

COST OF ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Fresno County Westside - 1962

Cost of production of a crop will vary from one farm to another depending on size of operation, soil characteristics, water costs, extent of insect and weed control, etc.

This work sheet gives an example of costs to produce alfalfa seed on a minimum 80-acre planting and may or may not be typical of any one farm. It includes all those cultural operations and costs generally experienced to produce the crop in this area. Growers are encouraged to figure their own costs using the columns provided taking into account the actual operations they carry out.

No allowance has been made for the cost of management.

NOTES

1. This cost study is based on a 750 lbs. per acre field-run yield with a 20% clean-out resulting in a 600 lbs. per acre clean seed yield.
2. Post-harvest windrowing and burning the straw is assumed. Westside practices vary. Some growers chop and scatter the straw by means of a harvester attachment. Although residue risk is involved, some growers bale the straw for dry stock feed.
3. With aphid resistant varieties, insect control costs will run approximately \$5.00 per acre less.
4. Insecticide costs will vary depending upon the particular insect problems arising. In general, costs will range between \$20 to \$35 per acre. In most cases four treatments are necessary.
5. Cleaning costs include use of the clipper, gravity and Rice rolls cleaners. It is assumed that for any one field, on the average 10% of the clean seed will have to be re-run over the Rice rolls or the magnetic cleaners.
6. Since seed alfalfa has not been shown to respond to fertilization, no allowance for fertilizer has been made. However, in order to hasten establishment of a new fall-planted stand, 200 to 300 pounds per acre of a 16-20-0 or similar mix may be desirable. This practice would increase the cost of establishing a stand by about \$15.00 per acre or \$5.00 per acre per year.
7. Since cost of harvesting and processing will vary with yield, a table has been included to show variation of net cost of production per acre and per pound for varying clean seed yields per acre.

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ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Cost Analysis Work Sheet

Sample Costs to Produce Certified Alfalfa Seed on the West Side of Fresno County
Based on a yield of 600 lbs. of cleaned seed per acre from an established stand.
Man labor \$1.05 per hour, tractor operator \$1.30 per hour. 40 h.p. wheel tractor
and 70 h.p. tracklayer.

	<u>Sample Costs</u>	<u>My Costs</u>
	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Pound</u>
<u>PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS</u>		
<u>Windrow and burn straw</u>	1.81	
7.5 acres per hour - man & 40 h.p. tractor		
15 acres per hour for burner		
<u>Chisel</u> one time - 2 acres per hour	1.98	
½ hr. - man & 70 h.p. tracklayer		
<u>Irrigate</u>		
Fall irrigation 12" water @ \$8.50/ac. ft.	8.50	
Winter irrigation 9" water @ \$8.50/ac. ft.	6.38	
3 summer irrigations - total of 15" water @ \$8.50/ac. ft.	10.63	
5 hours per acre man labor for 5 irrigations	5.25	
<u>Disc or harrow</u> - 4 acres per hour		
Fall - 2 X ; spring - 2 X		
1 hour per acre - man & tracklayer	3.96	
<u>Furrow out and Cultivate</u>		
½ hr. per acre man & wheel tractor	1.28	
<u>Cultivate</u> 2 X @ ½ hr. per acre		
1 hr. man & wheel tractor	2.55	
<u>Cultipak and roll</u> 4 acres per hour		
¼ hr. man & wheel tractor	0.64	
<u>Hand weed</u> 2 X @ 6 hours, 12 hours man labor	12.60	
<u>Misc. Tractor work</u> , including borders, ditches, etc.	1.98	
½ hr. per acre, ½ hr. man & tracklayer		
<u>Insect Control</u>		
<u>Material</u> (\$23.08 total)		
Tox (4 lbs.) - ½ gal. @ \$6.60	3.30	
Tox (4 lbs.) plus Tedion (½ lb.) - ½ gal. @ \$11.85	9.22	
Tox (4 lbs.) plus Dylox (1 lb.) - 2 lbs. (50%) @ \$1.93	7.16	
Systox (4 oz.) - 1 pt. @ \$27.25/gal.	3.40	
<u>Air application</u>		
<u>Spraying</u> - 10 gal/ac - 4 X @ \$1.85	7.40	
<u>Bee Rental</u> : 2½ colonies @ \$5.25	13.13	
<u>Defoliation</u>		
Air application - 1 qt. dinitro & 9 3/4 gals. diesel oil	5.50	
<u>General Cash Expenses</u>		
Office, auto, etc. - 5% of cash costs	5.50	
<u>County Taxes</u>	5.50	
Repairs to equipment except tractors	1.00	
<u>Total Pre-Harvest Cash and Labor Costs</u>	<u>118.67</u>	<u>19.8c</u>

