

# **SUDANGRASS—GREEN CHOPPED**

## **SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY**

**1965**

This sheet is for use as a guide in determining inputs and costs for the production of green-chopped sudangrass under a specific set of conditions. It is designed to help farmers reach decisions which will result in more efficient methods of operation. Similar sheets on different forage crops are available for making cost comparisons. The sample costs shown on this sheet are not intended to represent averages in the San Joaquin Valley. Costs may vary widely between individual situations.

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**SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCING GREEN-CHOPPED SUDANGRASS (DOUBLE CROPPED) IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - 1965<sup>1</sup>**  
**COST ANALYSIS WORKSHEET**

	COST PER ACRE	
	Sample Cost	Your Cost
<b>Preharvest costs:</b>		
Land preparation and border work: man and tractor 1.7 hr	\$ 5.10	
Fertilizer: 120 lb N @ 10¢ applied 4 X in water	12.00	
Plant: man and tractor 0.3 hr	.90	
Seed: 25 lb @ 12¢	3.00	
Irrigate: 1 pre- and 7 crop, 6 man-hr	10.20	
Water: pumping power, 3 A-ft @ \$4	12.00	
Misc.: ½ man-hr, tractor 0.2 hr, material 50¢	1.61	
County taxes: 60% of \$9	5.40	
Office, car, operating capital, etc.	2.60	
Repairs, except tractor	1.80	
<b>Total preharvest cash and labor costs</b>	<b>\$54.61</b>	
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
Irrigation system: (cost \$150—75% of \$10)	7.50	
Tractor: 2.2 hr @ 75¢	1.65	
Other equipment: (cost \$30—10 yr) X 60%	1.80	
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>\$10.95</b>	
<b>TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COST</b>	<b>\$65.56</b>	
<b>Interest on investment @ 6%</b>		
Land: \$800 X 60% (share for double crop)	28.80	
Irrigation system: on ½ cost X 75%	3.38	
Tractor: 2.2 hr @ 25¢	.55	
Other equipment: on ½ cost X 60%	.54	
<b>Total interest on investment</b>	<b>\$33.27</b>	
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE EXCEPT HARVESTING</b>	<b>\$98.83</b>	
<b>Total cost per ton except harvesting<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$ 2.06</b>	
<b>Harvest, haul, and unload (see other table)</b>	<b>1.22</b>	
<b>TOTAL COST PER TON FED</b>	<b>\$ 3.28</b>	

**TOTAL COST PER TON FED AT VARYING YIELDS<sup>3</sup>**

Yield, green tons and hay equiv.	34(5)	41(6)	48(7) <sup>2</sup>	55(8)	62(9)
Total cost per green ton	\$ 4.13	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.28	\$ 3.02	\$ 2.81
Total cost hay equiv. ton	28.59	25.13	22.71	20.91	19.45

<sup>1</sup> Man labor at \$1.70 per hour, including compensation insurance and Social Security.

Medium tractor per hour cash cost \$1.30, depreciation \$.75, and interest \$.25.

<sup>2</sup> Based on a yield of 48 tons @ 13% dry matter (7 tons hay equivalent).

<sup>3</sup> Based on 2,000 tons chopped.

# SAMPLE COSTS TO GREEN-CHOP SUDANGRASS IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY 1965<sup>1</sup>

## COST ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

	Per Green Ton	
	Sample Cost	Your Cost,
<b>CASH COSTS:</b>		
Labor: 1 man-hr/5 tons chopped & hauled	\$ .34	
Tractor: 1 hr/5 tons chopped & hauled		
Fuel—3 gal/hr @ 16¢	\$ .48 per hr	
Repairs, oil & lube	.40 per hr	
Taxes & other cash costs	.12 per hr	
Tractor cash costs	1.00 per hr	.20
Chopper: repairs & other, 5¢/ton		.05
Feed wagon: repairs 10¢/ton, other 2¢/ton		.12
Total cash costs per ton	\$ .71	
<b>DEPRECIATION:</b>		
Tractor: @ 56¢/hr (45 hp diesel wheel)	\$ .11	
Chopper: \$300/yr (cost \$1,500, 5-year life)	.15	
Feed wagon: \$300/yr (cost \$3,000, 10-year life)	.15	
Total depreciation	\$ .41	
<b>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 6% of AVERAGE VALUE:</b>		
Tractor: @ 17¢/hr	\$ .03	
Chopper: \$45/yr (average value \$750)	.02	
Feed wagon: \$90/yr (average value \$1,500)	.05	
Total interest on investment	\$ .10	
<b>TOTAL GREEN-CHOPPING COSTS PER TON</b>	<b>\$1.22</b>	

### COSTS PER TON AT VARYING QUANTITIES CHOPPED PER YEAR<sup>2</sup>

	1,000	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000
Tons chopped	1,000	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000
Total cost	\$1.59	\$1.34	\$1.22	\$1.14	\$1.10

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2,000 tons green-chopped per year. Man labor at \$1.70 per hour, including compensation insurance and Social Security.

<sup>2</sup> Total tractor use assumed to be 1,000 hours per year regardless of hours used for green-chopping and hauling.

### EXPLANATION

The production and feeding of green-chopped sudangrass in the San Joaquin Valley usually is associated with dairy enterprises. Chopping and hauling in this example are therefore based on a one-man operation, using a tractor with PTO, a flail-type chopper, and a feed wagon. The 1-hour-per-5-ton load is figured to be about equally divided between chopping and hauling. Hauling time would be affected by distance to feed bunkers, and chopping time by yield per acre.

When comparing green-chopped sudangrass costs with hay or other alternative forage crops, it usually can best be done on a fed basis. Taken into account are feeding costs, moisture content, nutritive value, loss in storage and wastage.