

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA HAY
Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County - 1960

Donald M. May, Farm Advisor

H. Fisk Phelps, Extension Economist, Farm Management

Based on a 200-acre farm, a yield of 7 tons with 5 cuttings of Lahontan alfalfa; cash costs per hour for labor of \$1.50, 20 HP tractor - \$.85, and 40 HP tractor, \$1.35.

	Hours per acre	Labor Cost	Equipment Cost	Materials		Total Cost
				Kind & Amount	Cost	
Irrigate	8.2	\$12.25		6½ ft. @ \$6	\$39.00	\$51.25
Fertilize - 20 HP, attach.	.2	.30	\$.20	45# P ₂ O ₅	4.50	5.00
Insect control - lx contract			2.00		1.00	3.00
TOTAL CULTURAL COST						59.25
Mow 5x - Mower-swather	1.3	1.95	1.55			3.50
Rake - 20 HP, 8' rake	.4	.60	.55			1.15
Bale - 20 HP, baler	.9	1.35	2.05	Wire	5.60	9.00
Haul & stack - 40 HP, Haro-bed wagon	1.0	1.50	1.85			3.35
TOTAL HARVEST COST						17.00
				General expense		7.00
				Taxes		6.00
				TOTAL CASH COSTS		89.25
				Depreciation on stand		5.65
				(\$33.90 for 6 years)		
				Depreciation - bldgs. & equip.		32.15
				Interest on investment @ 6%		33.50
				TOTAL NONCASH COSTS		71.30
				TOTAL ALL COSTS		160.55
				Total cost per ton		22.95
Land	Investment per acre	Depreciation per acre	Interest per acre			
Tractors & Pickup	\$350	\$ --	\$21.00			
Cultural equipment	52	5.20	1.55			
Harvesting equipment	21	2.10	.65			
Irrigation system	63	8.35	1.90			
Wells - 2, 500'	120	4.00	3.60			
Building	150	12.00	4.50			
	10	.50	.30			
TOTAL	766	32.15	33.50			