(over)

COST OF ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Cost</u>	
	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Pound</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Pound</u>
<u>HARVESTING AND PROCESSING COSTS</u>				
<u>Harvesting</u> - 750 lbs. @ 1 1/2 /lb. (20% cleanout)		11.25		
<u>Hauling</u> - 750 lbs. @ \$2.00/ton		.75		
<u>Cleaning</u> - \$1.50/cwt field run		11.25		
<u>Re-run</u> - 60 lbs. @ \$1.00/cwt		0.60		
<u>Bags and bagging</u> - 50 /cwt clean seed		3.00		
<u>Fees</u>				
Certification 20 /cwt clean seed		1.20		
Field inspection: 20; per acre		0.20		
Certified Seed Council: 20; /cwt clean seed		1.20		
Sample analysis - 6.5; per 600 lbs. clean seed		0.07		
<u>Total Harvest Cash Costs</u>		<u>29.52</u>	<u>4.9c</u>	
<u>TOTAL PRE-HARVEST AND HARVEST CASH COSTS</u>		<u>148.19</u>	<u>24.7c</u>	
<u>DEPRECIATION</u>				
<u>Establish stand</u>				
Chisel	5.00			
Disc 2 times	4.50			
Land plane	3.00			
List beds	2.00			
Cultipak	1.00			
Planting	1.50			
Seed: 1 1/2 lbs. @ 75;	1.13			
Irrigate:				
labor	1.50			
power for 1 ac. ft. water	8.50			
Hand weeding - 8 hrs.	8.40			
<u>Total</u>	<u>36.53</u>			
Depreciated over 3 years		12.18		
Irrigation system and well		10.00		
Tracklayer - 2 hrs. @ \$1.78		3.56		
Wheel tractor - 1 3/4 hrs. @ 60;		1.05		
Farm equipment		1.75		
<u>Total Depreciation</u>		<u>28.54</u>	<u>4.8c</u>	
<u>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 6%</u>				
Irrigation equipment & well - 6% x 1/2 of \$200		6.00		
Tracklayer - 2 hrs. @ 80^		1.60		
Wheel tractor 1 3/4 hrs. @ 30.		0.52		
Farm equipment		0.60		
Land @ \$350		21.00		
<u>Total Interest on Investment</u>		<u>29.72</u>	<u>4.9c</u>	
<u>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</u>		<u>206.45</u>	<u>34.4c</u>	
CREDIT for fall and spring sheepling off		5.00		
<u>NET COST OF PRODUCTION</u>		<u>201.45</u>	<u>33.5c</u>	

PRODUCTION COST AT VARYING CLEAN SEED YIELDS

Yield - Lbs./Ac.:	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1200
<u>Total cash costs:</u>								
Per acre - \$	138.44	143.33	148.19	153.08	157.95	162.85	167.72	177.49
Per Pound - ;	34.6	28.7	24.7	21.9	19.7	18.1	16.8	14.8
<u>Net total all costs:</u>								
Per acre - \$	191.70	196.59	201.45	206.34	211.21	216.11	220.98	230.75
Per pound - ;	47.9	39.3	33.5	29.5	26.4	24.0	22.1	19.2