SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE IRRIGATED PASTURE
STANISLAUS AND SAN JOAQUIN COUNTIES
OCTOBER 31, 1984

CASH COSTS				DOLLARS PER ACRE SAMPLE COST	YOUR COST
Mow, fertilize, fence work, etc.:					
3 man and	1.5 tractor hours			31.88	
Irrigation labor:					
6 hrs. @	5.75 $/hr.			34.50	
Irrigation water- power & district tax:				24.00	
Fertilizer:	300 lbs. @	160 $/ton		24.00	
Property taxes:				9.90	
Misc. cash costs:				10.00	
TOTAL CASH COSTS				134.28	
DEPRECIATION:					
Irrigation system (gravity):					
original cost-	$ 185.00	20 yr. life		9.25	
Tractor:	2 hrs. @	2.00 $/hr.		4.00	
Fences: cost-	$ 75.00	20 yr. life		3.75	
Past. stand: cost-	$ 112.07	10 yr. life		11.21	
TOTAL DEPRECIATION				28.21	
TOTAL CASH & DEPRECIATION				162.48	
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @		13 %:			
Land: @		2700.00 $/acre		351.00	
Irrigation system: 1/2 cost		185.00 $/acre		12.03	
Tractor:	2 hrs. @	1.50 $/hr.		3.00	
Fences: 1/2 cost		75.00 $/acre		9.75	
Past. stand: 1/2 cost		112.07 $/acre		7.28	
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT				383.06	
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION				545.54	

*

COST PER ANIMAL UNIT MONTH AT VARYING PRODUCTION LEVELS

Production level (AUM)	8	10	12	14	16
Cash & Depr. Cost	20.31	16.25	13.54	11.61	10.16
TOTAL COST	68.19	54.55	45.46	38.97	34.10

*
Animal Unit Month (AUM)= 400 pounds total digestible nutrients or 0.4 tons of hay. Any added costs per acre would increase AUM costs accordingly.

1984 SAMPLE COSTS FOR IRRIGATED PASTURE STANISLAUS/SAN JOAQUIN COUNTIES

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This sheet is for use as a guide in determining irrigated pasture inputs and costs for a specific set of conditions. It is designed to help growers analyze their practices with a view toward increasing efficiency of production. Along with similar sheets on other crops, it also can be used as a basis for making cost comparisons with more profitable alternatives. The figures in the tables are not intended to represent average costs for irrigated pasture. A large portion of these pastures are planted on land not well adapted to other crops, and costs may vary widely between individual situations.

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH AN IRRIGATED PASTURE
(Land preparation & additional first year costs)
STANISLAUS & SAN JOAQUIN COUNTIES
OCTOBER 31, 1984

CASH COSTS		DOLLARS PER ACRE SAMPLE COST	YOUR COST
Land preparation: disc, level, chisel, border work	3.25 hrs.	61.75	
Repairs to equipment		3.00	
Seed: 14 lbs. @	1.50 $/lb.	21.00	
Plant: man & tractor	.33 hrs.	5.17	
Two clippings: man & tractor	.5 hrs.	7.75	
TOTAL CASH COSTS		98.67	
Depreciation on tractor: 3.83 hrs. @	2.00 $/hr.	7.66	
Interest on tractor: 3.83 hrs. @	1.50 $/hr.	5.75	
TOTAL FIRST YR. ESTABLISHMENT COSTS		112.07	

One tenth of the above costs are included in the other table.

Measurement of Feed Obtained From Pasture--To compare the cost of feed from pasture with alternative forages, it is necessary to know how much other feed is replaced by the pasture. An AUM may be used as a unit of measurement. It is equivalent to 400 pounds of TDN, or 13.3 pounds of TDN per day for a month. Feed requirements for animals on pasture can be converted to this basis.

Animal unit conversion factors for different kinds, ages and sizes of animals may be obtained from Farm Advisors. AUM can be converted to approximate tons of hay equivalent, since hay is roughly figured at 50% TDN or 1,000 pounds per ton. Therefore, 1 AUM = 0.4 tons of hay, or 2.5 AUM = 1 ton of hay.

The amount of feed obtained from a pasture is influenced greatly by grazing practices. Also, all types of stock do not utilize pasture to the same degree of efficiency. Milking cows may use only 3/4 of the available feed that growing stock might use. Also, sufficient stock must be on hand to fully utilize feed produced. Therefore, in determining the amount of feed which may be obtained from a pasture, one should consider whether it will be used to maximum capacity.