

**FIELD CORN  
PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS  
1987 - 1988**

**IMPERIAL COUNTY**



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

UC Cooperative Extension

## FIELD CORN PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1987-1988

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance and fringe benefits).

Field--4 tons per acre

165 days to maturity

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Stubble Disc 1x	17.75					17.75
Disc 2x	9.00					18.00
Landplane 2x	9.50					19.00
Trisplane 1x	8.50					8.50
fertilizer	6.00	300# 11-52-0	35.25			41.25
List	10.50					10.50
Irrigate 1x		3/4 ac. ft.	6.75	2	11.00	17.75
List-inject fertilizer	10.00	80# x @ .15/#	12.00			22.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>154.75</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Plant - shape beds	10.00	Seed	29.00			39.00
Herbicide	6.50	Herbicide	2.50			9.00
Cultivate 2x	9.75					19.50
Spike 2x	8.50					17.00
Lilliston 1x	9.00					9.00
Fertilize 2x	10.00	150# N	34.50			54.50
Irrigate 10x		3 ac. ft.	27.00	6	33.00	60.00
Insect control 2x	4.90	Insecticides	32.00			41.90
<b>TOTAL GROWING PERIOD COSTS</b>						<b>248.60</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>403.55</b>
Land Rent (net acres)						125.00
Cash Overhead--	12% of preharvest costs & land rent					63.43
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>591.98</b>
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>						
Harvest and haul		4 tons @ 12.00/ton				48.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>639.98</b>

## PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)

	price/cwt					Breakeven \$/cwt.	
	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.00		
Cwt	40	-416	-396	-376	-356	-336	15.40
per	60	-328	-298	-268	-238	-208	10.47
acre	80	-240	-200	-160	-120	-80	8.00
	100	-152	-102	-52	-2	48	6.52

The acreage of field corn during the past 3 years has ranged from a high of 2,000 to a low of 650 acres. The gross price per ton has ranged from \$130 to \$90 per ton.

PLANTING: Direct seeding can be done in January, February, and March. The best yields have been obtained in mid to late January plantings. Field corn can be either irrigated up and/or planted in the mulch. Thirty inch (30") rows have produced the highest yields with a plant population of 32,000 to 34,000 plants/acre. An in-row spacing of 8-10 inches has been satisfactory.

VARIETIES: Several varieties have made good yields in experimental trials and in growers fields. They are DeKalb T-1230, DeKalb XL-73, Pioneer 3183, Taylor Evans 6998, Northrup-King PX-87, Paymaster UC 5990, DeKalb XL-74B, and Wheeler Ridge TMI 1173.

SOILS: Well-drained medium heavy soils will produce the best yields. Soils on the light side (high percent sand) will also produce good yields.

IRRIGATION: Eight to 12 irrigations during the season will be necessary. Corn should not be stressed for moisture at any stage of growth.

FERTILIZER: If corn follows a vegetable crop heavily fertilized with phosphate, probably no more phosphate needs to be applied. Corn does respond to a good supply of phosphate, particularly during early plant growth when soils can be on the cool side. One hundred to 150 pounds of phosphate per acre should be adequate, applied before or at planting.

Corn also needs a good supply of nitrogen available from the seedling stage through early kernel development. Two hundred to 300 pounds of actual nitrogen will be needed, depending upon soil type and any carryover from a previous crop. Nitrogen should be applied in 3 to 4 applications.

PEST CONTROL: There are several good herbicides registered for field corn. Spider mites and the corn earworm can be particularly damaging. Consult your farm advisor for the latest pesticide recommendations.

HARVESTING: Field corn is well adapted to mechanical picking. Moisture can be a problem at harvest. Do not pick when the moisture is about 15 percent or less. More corn can be recovered in harvesting if the moisture is from 20 to 25 percent. This moisture will have to be dried down to at least 15 percent after harvest and before selling to a local feedlot. Drying methods that are economical need to be investigated at this time.

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