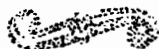


ECONOMICS OF
ALFALFA ESTABLISHMENT
WITH
WHEEL LINE SPRINKLERS
IN
MODOC COUNTY



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SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH ALFALFA
WITH WHEEL LINE SPRINKLERS

CASH AND LABOR COST					
Operation	Hours Per Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials	Total
<u>Cultural</u>					
Plow	1.2	\$2.40	\$1.45		\$ 3.85
Fertilize				Gypsum 400 lbs. \$ 5.00	5.00
Harrow 4 times	.6	1.20	.85		2.05
Plant	.3	.60	.50	Seed 10 lbs. 7.50	8.60
Irrigate 10 times	2.9	5.75	1.50	Power for 4.0 A/ft. 16.30	23.55
Miscellaneous	.5	1.00	.50		3.00
Total Cultural Cost		10.95	4.80	30.30	46.05
<u>Harvest Cost</u>					
Swath	.3	.60	.75		1.35
Bale	.3	.60	.70	Wire \$1.00 Ton 2.00	3.30
Haul				2 Ton @ \$2.50 5.00	5.00
Total Harvest Cost		1.20	1.45	7.00	9.65
<u>Cash Overhead</u>					
Miscellaneous				5.70	
Taxes				1.50	
Insurance				.50	
Total Cash Overhead				7.70	7.70
Total Cash and Labor		\$12.15	\$ 6.25	\$45.00	\$63.40

ANNUAL COST				
Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest	
Land	\$300.00	---	\$18.00	
Irrigation System	235.00	\$17.10	7.05	
Hay Storage	15.00	1.00	.45	
Equipment	100.00	10.00	3.00	
	<u>\$650.00</u>	<u>\$28.10</u>	<u>\$28.50</u>	\$56.60
Total Cost Per Acre				\$120.00
Credit for 2 ton hay @ \$25				<u>50.00</u>
Net Cost Per Acre				\$ 70.00

SUGGESTIONS FOR STAND ESTABLISHMENT

1. Plow down or disc in 400-600 lbs. of gypsum per acre.
2. Prepare a good firm seedbed.
3. Seed at a depth from 1/2 inch on heavy soils and up to 1 inch on lighter soils.
4. Plant early; March and April will allow the alfalfa seedlings to get a jump on the weeds.
5. Plant inoculated, blue tag seed. Vernal is currently the top producing variety.
6. Be prepared to spray for weed control.
7. Do not clip the seedling plants prior to first bloom.
8. Plan to sprinkle-up the alfalfa if rainfall is not adequate following planting or if the soil has any tendency to crust after getting wet.
9. Do not plan on irrigating over 40 acres with one quarter-mile wheel line.
10. Plan to take one good cutting of alfalfa in late July or early August.
11. Do not plan on grazing or cutting between September 1 and October 15. This will allow adequate root reserves to be stored prior to winter, thus insuring winter survival.