

AVOCADOS

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE

AVOCADOS

IN

VENTURA COUNTY

1968

Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Ventura County
684 Buena Vista Street
Ventura, California

UC Cooperative Extension

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Ventura County ^{a/}

CULTURAL OPERATIONS

	COSTS PER ACRE			
	Labor Cost	Materials and Equipment Item	Cost	Total Cost/Acre
Nutrition				
Fertilizer-nitrogen, broadcast - 2 times	\$ 4	Actual N - 180 lbs./acre	\$ 19	\$ 23
Fertilizer-zinc foliage spray ^{b/}	8	Zinc nutritional spray	3	11
Irrigation - 12 times	24	Water - 2.5 acre feet/acre ^{d/}	45	69
Pest control - snails, gophers	6	Baits, traps, insecticides	6	12
Weed control - herbicides	2	1 lb. herbicide @ \$2.85	3	
- spot oil treatment - 2 times	8	50 gals. oil @ 15¢/gal.	8	21
Pruning (skirt, deadwood), and orchard thinning ^{c/}	30	Brush disposal	5	35
Miscellaneous - propping, erosion, etc.	30	Supplies and tools	6	36
Total Cultural Costs	\$ 112		\$ 95	\$ 207

Footnotes

- ^{a/} Sample costs in this report are based on a mature ten-acre owner-operated orchard of Hass avocados planted 15x23 feet or 126 trees per acre. Permanent plastic irrigation system, no frost protection, and nontillage. Labor at \$2 per hour.
- ^{b/} Zinc may be required. May be applied by ground equipment or by airplane if orchard is crowded.
- ^{c/} Pruning may consist of removing skirts to allow for distribution of water and removal of deadwood, suckers, and wild growth. To prevent crowding, closely planted trees will need to be thinned at 8 to 12 years. Pruning costs prorated over 10-year period.
- ^{d/} Water costs vary from \$5 to \$32 per acre-foot. For this report \$18 per acre-foot was used.
- ^{e/} Depreciation is a reasonable charge for wear and tear of depreciable property. Yearly rate determined by dividing cost (less salvage value) by years of useful life. See schedule.

OVERHEAD COSTS

Taxes	\$ 90
Maintenance and repairs	20
Management charge	36
General expense	20
Total Cash Overhead Cost	\$ 166
TOTAL PREHARVEST CASH COST	\$ 373
Depreciation ^{e/}	315
TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION	\$ 688
Interest on Investment ^{f/}	327
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS ^{g/}	\$1,015

Footnotes (continued)

f/ Interest on investment charge at rate of 6% on assumed land value of \$3,000 per acre plus half life value on trees, equipment, and buildings.

<u>Investment Schedule</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Investment Per Acre</u>	<u>Depreciation Per Acre</u>
Trees	20	\$3,826	\$191
Irrigation System	10	650	65
Pickup	5	125	25
Equip. and Bldg.	Varies	300	34
Total		\$4,901	\$315

g/ Harvest costs vary from 1½ to 3¢ per pound, depending on tree size, size of crop, terrain, etc. A 5% assessment is made on the value of the crop at roadside after harvesting. This money is used for industry advertising and sales promotion. Yield per acre varies by different varieties, locations, cultural practices, type of tree, and climatic conditions from year to year. Average good commercial yields per acre should range from 8,000 to 10,000 pounds for Hass.

FACTS ABOUT THE INDUSTRY

Information about the industry of Ventura County as reported by the Agricultural Commissioner:

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Bearing acres	2,359	2,661	2,613
Nonbearing acres	348	587	588
Total acres	2,707	3,248	3,201
Production	7,665,000	18,840,000	16,260,000
Yield per acre (lbs)	3,240	7,080	6,220
Price per pound	25.3¢	12.9¢	10.5¢

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