'73

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
PLACER AND NEVADA COUNTIES

SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

358 Elm Avenue,
Auburn, California 95603
Telephone 885-4551

Memorial Building,
Grass Valley, California 95945
Telephone 273-4563

IRRIGATED PASTURE
SPRINKLER IRRIGATION-SOLID SET

Production Data: 12 AUM Production. 40 acres irrigated pasture.

Irrigated pasture is grown in the foothills and valley area of Western Placer and Western Nevada County. Nearly 32,000 acres of irrigated pasture were in production in 1970.

SOILS: Irrigated pasture is grown on almost all of the soil series in the valley and foothills, and it is one of the few irrigated crops that can be grown on the shallower soils in the area.

VARIETIES: The most widely adapted varieties are Ladino clover, Salina Strawberry clover, Broadleaf Birdsfoot trefoil, Narrowleaf Birdsfoot trefoil, orchard grass, perennial and annual ryegrass.

PLANTING: Most successful plantings in this area are made in October.

WATER: Irrigated pasture requires 3 to 4 acre feet of water per acre during the season. The irrigation water is applied 13 to 20 times during the growing season in the area. Three acre inches of water applied every 7 to 10 days is a good rule of thumb.

FERTILIZATION: 80 lbs. P_2O_5/ Acre (35 P/acre) is recommended as an annual application of phosphorous. Sulfur is necessary to obtain maximum production and a material such as single superphosphate containing phosphorous and sulfur should be used. Nitrogen fertilization increases grass production in irrigated pastures but sustained nitrogen fertilization will reduce the amount of legumes in the pasture composition.

HARVESTING: Most irrigated pasture is grazed from April or May to November. During the spring many growers have surplus feed and a portion of the irrigated pasture acreage is cut for hay.

This Sample Cost of Production is based on a 200 acre farm with 40 acres of irrigated pasture producing 12 AUM of feed per season and 10 acres cut for hay in the spring. The average life of irrigated pasture is considered to be 7 years for the purpose of this study.

Labor is figured at $2.75 per hour for skilled and $2.25 for common labor and this includes Social Security and Workman's Compensation, as well as fringe benefits.

UC Cooperative Extension 5/73 - 100 copies

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE IRRIGATED PASTURE

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and labor cost per acre: Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Kind & Quantity	Cost	Total
Cultural costs						
Irrigate 18X	1.8	4.05	-	Water ½ M.I.	18.25	
				plus 4.00 p/a water tax & standby 4.00	8.00	
				4 acre ft. @ 2.00	8.00	38.30
Clipping	0.5	1.38	.60			1.98
Fertilize				contract applic. 400# 0-20-0	12.00	12.00
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS:	2.3	5.43	.60		46.25	52.28
Harvest costs						
Mow & Rake (contract)				¼ acreage @ 3.50		.87
Bale (contract)				1½ ton/acre @ 4.50 per ton		1.68
Haul (contract)						.50
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS:						3.05
Cash overhead						
Misc., office, etc.						3.32
Taxes (Based on the Placer County rate under the Land Conservation Program)						5.25
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD:						8.57
TOTAL CASH COST:						63.90
MANAGEMENT COST: 5% x 12 A.U.M. @ $6.00						3.60

INVESTMENT	Per Acre	Annual Cost: Depreciation	Interest 7%	
Land	500.00	-	35.00	
Irrigation system (see Table I)	478.00	29.38	16.74	
Fences	35.00	1.40	1.23	
Equipment	45.00	4.50	1.58	
Stand establishment	30.00	4.29	1.05	
TOTAL:	1,088.00	39.57	55.60	95.17
TOTAL COST PER ACRE				
Cost per AUM @ 12 AUM yield		$13.56 per AUM		$162.67

Prepared by:

William E. Mason
Farm Advisor

Philip S. Parsons
Extension Economist