

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE LETTUCE IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1973

By J. W. Huffman and E. A. Yeary

Yield: Based on 545-47 lb cartons per acre

Plant: December 15 through July 15

Harvest: April through October

Total Labor Costs/Hr		Hourly Tractor Costs			
			Cash Costs	Depreciation	Interest
Cl. I Tractor Driver	3.82	80 h.p. Crawler Diesel	3.65	2.55	0.87
Cl. II Tractor Driver	3.70	80 h.p. Wheel Diesel	1.90	0.92	0.47
Other Labor	2.91	55 h.p. Wheel Diesel	1.30	0.66	0.34

Operation	Tractor Used	Hours/Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Contract and Materials	Total/Acre
CULTURAL						
Cover Crop & Manure					Proportion to Lettuce	22.50
Disc and Roll 3x	C-80	0.69	2.55	3.49		6.04
Chisel 2x	C-80	1.0	3.70	4.45		8.15
Landplane 2x	C-80	0.52	1.92	1.26		4.44
List and Preplant Fertilizer					Contract @ \$4.00/Ac 500# 14-14-14 @ \$26.00	30.00
Shape Beds and Roll	WD-80	0.25	0.93	0.52		1.45
Plant-4 Bed Planter	WD-80	0.50	1.91	0.80	4# Coated Seed \$9.22	11.93
Irrigate 6x (1 pre, 2 Sprinkler, 3 Furrow)		9.0	26.19	5.00	2 Ac Ft @ \$5.00/Ft for power	41.19
Thin		18.00	52.38			52.38
Fertilize, 2x					Contract @ \$3.25/Ac 180# N @ .15 per lb	33.50
Pest Control 4x					Contract @ \$3.50/Ac Materials \$40.00	54.00
Cultivate 5x	WD-80	2.0	7.40	3.80		11.20
Weed		8.0	23.20			23.20
Miscellaneous		4.0	12.43	3.50		15.93

TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS 315.91

Overhead		
Business Costs: Office and Business Expense, etc., @ 7% Cultural Costs		21.37
Taxes: Equipment, except Tractors		3.00
Repairs: Except Trucks and Tractors		9.00
Rent: \$150.00/Ac, 60% to Lettuce		90.00

TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS 123.37

TOTAL CULTURAL AND OVERHEAD COSTS 439.28

Harvest		
Harvesting - Contract @ \$1.40 per Carton (includes selling cost)		763.00

TOTAL HARVEST COSTS 763.00

TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVEST COSTS 1202.28

ANNUAL COSTS	Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest - 7%	
	Buildings	50.00	2.50	1.75	
	Irrig. System	75.00	7.50	2.73	
	Tractors	150.00	8.83	3.56	
	Equipment	100.00	4.42	2.77	
	Portable Irrig. Sys.	15.00	1.50	1.05	
		390.00	24.75	11.80	
	60 Percent (Except Tractors and Equipment) to Lettuce				29.74

TOTAL COST PER ACRE 1232.02

COST PER CARTON 2.26

COST TO PRODUCE LETTUCE AT VARYING YIELDS

CARTONS/AC	450	500	545	600	650
CULTURAL COSTS	315.91	315.91	315.91	315.91	315.91
OVERHEAD	123.37	123.37	123.37	123.37	123.37
HARVEST COSTS	630.00	700.00	763.00	840.00	910.00
ANNUAL COST	29.74	29.74	29.74	29.74	29.74
COST/CARTON	2.44	2.34	2.26	2.18	2.12