

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
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BARLEY PRODUCTION IN KINGS COUNTY

by

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Kings County barley production in 1951 was 102,400 tons grown on 105,000 acres according to the Agricultural Crop Report issued by the Kings County Agricultural Commissioner. Barley is grown under irrigation with a pre-irrigation providing enough moisture to carry the crop to maturity if rainfall during the winter is normal. During dry years a fair sized portion of the county will require at least one irrigation in addition to the pre-plant. Kings county's barley acreage has fluctuated up and down during the past few years depending on the availability of water and competition from cotton. The large acreage provides more than enough for our livestock needs; therefore, this huge excess is channelled to other parts of the state and foreign countries. Kings county was once a producer of malting barley which was purchased by the English brewers, but since World War II our main production has been used as livestock feed.

Requirements: Barley produces best on well drained, fertile soils. It is more tolerant of salts than most other crops. On marginal land, barley may yield enough to make a small margin of profit where other crops would cause a loss. The low costs of seeding and maintenance makes it a much easier crop to grow than cotton or corn.

Planting Recommendations: Forty to sixty pounds per acre is recommended for seeding in Kings county. For most of the county including Tulare Lake the varieties California Mariout or Arivat are well suited. On the west side of the county the variety Rojo\* has given greatest yields in several field trials conducted over the past five years. Barley can be seeded anytime from November 1, to February 15.

\* No seed available in 1953

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW BARLEY IN KINGS COUNTY (Tulare Lake Area)  
Based on a yield of 3500 pounds per acre - Bulk handled

Man at \$.95, \$1.10 and \$1.25 per hour; Heavy tractor at \$3.25

	Sample Per Acre	Costs Per Cwt.	My Costs Per Acre	Per Cwt.
Tillage: Disk, Harrow, subsoil, plane, tractor, irrigation prep. and 1-3/4 hr. man	\$ 7.61			
Drill: Man and tractor, 1 hour	.44			
Irrigate: 1 pre and 1 crop, 1.5 hr. labor	1.43			
Combine - 24. three men and tractor .2+com- bine engine	1.60			
Hauling out grain @ \$1.75 ton contract	3.06			
Total labor cost	\$14.14	.41		
*Irrigation water 1 acre foot (ditch or river)	1.50			
Seed 60# certified and treated @5¢	3.00			
Fertilizer - Ammonia applied	10.00			
Total material cost	\$14.50	\$ .41		
General Expense - car, phone, etc. @5% of above	1.43			
County taxes	2.25			
Repairs -(other than tractor and trucks) Insurance and etc.	3.75			
Total cash overhead cost	\$ 7.43	\$ .21		
<b>TOTAL CASH COSTS</b>	<b>\$36.07</b>	<b>\$1.03</b>		
Depreciation: Irrigation facilities	1.00			
Tillage equipment, drill, and harvesting \$20 an acre 10 years	2.00			
Total depreciation	\$ 3.00	\$ .09		
Interest on investment at 5%				
Irrigation system, tillage equipment, and etc. (Av. Value \$10)	.50			
Land \$300 per acre	15.00			
Total interest on investment	\$15.50	\$ .44		
Total cost of production	\$54.57	\$1.56		
Less credit for pasture, straw and stubble	2.00	.06		
Net cost of grain produced	\$52.57	\$1.50		

The above sample costs show a reasonable net cost of production of around \$1.50 a cwt. in bulk field run at the warehouse.

The above costs should not be taken as more than an illustration. Estimate your own costs and insert them above. Such an estimate will help you decide on whether to grow barley or not.

The above costs do not reflect any losses which might occur when this land is flooded. Also they are based on large scale operations.

\* Two irrigations are included. In normal years only a pre-irrigation is necessary.