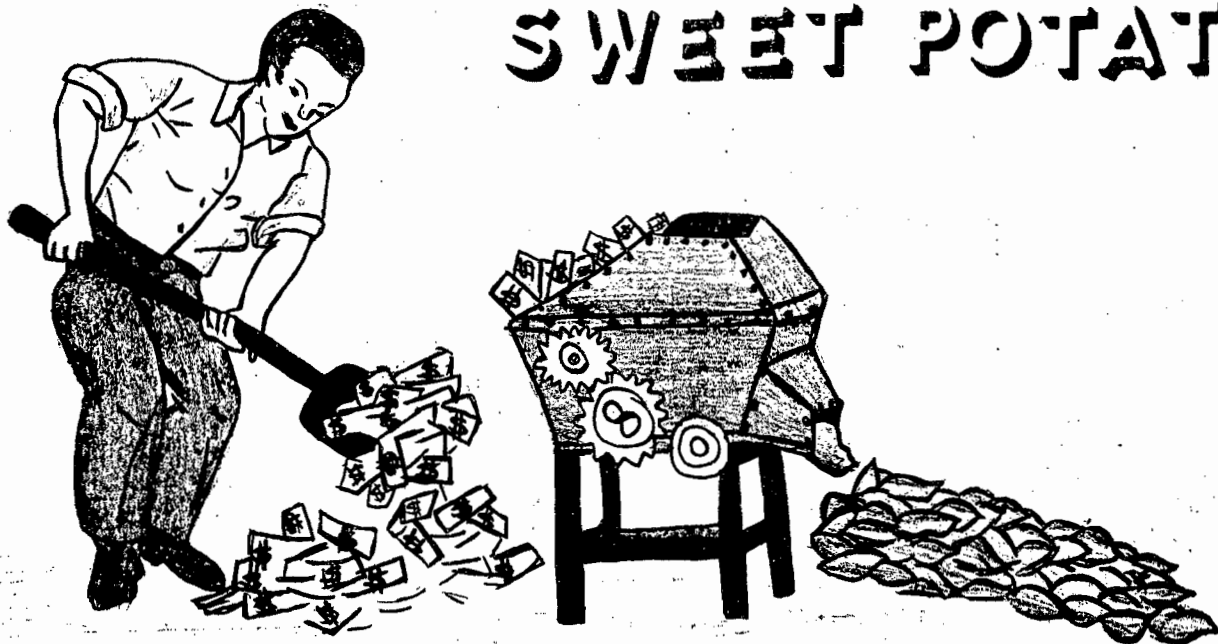

SAMPLE COSTS OF GROWING

PO-VN-78

SWEET POTATOES



UC Cooperative Extension

Sample costs to produce sweet potatoes on rented land in Merced County. Based on a yield of 14,000 lbs. marketable. Man labor at \$3.75 per hour total and equipment operator \$4.40. Medium tractor per hour cash costs \$3.20, depreciation \$2.00, and interest \$1.00. Light truck \$4.00, depreciation \$2.00, and interest \$1.00. Fork lift \$2.50, depreciation \$2.60, and interest \$1.30. Mechanical harvesting aid \$1.50, depreciation \$2.00, and \$1.00 interest.

PRE-HARVEST COSTS:

Hot bed culture: 12 man hrs. 1/2 hr. tractor
 Hot bed materials: Fum. \$8.60, cover \$5.00
 gin cleanings \$9.00
 Seed: 500 lbs. at 16¢
 Land preparation: 3 hrs. - man & tractor
 Fumigate for nematodes, deep placement
 Wire worm control
 Pull and plant: 20 man hrs. 2 tractor hrs.,
 1 truck hr.
 Cultivate and side dress: 3 hrs. tractor
 Complete N-P-K fertilizer - 800 lbs. + extra N
 Hoeing: 10 man hrs.
 Irrigate: 13X 26 man hrs.
 Misc. labor: 3 man hrs. 1 trac. hr. 1 truck hr.
 Misc. materials
 Repairs to cultural and irrig. equipment
 Office and business expense,
 tenants personal property taxes, etc.
 Rent: Cash; includes water dist. tax

	SAMPLE COSTS		MY COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Lb. (c)	Per Acre	Per Lb.
Hot bed culture: 12 man hrs. 1/2 hr. tractor	\$ 49.13			
Hot bed materials: Fum. \$8.60, cover \$5.00 gin cleanings \$9.00	22.60			
Seed: 500 lbs. at 16¢	80.00			
Land preparation: 3 hrs. - man & tractor	22.80			
Fumigate for nematodes, deep placement	78.00			
Wire worm control	39.00			
Pull and plant: 20 man hrs. 2 tractor hrs., 1 truck hr.	86.70			
Cultivate and side dress: 3 hrs. tractor	22.80			
Complete N-P-K fertilizer - 800 lbs. + extra N	105.00			
Hoeing: 10 man hrs.	37.50			
Irrigate: 13X 26 man hrs.	114.40			
Misc. labor: 3 man hrs. 1 trac. hr. 1 truck hr.	19.10			
Misc. materials	4.00			
Repairs to cultural and irrig. equipment	18.00			
Office and business expense, tenants personal property taxes, etc.	85.98			
Rent: Cash; includes water dist. tax	225.00			
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS	1010.01	7.21c		
HARVESTING COSTS:				
Cut vines: 1 hr. man and tractor	7.60			
Harvest with mechanical aid: 25 man hrs; 5 hrs. man and tractor	113.00			
5 hrs. mechanical aid	7.50			
2 hrs. fork lift and operator	13.80			
4 hrs. truck and driver	31.00			
Storage: \$10.50 per ton	73.50			
Shed pack: 350 cartons @ 75c (40 lb. cartons)	262.50			
TOTAL HARVESTING, STORAGE & PACKING COSTS	508.90	3.63c		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	1518.91	10.84c		
DEPRECIATION:				
Tractor: 15½ hrs. at \$2.00	31.00			
Truck: 6 hrs. at \$2.00	12.00			
Fork lift: 2 hrs. at \$2.60	5.20			
Mechanical harvesting aid: 5 hrs. at \$2.00	10.00			
Bins: \$440 cost, 10 years	44.00			
Buildings, other equip: \$160.00, 12 years	13.33			
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	115.53	.83c		
TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COSTS	1634.44	11.67c		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 8%:				
Tractor: 15½ hrs. at \$1.00	15.50			
Truck: 6 hrs. at \$1.00	6.00			
Fork lift: 2 hrs. at \$1.30	2.60			
Mechanical harvesting aid; 5 hrs. at \$1.00	5.00			
Bins: 1/2 cost \$220	17.60			
Bldgs; other equipment: 1/2 cost \$80.00	6.40			
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	53.10	.38c		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION BEFORE CREDITS	1687.54	12.05c		
CREDIT FOR SEED VALUE: 400 lbs. at 7c	28.00	.20c		
NET COST OF PRODUCTION: MARKETABLE	\$1659.54	11.85c		

These sample costs are based upon a limited survey of growers operations. These sample costs are provided only as a guide.

SAMPLE COST AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield: lbs. of marketable sweet potatoes per acre	10,000	11,000	12,000	13,000	14,000	15,000
Total cost per pound (Cents)	15.29	14.07	13.05	12.19	11.85	10.82

Robert W. Scheuerman
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Merced County

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(Farm Management)

October, 1978

UC Cooperative Extension