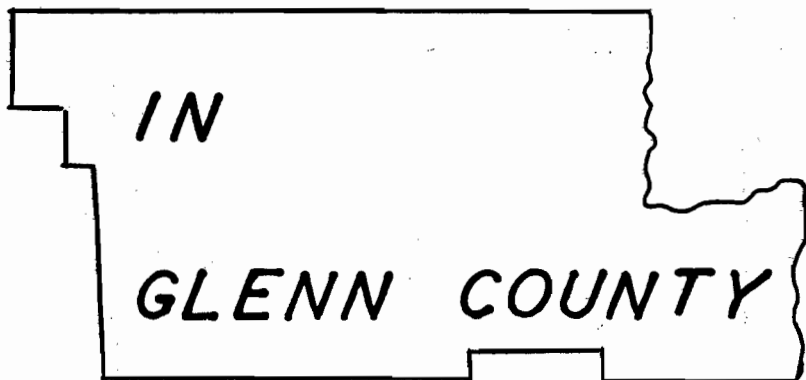


PRODUCTION COSTS

LADINO

CLOVER

SEED



University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Orland, California
UC Cooperative Extension

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE
LADINO CLOVER SEED IN GLENN COUNTY

Basis of Cost Study

Through necessity for uniformity, this sample cost is based on custom rates for harvesting operations and local wage rates allowed to grower for other necessary production operations.

All harvesting equipment is owned by custom operator, except mowing machine, rake, tractor and pickup.

Depreciation of grower-owned new equipment is: 10 years on sprayer, tractor and pickup; 5 years on mower and rake; 20 years on shop building, irrigation system and fencing; 4 years on clover stand.

Operation is based on 100 acres of Ladino seed or a 300-acre farm. Shop, pickup and tractor are utilized on full 300 acres; other equipment confined to clover seed operation.

Investment is a realistic cost to the grower, therefore, is included in cost study.

Possibilities for Reduced Cost

1. Improved grower production efficiency resulting in less cash costs, (out-of-pocket) and higher yields and quality of seed per acre will insure lower costs per pound of seed produced.

2. Grower-owned harvesting equipment utilized on larger producing acreage should result in reduced harvesting costs to grower.

3. Utilizing a vacuum thresher, thus omitting the necessity for vacuum pickup and stationary vacuum rethresh can substantially reduce harvest cost. The objection to the vacuum thresher single operation is that all trash, including weed seeds, are redeposited onto the seed field.

Costs and Returns per Acre - Ladino Seed

| Yield Per Acre Pounds | | Price Per Pound | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 40¢ | 50¢ | 60¢ | 70¢ |
| 300 | Gross returns | \$120 | \$150 | \$180 | \$210 |
| | Costs | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| | Net returns | - 80 | - 50 | - 20 | 10 |
| 400+ \$23 Harvest | Gross returns | 160 | 200 | 240 | 280 |
| | Costs | 223 | 223 | 223 | 223 |
| | Net returns | - 63 | - 23 | 17 | 57 |
| 500+ \$46 Harvest | Gross returns | 200 | 250 | 300 | 350 |
| | Costs | 246 | 246 | 246 | 246 |
| | Net returns | - 46 | 4 | 54 | 104 |
| 600+ \$69 Harvest | Gross returns | 240 | 300 | 360 | 420 |
| | Costs | 269 | 269 | 269 | 269 |
| | Net returns | - 29 | 31 | 91 | 151 |

Appreciation is expressed to the grower-industry committee for assistance in compiling the figures in this cost study. Philip Parsons, Extension Economist, University of California, Davis, also gave valuable help in assembling this cost study.

Roy B. Jeter, Farm Advisor

UC Cooperative Extension

4. Maintaining a thick stand of Ladino on fields that can be efficiently irrigated will greatly reduce weed control cost. Avoid weed contamination.

5. Practice border weed control, thus preventing weeds from blowing or washing onto the seed field.

6. Use optimum irrigations; not too much or too little. Don't irrigate too late in the season. Avoid sprouting mature seed.

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