

SAMPLE COST OF PRODUCING BELL PEPPERS  
(Fresh Market)  
San Benito County, 1973

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75 acres of peppers on a 300 acre farm

Yield -- 650 30 lb. cartons per acre

Operation	Hrs. Per Acre	Cash and Labor Costs per Acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials	Cost	
<b>Cultural Costs</b>						
Land preparation	3.77	\$ 12.00	\$15.16			\$ 27.16
List and fertilize (contract)				400 lbs. 12-12-12	\$ 26.91	26.91
Plant	.42	1.34	1.07	4 lbs. seed @ \$12	48.00	50.41
Irrigate, sprinklers 3x	6.00	13.08		6 acre inches	4.67	17.75
Irrigate, furrows 9x	18.00	39.24		36 acre inches	18.65	57.89
Herbicide, pre-emergence (contract)				applied	10.79	10.79
Herbicide, post-emergence (contract)				applied	17.41	17.41
Fertilize, sidedress (contract), 2x					17.86	17.86
Thin and hoe, 1x	18.00	46.80				46.80
Hoe, 3x	45.00	117.00				117.00
Pest control, 2x (contract)					13.14	13.14
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COST</b>		<b>\$229.46</b>	<b>\$16.23</b>		<b>\$157.43</b>	<b>\$403.12</b>
<b>Harvest Costs</b>						
Pick, 75¢ per carton		\$487.50				\$487.50
Field to shed, 25¢/carton		97.50	\$65.00			162.50
Wash, grade, wax, pack 25¢/carton		162.50		carton @ 45¢	\$292.50	455.00
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COST</b>		<b>\$747.50</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>		<b>\$292.50</b>	<b>\$1105.00</b>
<b>Cash Overhead</b>						
Misc., office, pickup, insurance, interest on operating capital, 12% of cultural cost						\$ 48.37
Taxes on equipment						11.58
Rent, including well						115.00
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>						<b>\$174.96</b>
<b>Total Cash Cost Per Carton</b>					<b>\$ 2.59</b>	
<b>MANAGEMENT</b>						
5% of 650 cartons @ \$3.50 per carton						\$113.75
<b>Investment Costs</b>						
		<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost Per Acre</u>			
			<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>		
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT OVERHEAD</b>		<b>\$624.06</b>	<b>\$54.23</b>	<b>\$24.62</b>		<b>\$ 78.85</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>\$1875.68</b>
<b>Total Cost Per Carton</b>					<b>\$ 2.89</b>	

COST PER ACRE AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD -- 30 lb. cartons per acre	400	500	600	650	700	800
COST PER CARTON	\$3.87	\$3.27	\$3.02	\$2.89	\$2.76	\$2.60

**BELL PEPPERS**  
**San Benito County, 1973**  
**APPENDIX --- COSTS USED**

**DETAILS OF LAND PREPARATION COSTS USED**

	Size (1)	Hrs/acre	Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre			Total	Total
			Labor	Fuel, Repairs	Each Time	All Times	
Plow, 1x					5.32	5.32	
Tractor, diesel crawler	60 hp	.54	1.72	2.14			
Plow, hydraulic, 2-way	4-16	.54		1.46			
Chisel, 2x					2.75	5.50	
Tractor, diesel crawler	60 hp	.70	2.23	2.77			
Chisel	10 ft	.70		.50			
Landplane, 2-ways					2.82	5.64	
Tractor, diesel crawler	60 hp	.66	2.10	2.62			
Landplane	10' x 40'	.66		.92			
Disc, 5x					1.93	9.64	
Tractor, diesel wheel	60 hp	1.65	5.25	2.49			
Disc, hydraulic	10 ft	1.65		1.90			
Bed shape, 1x					1.05	1.05	
Tractor, gas wheel	20 hp	.22	.70	.22			
Bed shaper	3-bed	.22		.13			
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>		<b>3.77</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>15.15</b>		<b>27.15</b>	

(1) Horsepower at 75% of maximum

**INVESTMENT COSTS INCLUDED**

INVESTMENT	PER ACRE	ANNUAL COST PER ACRE		
		Depreciation	Interest	Total
Shop and equipment storage	50.00	1.25	2.00	3.25
Packing shed and equipment	20.00	1.00	.80	1.80
Trucks, two ½-ton, one 2-ton	45.00	5.10	1.80	6.90
Tractor, diesel crawler, 60 hp	120.67	8.04	4.49	12.53
Tractor, diesel wheel, 60 hp	41.00	4.10	1.64	5.74
Tractors, gas wheel, 20 hp & 40 hp	43.92	4.39	1.76	6.15
Plow, hydraulic, 2-way, 4-16	20.00	2.00	.80	2.80
Chisel, 10 ft.	5.17	.52	.21	.73
Landplane, 10 ft. x 40 ft.	19.67	1.31	.79	2.10
Disc, hydraulic, 10 ft.	10.33	1.03	.41	1.44
Lister, 3-row; bed shaper, 3-bed	5.41	.54	.21	.75
Planter, 6-row	8.00	.80	.32	1.12
Cultivating sled, 3-bed	6.67	.67	.27	.94
Harrow, 16 ft. spike; roller, 21 ft.	10.20	.51	.40	.91
Sprinklers, risers, laterals, mainline, gated pipe	31.35	3.14	1.25	4.39
Booster pumps, two 50 hp	46.67	5.83	1.87	7.70
Forklifts, two	40.00	4.00	1.60	5.60
Picking belt, trailers, bins	100.00	10.00	4.00	14.00
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT OVERHEAD</b>	<b>624.06</b>	<b>54.23</b>	<b>24.62</b>	<b>78.85</b>

**HOURLY LABOR RATES USED**

	Base Rate	Fringes Other	Total		Base Rate	Fringes Other	Total
Equipment Operators	\$2.80	\$.98	\$3.78	Irrigators	\$2.40	\$.48	\$2.88
Tractor Drivers	2.65	.53	3.18	Field Hands	2.25	.35	2.60