

RICE IN MERCED COUNTY

by
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RICE IN MERCED COUNTY

Status:

Rice has been a crop of major importance in the county for many years. It is a crop that has been supported in price and limited in acreage. Under present regulations rice acreage is subtracted from the total farm acreage to get "titled acres". This will result in a lower cotton allotment. At present there are no restrictions on rice planting, but there is a possibility of limitation by 1955.

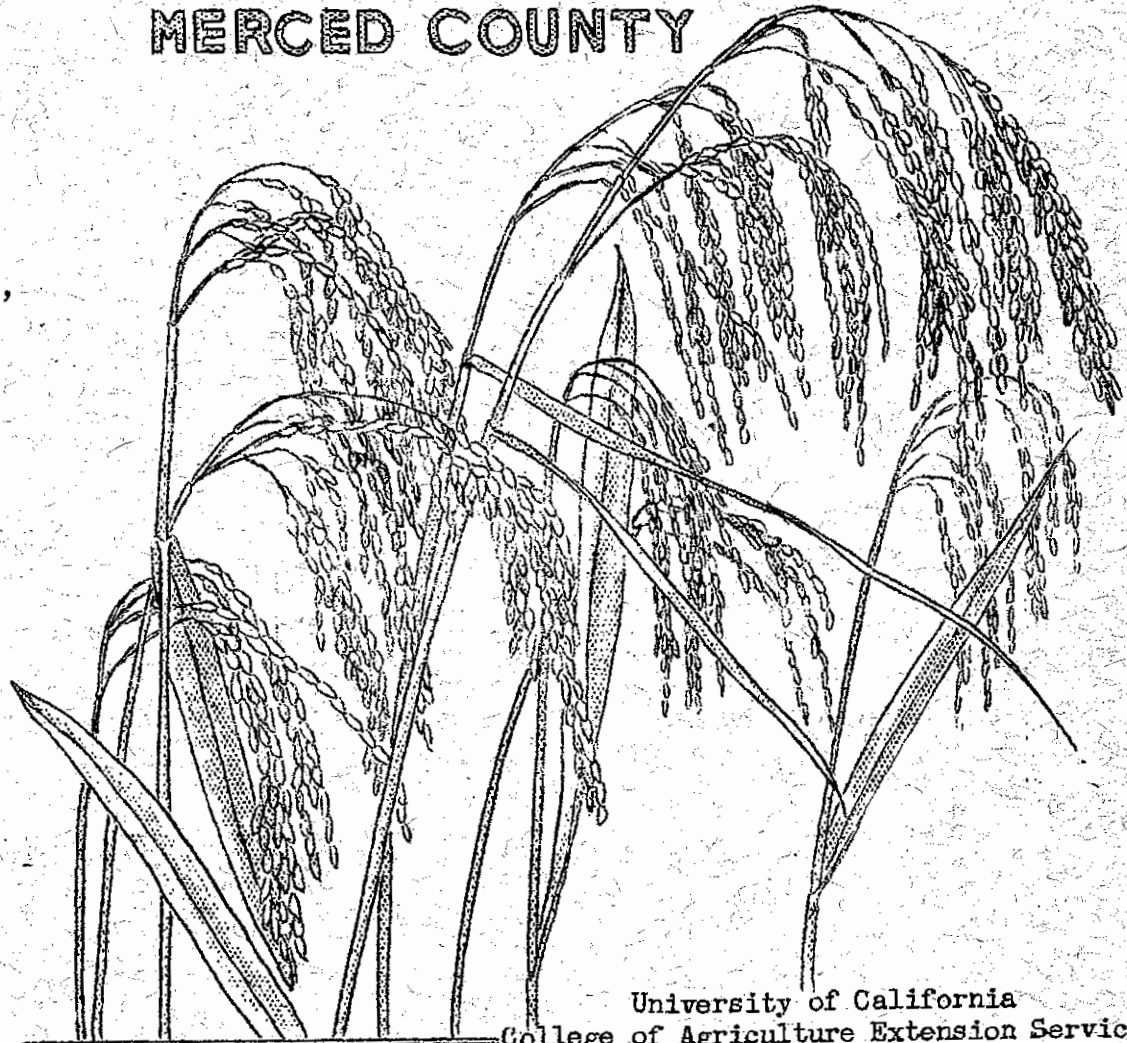
Culture:

An excellent publication is available on "California Rice Production". This is available at our office in Merced and Los Banos. A revised cost of production estimate has been prepared for your use. Prices received by farmers for the last few years are as follows:

<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
\$3.42	\$4.54	\$4.95	\$5.95	\$5.40

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January 1954



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mcp

and FRESNO
1954

COST OF GROWING RICE IN MERCED COUNTY
(Based on a yield of 3,500 lbs. per acre)

(Man labor @ \$1.00 per hr.; Heavy Tractor @ \$4.00 per hr.)

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Cwt.</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Cwt.</u>
<u>Pre-harvest Labor and Material Costs:</u>				
Land preparation: plow, disk, harrow, plane and border work - 2 hrs. man & tractor	\$ 10.00			
Seeding: (plane, soak, haul at 1½¢ per lb.)	1.88			
Seed: 150 lbs. at 8¢	12.00			
Fertilize: (by plane at 1¢ per lb.)	2.00			
Fertilizer: 40 lbs. N @ 15½¢	6.20			
Irrigate, set boxes & drain: 4 man hrs.	4.00			
Water: pumped or ditch: 7 ac. ft. @ \$4.50 total	31.50			
Misc. labor & material: weeds, pests, boxes, etc.	5.00			
Total Pre-harvest Labor & Material Costs	\$ 72.58	\$2.07		
<u>Harvesting Costs:</u>				
Combine: contract @ 50¢ cwt. (wet basis)	\$ 19.00			
Bank out, haul & misc. @ 15¢ (wet basis)	5.70			
Drying: contract @ 30¢ cwt. (wet basis)	11.40			
Total Harvesting Costs	\$ 36.10	\$1.03		
<u>Cash Overhead Costs:</u>				
General expense: (5% of above costs)	\$ 5.43			
County taxes	2.50			
Repairs (except tractors), insurance miscellaneous	5.00			
Total Cash Overhead Costs	\$ 12.93	\$.37		
TOTAL CASH, LABOR & FIELD POWER COSTS	\$121.61	\$3.47		
<u>Depreciation Costs:</u>				
Irrigation facilities - (included in water cost)	\$ -----			
Tillage & equipment (except tractors) & contract work - \$15,00 cost - 10 year life	1.50			
Total Depreciation Costs	\$ 1.50	\$.04		
<u>Interest on Investment at 5%:</u>				
Equipment: on ½ original cost	\$.38			
Land at \$400 per acre	20.00			
Total Interest on Investment	\$ 20.38	\$.59		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$143.49	\$4.10		

Above costs do not allow for any extensive pest control operations.