

Table 41. A Standard of Labor Material and Other Costs in the Utilization of Irrigated San Joaquin Valley Land for the production of green pasture for livestock throughout the year. Based upon a Yield of 12 animal unit months of full feed from pasture or a carrying capacity of 1.2 mature cattle or horses getting all their feed from an acre of pasture for a 10 month period.

	Man	Horse	Cost	Per A.U.
	Labor	Work	per Acre	Mo.
	Hr. per Acre		Dollars	
Drag	1	2	.50	
Irrigate	10		3.00	
Miscellaneous	3	2	1.10	
Total Labor	14	4	4.60	.38
Irrigation Water or Power for Pumping 60"			8.00	.67
General Expense, 5% of above Costs			2.63	.25
County Taxes			2.50	.21
Total Cash Costs			15.73	1.31
	Original Cost	Average Value	5% Interest	Depreciation
	Dollars per Acre			
Stand	20.00	10.00	.50	2.00
Fences	12.00	8.00	.30	.60
Irrigation System	34.00	17.00	.35	1.75
Small Tools and Miscel.	4.00	2.00	10.00	.40
Land	200.00	200.00		
Total Investment	270.00	235.00		
Total Depreciation			4.75	4.75
Total Cash and Depreciation Costs			20.48	1.71
Total Interest on Investment			11.75	.98
Total All Costs			32.23	2.69

The above table shows the cost of operating an irrigated pasture for a season in a field of not less than 10 acres and on a farm of at least 40 acres where pumping plant and other facilities are available at a reasonable cost. This type of utilization of land and water has increased a lot in popularity but information about the amount of pasturage produced and its cost is very limited. The above computation is based upon 1936 records in Tulare County. Individual pastures which were typical and were used about to capacity produced from about 8 to 23 head months of full feed for mature cattle per acre during the year with an average of 12 which is used above as a standard for showing the cost per animal unit month of pasture produced. With twice this use of pasture, cost would be about half or as low as \$1.35 per head of stock per month.

Labor costs above are computed at \$0.30 an hour for man labor and 10 cents an hour for horse work. The water cost of \$8.00 an acre is based upon the prevailing power rate for pumping water with a plant serving 40 acres and a lift of about 40 to 60 feet.

Alfalfa on the best land in a similar area may be expected to produce from 5 to 6 tons per acre. About 6 tons of alfalfa would provide full feed for a cow or other mature animal for a year. The amount of feed assumed for the above pasture, 12 head months, full feed, is exactly equal to that produced from a good stand of alfalfa producing 6 tons of Hay. Costs up to harvesting may be said to be about equal so pasturing saves the harvesting cost of the hay about \$1.50 to \$3.00 a ton or \$9 to \$18 an acre.