

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW SUGAR BEETS IN MADERA COUNTY

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The table below contains sample costs of growing sugar beets in Madera County based on what is considered good management practices for this area. Most beets have been thinned by hand but it is expected that mechanical thinning will replace hand labor in the future. Where hand labor is used, costs for this operation will be about \$7.00 per acre higher than the cost given.

This table is designed as a guide in helping you to determine your costs of growing sugar beets and in aiding you in appraising and planning your crop program. Where your costs vary from those given, you can make the necessary adjustments.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Ton (1)	Per Acre	Per Ton
<b>PRE-HARVEST LABOR AND MATERIAL COSTS: (2)</b>				
Land preparation - 4 hrs., man & tractor	10.40			
Plant - .5 hr. 2 men & tractor, planter rent	2.30			
Seed - 5 lbs. @ 50¢	2.50			
Mechanical thinning - 1.5 hrs., man & lt. tractor	3.45			
Hand hoe & weed; 12 man hrs.	12.00			
Cultivate & fertilize - 3 hrs., man & lt. tractor	6.90			
Fertilizer - 100 lbs. nitrogen	15.00			
Irrigate - 12 man hrs.	12.00			
Water - power for 4 acre feet @ \$2.50	10.00			
Miscellaneous labor & materials	5.00			
<b>Total Pre-Harvest Labor &amp; Material Cost</b>	<b>79.55</b>	<b>3.98</b>		
<b>HARVEST COSTS:</b>				
Harvest - 3 hrs., 3 men & heavy tractor	16.60			
Haul - contract @ \$1.00 per ton	20.00			
<b>Total Harvest Costs</b>	<b>36.60</b>	<b>1.83</b>		
<b>CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:</b>				
General Expenses - office, phone, car, etc.	5.80			
Insurance, repairs & misc. cash costs	7.00			
County taxes	5.00			
<b>Total Cash Overhead Costs</b>	<b>17.80</b>	<b>.89</b>		
<b>TOTAL CASH, LABOR &amp; FIELD POWER COST</b>	<b>133.95</b>	<b>6.70</b>		
<b>DEPRECIATION:</b>				
Bldgs. and irrigation facilities - \$80 cost, 17 yrs. life	4.75			
Tillage, harvesting & other equipment except tractor, \$30 cost - 10 yrs. life	3.00			
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>7.75</b>	<b>.39</b>		
<b>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%:</b>				
Bldgs., irrigation facilities and equip. @ ½ cost	2.75			
Land @ \$400 per acre	20.00			
<b>Total Interest on Investment</b>	<b>22.75</b>	<b>1.14</b>		
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>164.45</b>	<b>8.23</b>		

(1) Based on yield of 20 tons per acre

(2) Man labor at \$1.00 per hour, light tractor at \$1.30, medium tractor at \$1.60 and heavy tractor at \$2.20 per hr.