

COST OF PRODUCING ALFALFA HAY

Merced County

Jan 1950

Cost of establishing a stand of alfalfa varies considerably depending on type of land, etc. The following operations and costs apply to some lands. Some of these operations and costs are not necessary on some lands while on others operation costs will be higher or lower depending on the type of land. An estimate of your own costs may be listed by eliminating and substituting for the following costs:

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Per Acre Cost</u>
Dry Flow	\$ 4.00
Subsoil	5.00-10.00
Disc.	1.50
Check	5.00
Disc.	1.50
Springtooth	1.00
Seeding	.50
Spiketooth	1.00
Seed (20#/Acre)	7.00
Fertilizer	4.00
Total	<u>\$30.50</u>

Yields the first year after seeding are about half as much as second year yields. Second year yields and costs are estimated as follows:

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Cost Per Acre</u>	
	<u>5 Ton Yield</u>	<u>8 Ton Yield</u>
Irrigating (8 times @ 1.00)	8.00	8.00
Mowing (5 times @ 1.50)	7.50	7.50
Raking (5 times @ 1.50)	7.50	7.50
Baling (@ 4.00 per ton)	20.00	32.00
Pick up, stack & haul (@ 2.00 per ton) maximum of 5 miles	10.00	16.00
Irrigation water (@ 3.50 per acre)	3.50	3.50
Fertilizer (#200 Single Super)	4.00	4.00
Taxes	3.50	3.50
Depreciation of alfalfa stand	7.50	7.50
Interest on land	15.00	15.00
Upkeep on ditches, etc.	2.00	2.00
Total cost per acre	<u>\$88.50</u>	<u>\$106.50</u>
Total cost per ton	\$17.50	\$ 13.30

The above costs are only estimates and may not fit an individual ranch. You may substitute your own costs for the above items and get an estimate of the costs on your own farm. Higher yields usually mean a lower per ton cost of production and higher net profit per acre.

Some of the above costs are contract costs. Where a grower owns his own equipment and operates it efficiently some of these costs can be significantly less.