

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
College of Agriculture
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
2610 "M" Street, Bakersfield

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW IRRIGATED PERMANENT PASTURE
IN KERN COUNTY?

Here is a sample set of costs of producing irrigated pasture along with columns where you may insert your own costs. This sample assumes an established stand reasonably well cared for and producing 16 animal units months of pasturage per acre. Man labor is figured at 90 cents per hour and a small wheel tractor for dragging and mowing or clipping at \$1.25 per hour. Be sure and study each item as it would be on your farm, and make your own cost estimate. Then add up your various costs per acre and divide by your probable yield to get your cost per animal unit month of feed.

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	Per Acre	Per A.U.Mo.	Per Acre	Per A.U.Mo.
Drag, fertilize, clip; etc. 2 men and 1 tractor hour per season	3.05			
Irrigation, labor 8 hours	7.20			
TOTAL LABOR & FIELD POWER	10.25	.64		
Irrigation water, power for pumping $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet at \$4.50	20.25			
Fertilizers and miscellaneous	9.00			
TOTAL MATERIAL COST	29.25	1.83		
General expense, phone, car, etc.	1.98			
County taxes:	6.25			
Miscel. repairs, etc.	4.00			
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	12.23	.76		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	51.73	3.23		
Depreciation				
Stand \$25 cost spread over 10 years	2.50			
Irrigation facilities (Original cost \$200)	15.00			
Other equipment \$12. over 10 years	1.20			
Fences \$24 cost by 20 years	1.20			
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	19.90	1.25		
Interest on investment at 5%				
On stand, fences, irrigation system and equipment, ave. value \$130.50 per acre	6.53			
Land at \$500 per acre	25.00			
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	31.53	1.97		
TOTAL ALL COSTS	103.16	6.45		

The above sample shows a total cost of around \$103.16 an acre or \$6.45 per animal unit month of pasturage. This \$6.45 is equivalent in feed cost to alfalfa hay at \$16.13 a ton - probably cheaper than hay can be grown with costs similar to the above. Stock using pasture do the harvesting and spread the manure. Pasture even at the above costs is the cheapest feed available to the valley farmer. It can be used in dairy production, swine production, and in the feeding of beef cattle and lambs for market.

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