

**SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA HAY
IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY, 1987**

Description of Farm: 320 acres of alfalfa, wheel line sprinkler irrigation, well water, and a seasonal yield of 8 tons per acre.

<u>Pre-Harvest Cash Costs</u>	Sample Costs	
	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>
Irrigate 11 times: labor 8 hrs.	40.00	
Maintenance & Repairs	20.00	
Power - \$50/acre foot x 6 acre feet	300.00	
Weed Control: herbicide & application	30.00	
Insect Control	14.00	
Fertilize 100 lbs P ₂ O ₅	24.00	
Bulk spreading	4.00	
Land rent	100.00	
Interest on operating loan (12.75% x \$150)	19.13	
Office and business costs: 3% of cash costs	16.81	
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	567.94	70.99
<u>Harvest Costs: (based upon custom rates)</u>		
Swath - \$ 9.00 per ton	72.00	
Bale - 15.00 per ton	120.00	
Roadside - 4.30 per ton	34.40	
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS	226.40	28.30
TOTAL CASH COSTS	794.34	99.29

Per Acre Costs

<u>Ownership Costs</u>	<u>New Cost</u>	<u>Years Life</u>	<u>Interest (10% x 1/2 cost)</u>	<u>Depre- ciation</u>	
<u>Irrigation System:</u>					
16 wheel lines	96,000	10	15.00	30.00	
Mainline	60,000	50	9.38	3.75	
Pumps 3 150 HP	75,000	30	11.72	7.81	
Well (1000 ft)	40,000	--	6.25		
Stand - 320 x \$200/A	64,000	7	10.00	28.57	
Tractor, 80-100 HP	30,000	10	4.69	9.38	
PU Truck, 1/2-Ton	12,000	15	1.88	2.50	
Sprayer	6,000	15	.94	1.25	
<u>Buildings:</u>					
Farm Shop	20,000	35	3.13	1.79	
Storage Buildings	7,000	35	1.09	.63	
Hay Storage (700 ton)	2,000	25	3.44	2.75	
	432,000		67.52	88.43	
TOTAL OWNERSHIP COSTS				155.95	19.49
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION				950.29	118.78

Source: Steve Orloff, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension,
Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties