

COST OF PRODUCING SORGHUM SILAGE
(Assumed yield 25 tons per
acre--single cropped)

	Cost per acre	Cost per ton
<u>Sorghum Silage</u>		
<u>Labor</u>		
Land preparation	\$ 6.00	
Irrigation -- 1 Pre and 3 crop	8.00	
Planting	1.50	
Cultivating twice	3.00	
Total pre-harvest labor & field power cost	\$18.50	\$.74
<u>Materials</u>		
Seed - 4 to 5 pounds	\$ 1.00	
Fertilizer	5.00	
Water - power for pumping	5.00	
Total material cost	\$11.00	\$.44
<u>Cash Overhead</u>		
General expense, taxes	7.50	.30
Total pre-harvest cash, labor, and field power costs	\$37.00	\$1.48
<u>Depreciation</u>		
Irrigation facilities: \$60 cost	3.50	
Other equipment: \$20 cost - 10 yrs. life	2.00	
Total depreciation	\$ 5.50	\$.22
<u>Interest on Investment @5%</u>		
Irrigation facilities and equipment @ $\frac{1}{2}$ cost (\$40)	2.00	
Land valued at \$400.00	20.00	
Total interest	\$22.00	\$.88
Total Pre-harvest costs	\$64.50	\$2.58
<u>Harvesting and Storing</u>		
Harvesting at \$3.00 per ton	75.00	
Packing and covering at 50¢ per ton	12.50	
Depreciation on silo, interest, paper at 75¢ per ton and repairs	18.75	
Total Harvesting Costs	\$106.25	\$4.25
TOTAL COSTS	\$170.75	\$6.83
<u>Summary of Costs</u>		
\$170.75 per acre for 25 tons of feed		
4.00 tons of total digestible nutrients		
\$ 2.13 cost per 100 pounds of total digestible nutrients		

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SORGHUM SILAGE IN KINGS COUNTY

Silage is a desirable winter feed for cattle in Kings county, providing succulence at a time when pasture crops are growing slowly. Corn or sorghum for silage produces a heavy tonnage of feed in a short period of time compared with most other forage crops.

Corn or Sorghum For Silage? - If the expected growing season is 120 or more days Waxy Atlas sorghum is ordinarily recommended since it has consistently produced a heavier tonnage than hybrid corn in local tests. Hybrid corn can be recommended on good soil where alkalinity is not a problem, particularly if the land is to be double-cropped and the growing season, as a consequence, is shortened.

Yield - A yield of 25 tons per acre is assumed in the cost data on the opposite page. This is the expected yield with sorghum on good, average soil under good management. Hybrid corn in side-by side tests with sorghum has produced, at best, 17½ tons per acre, although a yield of 23 tons per acre was obtained on one field in the county in the 1953 season.

Cost of Nutrients - Desirable as silage is as a feed, it is a relatively expensive source of nutrients. Costs shown on the opposite page, even though they are higher than those for any other forage crop in this group, still do not take into consideration the labor of feeding from the silo. In individual instances the wisdom of using silage or not may depend upon the daily availability of labor for feeding.

Market Outlook - As a feed, silage is considered to be worth 1/3 as much per ton as alfalfa hay. High prices for alfalfa not anticipated in 1954. Silage ordinarily is not raised, stored, and then sold. If a grower does not have livestock which can be fed silage, he would be wise to line up a market in advance of planting.