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Imperial County  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of California  
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SUDAN GRASS - 1950  
(Pasture)

SU-IM-50

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW SUDAN GRASS?  
(Assume yield of 5 tons hay or 12.5 AUM\* per acre)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS			YOUR COSTS		
	Per Acro	Per AUM	Ton Hay	Per Acro	Per AUM	Per Hay
LAND PREPARATION						
Disc - 3x	4.50					
Border - 1x	.50					
Float - 1x	1.25					
Fertilize - 1x	1.25					
Ditch & misc.	.50					
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	8.00	.64	1.60			
PLANTING	1.75	.14	.35			
CULTURAL LABOR & FIELD POWER						
Irrigation - 10-15	3.50					
Fertilizer - 1x	1.25					
Misc.	1.00					
TOTAL CULTURAL	5.75	.46	1.15			
MATERIALS						
Irrigation water - 3'	4.00					
Seed - 15-20#	2.40					
Fertilizer - 80# N.	12.00					
TOTAL MATERIALS	18.40	1.47	3.68			
HARVESTING						
Pasture	-					
Hay	-					
TOTAL HARVEST						
CASH OVERHEAD						
Gen. exp. - 5% above	1.65					
Taxes - $\frac{1}{2}$ yr.	2.00					
Compensation ins.	.25					
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	3.90	.31	.78			
DEPRECIATION (Irrig. facilities)	.75	.06	.15			
LAND RENT or Int. on Inv. $\frac{1}{2}$ yr.	15.00	1.20	3.00			
TOTAL ALL COSTS	53.55	4.28	10.71			

\* AUM = Animal Unit Month (1000 lb. animal for one month)

The above sample costs are based on contract rates which presumably are higher than efficient operator costs.

Estimate your own costs by filling in the last three columns based on yields you could reasonably expect and costs of operations and material that would be required on your land.

## SUDAN GRASS

SU-IM-50

ACREAGE: Sudan grass is grown for summer and fall feed. In August of 1950, there were 2581 acres reported planted to sudan.

YIELDS: Yields depend upon the length of the growing season. The yields of dry hay obtained from the full length season (June-Nov.) should be five tons or more per acre.

VARIETIES: Sudan 23, and sweet sudan are both planted. Tiff sudan has also produced well on small test plots and has good seed crop potential as the variety is well adapted for use in the mid-west and eastern United States. Plant certified seed for assured purity and freedom from noxious weeds.

SOILS: Sudan does well on any of the soil types and will stand considerable alkali if irrigated frequently. Is a good crop to aid reclamation.

PLANTING DATES: April 15-June 15 or as soon as the weather warms up. Planting later than June 15 curtails expected total yield to the point where costs of production exceed expected returns. The highest returns can be expected from the earlier plantings.

LAND PREPARATION: The cultural practices shown on the reverse side are those used following a winter cereal such as wheat or barley.

IRRIGATION: Irrigation is by flooding between borders. The crop is irrigated up and will normally require irrigation every 7 to 10 days during the warmer weather. When pasturing, move cattle frequently and irrigate when crop needs it and do not wait till all feed is gone.

FERTILIZERS: Nitrogen is required and normally little or no phosphate will need to be added. For a long growing season 60 to 80 pounds of actual nitrogen may be required for maximum yields. Less should be required for the shorter season. This fertilizer would normally be applied in two applications, the first of 30-40 lbs. at planting and the remainder after the first or second pasturing or cutting.

HARVESTING: The harvesting is best done with animals as pasture. If cut for hay, leave at least 3 inches of the stalk to allow for quick recovery and new growth. Move cattle frequently to meet irrigation program. This gives maximum feed production.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Little pest control has been done. Aphids, flea beetles, and crickets may at times cause damage but so far it has not been considered necessary to control these. UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION