

WHAT IT WILL COST TO GROW FIELD CORN IN STANISLAUS COUNTY

E. E. Stevenson, Farm Advisor

Man labor figured at \$1.00 an hour; small tractor at \$1.20 an hour, and heavy tractor at \$2.50 an hour.

SAMPLE COSTS

OPERATION	Eastside	Westside
Land preparation; plowing, disking, etc. 2 hrs. man and heavy tractor	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00
Planting: 2 men & light tractor, ½ hr.	2.60	2.60
Irrigation: 1 pre. & 4 crop	3.00	6.00
Cultivate 2 times and fertilize - man and light tractor, 1½ hrs.	3.30	3.30
Picking & hauling (contract)	12.00	12.00
Shelling: contract @ \$3/ton	5.00	5.00
Drying & haul one way - contract \$6/wet ton	15.00	15.00
Miscellaneous labor	2.00	2.00
TOTAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER COST	49.90	52.90
Irrigation water: 3 acre ft.	1.00	10.50
Seed: 12 lbs. per acre @ 25¢	3.00	3.00
Fertilizer: 100 lbs. nitrogen	14.00	14.00
TOTAL MATERIAL COST	18.00	27.50
General Expense	3.00	3.00
County Taxes: \$90 value at \$5	4.50	4.50
Repairs, insurance, misc. cash costs	2.50	2.50
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD COST	10.00	10.00
TOTAL CASH COSTS	77.90	90.40
Depreciation:		
Irrigation facilities \$60 costs - 20 years life	3.00	3.00
Tillage and other equipment \$17 for 10 years	1.70	1.70
TOTAL DEPRECIATION COST	4.70	4.70
Interest on investment at 5%		
Irrigation facilities, tillage and other equipment @ ½ original cost - \$40	2.00	2.00
Land at \$500	25.00	25.00
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	27.00	27.00
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	109.60	122.10
TOTAL COST PER TON (4500-lb. yield)	48.71	54.27
TOTAL COST PER TON (6000-lb. yield)	\$ 36.53	\$ 40.70

These costs may be reduced by growers with good farm management practices. Harvesting costs, in particular, may be reduced if growers have their own equipment. Crop yields are the most important factor in determining possible profits. Note the difference in cost per ton when figured on a 4500-pound yield basis and when figured on a 6000-pound yield basis.

Plan on drying your crop if you intend to sell it as shelled corn which must be down to about 14% moisture for safe storage. Farmer-operated driers should do the job cheaper than custom drying. Handling the crop as "ear corn" and storing it on the farm will usually make drying unnecessary.