium tractor at \$1.30 cash cost per hour, 60¢ depreciation and 30¢ interest.

Sample Costs
per Acre

CASH COSTS

Disc 2x: 0.5 hr. man and tracklayer	\$ 2.20
Subsoil: 1.0 hr. man and tracklayer	4.41
Landplane: .4 hr. man and tracklayer	1.76
Put up and shape borders: 0.2 hr. man & wheel tractor	.61
Grade or Float: 0.2 hr. man & tracklayer	.88
Springtooth 2x: 0.5 hr. man & tracklayer	2.20
Ditches & Boxes in: 0.1 hr. man (some tractor)	.52
Broadcast Seed: custom, plane	1.50
Seed: 35 lbs. @ 55¢	19.25
Misc. labor & materials: Irrigation gates, etc.	1.00
Repairs to equipment except tractors	1.00
Misc. expense: office, pickup, operating capital, etc.	1.50
<u>TOTAL CASH COSTS</u>	<u>\$ 36.83</u>

DEPRECIATION

Wheel tractor: 0.2 hr. @ 60¢	.12
Tracklayer: 2.6 hrs. @ 1.78	4.63
<u>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</u>	<u>\$ 4.75</u>

INTEREST

Wheel tractor: 0.2 hr. @ 30¢	.06
Tracklayer: 2.6 hrs. @ 80¢	2.08
<u>TOTAL INTEREST</u>	<u>\$ 2.14</u>

<u>TOTAL COST TO ESTABLISH ALFALFA STAND</u>	<u>\$ 43.72</u>
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COMMENTS:

General - The cultural operations used in the preparation of alfalfa seedbeds varies with the soil type, crop history, weather and the personal preference of the grower. There is no single method that is always right and the good grower does what he thinks is needed to make a good seedbed. Individual costs can be accordingly higher or lower than those suggested here.

Fertilizer - Usually, commercial fertilizers are not applied in the preplant or seedling stages except for occasional applications of superphosphate. Many Westside soils grow good alfalfa without being fertilized.

Seed - Seeding rates vary from 30 to 50 lbs. per acre. The cost of seed varies considerably with supply and demand and with the variety selected.

Irrigation - Costs for setting up the irrigation system vary widely depending on the presence or absence of a pipeline, grade of the land and the type of irrigation system used--siphons or cement gates. These costs were not shown other than in the "Ditches and Boxes in" and "Misc. Labor & Materials" categories. In some cases, the cost might be considerably higher than shown here, especially if the field has to be irrigated to bring the stand up or while the plants are small.