CT-SI-75

COTTON

SAMPLE COSTS

AND

PRODUCTION

Agricultural Extension
University of California
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 4

1975

COTTON--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at $3.50 per hour ($3.00 plus Social Security, unemployment, and fringe benefits).

Yield - 2.5 bales per acre. Days to harvest 170 to 200 + days.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS Type	MATERIALS Cost	HAND LABOR Hours	HAND LABOR Dollars	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	13.50					$ 13.50
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Fertilize	4.50	130# N @ .15	19.50			24.00
Float	4.00					4.00
List	5.00					5.00
Irrigate		Water .5 ac ft	1.75	1	3.50**	5.25
Cultivate	5.00					5.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						$ 65.75
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant	6.50	Seed 20# @ .36	7.20			13.70
Pre-Plant Herbicide	4.25	Herbicide Dacthal	@9.00			13.25
Cultivate 3x	5.00					15.00
Fertilize 2x	4.00	230# @ .18	34.50			42.50
Insect Control 10x	3.00	Insecticide	50.00			80.00
Layby Herbicide	4.25	Herbicide Treflan® Caparol®	12.00			16.25
Irrigate 10x		Water 5 ac ft	17.50	8	28.00**	45.50
Defoliate	4.00	10 gal def	3.40			7.40
GROWING PERIOD						$ 233.60
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS						$ 299.35
Land Rent (does not include allotment) (new lease)						125.00
Cash Overhead - 15% of preharvest cost and land rent						63.65
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						$ 488.00
HARVEST COSTS						
Machine picking 37.50 per bale ($2.50 cwt seed cotton first pick and $2.50 cwt second pick with $20/A minimum						93.75
Hauling	2.50/bale					
Ginning*	2.00/cwt of seed cotton					6.25
TOTAL ALL COSTS						$ 588.00

Cost per pound = $47.04¢

917 lb

* Ginning cost has usually been offset by seed sales.
**Also includes additional shovel, grader work and tube setting.

COTTON CULTURE

YEAR	ACRES	YIELD/ACRE in lbs	VALUE/LB
1970	35,000	789	.50
1971	33,000	665	.60
1972	30,000	1325	.48
1973	39,000	1142	.65
1974	87,000	1191	.50

LAND PREPARATION: Cotton usually is grown on raised beds 38 to 42 inches apart. The crop is generally planted in a semi-mulch and irrigated up.

Cotton can be grown on all soil types in Imperial County.

PLANTING DATES AND RATES

Cotton can be planted from March through April. Yields decrease when cotton is planted later than early April. A soil temperature of at least 60 F at a depth of 8 inches is desirable. Spacing within the row of 3 to 12 inches result in approximately the same yields.

VARIETIES

Delta Pine 16, Delta Pine 61, Delta Pine 66, and Stoneville 213 have been successfully grown.

FERTILIZATION

About 250 pounds of nitrogen per acre will produce a good crop on solid planted cotton. Higher rates of nitrogen per acre are required for skip row cotton. The applications should be made before planting, at thinning, and in June and July. Although tests have shown no yield increases due to phosphate application, it is a common practice in some areas.

IRRIGATION

Do not allow the plants to remain wilted for extended periods of time. Acala types require less frequent irrigation.

WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are now in common use both as preemergence and layby treatments. Consult Weed Control Recommendations - Imperial County.

INSECT CONTROL

The pink bollworm and the cotton leaf perforator are widespread and pose a serious threat to cotton production. The presence of these insect pests results in increased costs for pest control since multiple applications are necessary to keep them in check. The insecticide costs included in this circular could be higher depending upon the presence of these and other pests.

DISEASE CONTROL

Seedling diseases can reduce cotton stands to the point where replanting may be necessary. The seedling disease problem frequently is more severe where cotton follows sugar beets or alfalfa.

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