

# SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

From Your Farm and Home Advisors' Office

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PLACER COUNTY

## CHINCHILLA RAISING

Continued interest in chinchilla pelt production has resulted in the formation of two active groups in Placer County.

The Sierra Chinchilla Breeders organization may be contacted by writing to Route 1, Box 1540, Auburn, California 95603. Twenty member growers own approximately 600 breeder females. They meet monthly in Auburn.

The Empress Chinchilla Breeders Cooperative group meets monthly in Roseville. Thirty members own around 2000 breeder females. This organization may be contacted by writing to Route 1, Box 2476, Colfax, California.

A five month summary of management information from two ranches is interesting.

Month	Total in Herd	Breeder Females	Breeder Males	Sold	Pelted	Born	Still Born or Died	Young Lost	Adults Lost
Jan	74	40.5	14	0	0	4	0	0	0
Feb	76.5	41	14	0	0	5	2	0	0
Mar	81	41	14	0	0	12	6	0	0
Apr	86.5	42.5	15	1	3	13	9	1	1
May	89.5	40.5	16	7	0	13	5	0	0
	<u>407.5</u>	<u>205.5</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Average	<u>81.5</u>	<u>41.1</u>	<u>14.6</u>						

Month	<u>Feed Purchased</u>			<u>Supplies</u>			Mkt. Costs	Club Dues	Labor	Other time
	Hay	Pellets	Suppl.	Dust	Shav-ings	Vet. & Med.				
Jan	130	200	1	35	2	20.		5.00	68	48
Feb	107	150	2	35	1	.43			68	90
Mar	0	215	4	40	2				96	100
Apr	0	50		42	1				108	
May	200	50		43	2		3.75		100	40
	<u>437</u>	<u>665</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20.43</u>	<u>3.75</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>278</u>
Aver.	<u>87.4</u>	<u>133</u>		<u>39</u>	<u>1.6</u>	<u>4.09</u>			<u>88</u>	<u>55.6</u>

HOUSING Chinchilla housing in Placer County varies from insulated and refrigerated units to shed type buildings with evaporative cooling. Chinchillas should be housed in a separate building but may be housed in a basement, garage or spare room but this should be on a temporary basis only. The main requirements are plenty of ventilation, free from drafts, and should be kept below 80 degrees in summer and above 50 degrees at littering time.

FEED Feed consists of a good quality hay, chinchilla pellets, fresh water and a supplement for nursing mothers.

COST OF A PELT It costs from \$10 to \$15 to produce a pelt. This includes housing, feed, labor and overhead.

PELTING Animals are pelted when fur is prime, which usually occurs between seven months and a year. The pelts are then tanned and sent to New York for sale by private treaty. Good quality pelts will sell for from \$20.00 to \$60.00 each with the great majority in the \$20 to \$30 range.

WHERE TO BUY Buy from any established breeder who thinks more of his reputation than of how much he can get from you. Attend meetings to get acquainted with ranchers. Visit many ranches to compare management systems.

INVESTING IN BREEDERS Top quality breeding stock may be purchased at from \$100 to \$150.

Harry P. Bolton

Farm Advisor

Thanks to Mr. Manuel Ferreira for his assistance in preparing this Sample Cost.