

SAMPLE COST OF PRODUCING CORN SILAGE - 1973^{1/}
(DOUBLE CROPPED) IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

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	COST PER ACRE	
	Sample Cost	Your Cost
Pre-Harvest Cash Costs:		
Land preparation: plow, disc, harrow, float, etc.- 2 hrs. man and tractor	\$ 8.40	\$
Preplant - Fertilize: contract including 80 lbs. N-applied	11.00	
Plant: 2 men and tractor - 0.3 hours	2.04	
Seed: 20 lbs. @ 50¢	10.00	
Fertilizer in irrigation water: 120 lbs. N @ 6¢	7.20	
Cultivate: man and tractor - 1 hr.	4.20	
Irrigate: (1 pre and 5 crop) 4 man hrs.	13.00	
Water: pumping power - 3 ac. ft. @ \$5.00 ^{2/}	15.00	
*Miscellaneous: 1 man hr., $\frac{1}{2}$ tractor hr., material 75¢	4.16	
County taxes: 60% of \$16.00 ^{2/}	9.60	
Office, car, interest on operating capital, etc.	8.90	
Repairs: irrigation system \$4.00, equipment \$3.50	7.50	
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	\$101.00	
Depreciation:		
Irrigation system: (cost \$160 - 16 yrs. life) 75% of \$10	\$ 7.50	
Tractor: 3.8 hrs. @ \$1.30	4.94	
Other equipment and buildings: (cost \$40 - 10 yrs. life) 60% of \$4.00	2.40	
TOTAL DEPRECIATION COST	\$ 14.84	
Interest on Investment at 7%:		
Irrigation system: on $\frac{1}{2}$ cost (\$80) x 75%	\$ 4.20	
Tractor: 3.8 hours @ 66¢	3.17	
Other equipment and buildings: on $\frac{1}{2}$ cost (\$20) x 60%	.84	
Land: at \$800 x 60% (share for double crop) ^{2/}	36.60	
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	\$ 44.81	
TOTAL PRODUCTION COSTS EXCEPT HARVESTING	\$160.65	

HARVESTING AND TOTAL COSTS PER TON INTO SILO	COST PER TON	
	Sample Cost	Your Cost
Total cost except harvesting	\$ 6.43	\$
Chop, haul, and pack - contract \$2.25 per ton	2.25	
Cover material @ 14¢ per ton into silo	.14	
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION PER TON INTO SILO	\$ 8.82	

^{1/} Based on a yield of 25 tons per acre into silo. Labor @ \$2.60 per hour, including Social Security and Compensation Insurance; 50 h.p. tractor per hour cash cost \$1.35; depreciation 75¢; interest 40¢.

^{2/} Water costs will vary from nil in certain irrigation districts to over \$30 per acre in some areas. Annual county property taxes can range from \$8 to over \$20 per acre depending on the assessed value and tax rate. Interest at 7% on land values may be figured from \$36 to \$60 or more per year. It will be noted that 60% of the annual per acre costs for the last two items are charged to the corn for silage when it is doubled cropped. See the table on the following page to adjust costs per ton for differences in costs per acre as shown in the above table.

Rented Land: Total costs per acre will usually be less on cash-rented land, because the rent paid generally will not cover taxes, other landlord costs, and allow a 7% return on the land value.

*If herbicides, insecticides, or fertilizer materials other than Nitrogen are used, these costs must be added.

Corn Silage
San Joaquin Valley

TOTAL SILAGE COST PER TON - FED BASIS
With 16% loss - 25 tons per acre in and 21.0 tons fed

FOR BUNKER-TYPE SILO	COST PER TON	
	Sample	Yours
Cost into silo (25 ton yield basis)	\$ 8.82	\$
Adjustment for loss to 21 ton basis	1.41	
Depreciation, interest, and upkeep on silo	.30	
Feeding	.80	
TOTAL COST - FED BASIS (21 tons per A.)	\$11.33	

COST PER TON AT VARYING YIELDS

	20.0	25.0	30.0
Yield per acre, tons in	20.0	25.0	30.0
Yield per acre, tons fed	16.8	21.0	25.2
Cost per ton, into silo	10.42	8.82	7.75
Cost per ton - fed basis	13.19	11.33	10.09

COMPARING CORN SILAGE COSTS WITH OTHER FORAGE CROPS:

The feeding value of corn silage in terms of total digestible nutrients is generally considered to be approximately one-third that of alfalfa hay. In comparing corn silage costs with alternative forage crops, they usually should be figured on a fed basis. Thus, if corn silage is costing \$10 per ton fed, alfalfa hay at \$30 per ton fed will provide nutrients at an equivalent cost. However, the 3/1 ratio will not always hold true, due to variations in quality of both silage and hay. This should be considered when making comparisons.

Losses of feed nutrients in the silo, due to surface spoilage, fermentation, and seepage, greatly influence silage costs on a fed basis. Such losses may range from 10% or less to more than 30%, depending on methods, type of silo, and cover.

The sample costs on this sheet show production costs into the silo (including cover) at \$7.45 per ton with a 25 ton per acre yield. Total costs per ton on a fed basis, however, comes to \$9.82 after adding silo overhead, feeding, and allowing for a 16% loss.

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5/9/73