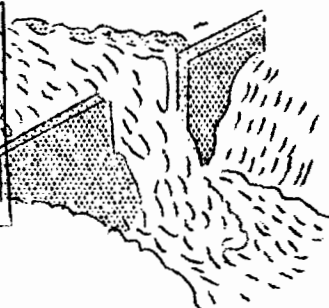
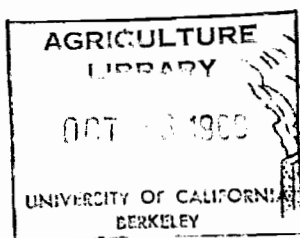


# ECONOMICS OF ALFALFA HAY PRODUCTION WITH FLOOD IRRIGATION

Modoc County - 1969



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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA HAY - MODOC COUNTY 1968  
WITH FLOOD IRRIGATION

Yield - 3.5 tons hay + 3.5 AUM

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and labor cost per acre			Total	Your cost
		Labor	Fuel and repairs	Materials		
Cultural						
Irrigate, 2X	.6	.90	.80	District tax .25	1.95	
Weevil Control (contract)				Alfatox applied 3.50	3.50	
Fertilize (contract)				400# Gypsum every other year 2.50	2.50	
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COST -</b>		<b>.90</b>	<b>.80</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>7.95</b>	
Harvest						
Swath, 2X	.5	1.00	2.13		3.13	
Bale, 2X	.8	1.60	1.24	Wire, \$1 Ton 3.50	6.34	
Haul (contract)				\$3 per Ton 10.50	10.50	
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COST -</b>		<b>2.60</b>	<b>3.37</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>19.97</b>	
Miscellaneous overhead - 5% of above				1.40		
Taxes - \$300 value x 25% at \$7 rate				5.25		
Insurance (fire) \$.80 per \$100 value				.62		
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS OVERHEAD -</b>					<b>7.27</b>	
<b>TOTAL CASH COST -</b>					<b><u>35.19</u></b>	
Management - 5% of 3.5 Tons @ \$22.00					3.85	
<b>TOTAL CASH COST -</b>					<b><u>39.04</u></b>	
<b>Investment</b>	<b>Per acre</b>			<b>Annual Cost</b>		
Land	\$300.00			<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>Interest</b>	
Stand	35.74			-	\$18.00	
Equipment	57.92			\$ 5.96	1.07	
Fences	5.00			7.81	1.75	
				.25	.15	
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT -</b>	<b>\$398.66</b>			<b>\$14.02</b>	<b>\$20.97</b>	<b>34.99</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE -</b>						<b><u>74.03</u></b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER TON -</b>						<b>21.25</b>
<b>CREDIT OF 3.5 AUM @ \$4.00 -</b>						<b>-14.00</b>
<b>NET COST PER ACRE -</b>						<b><u>\$60.03</u></b>
<b>NET COST PER TON -</b>						<b><u>\$17.15</u></b>

Labor: Skilled - \$2.00 per hour  
Irrigators - \$1.50 per hour

## Suggestions for Production of High Yielding, High Quality Alfalfa Hay.

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1. Select well drained, deep soil that is free of harmful alkali forming salts.
2. Apply at least 400 pounds of gypsum per acre every other year.
3. Plant certified, inoculated seed of recommended varieties such as Vernal alfalfa.
4. Prepare a good firm seed bed. Plant between 10-15 pounds of seed per acre at a depth of not greater than one inch for most soils.
5. Plan on spraying weeds with Butoxone ester. Spray before weeds are over 3 inches tall with 2-3 pints of material in 20 to 30 gallons of water per acre. Follow label instructions carefully!
6. Companion crops are not recommended.
7. Cut when new growth from the crown is not more than 1/4 inch in length. More total tons of hay and more pounds of protein and energy per acre will be produced if alfalfa is cut as suggested above.
8. On most soil more frequent irrigations with less water per irrigation will produce more hay and longer lived stands.