

Production data:
 2000 lbs. per acre

in Butte County under

Nontillage

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Labor	Fuel and repairs	Cash and labor cost per acre		Total
				Kind and Quantity	Cost	
Prune 3 @ \$2.20 and 7 @ \$1.65	10.0	\$18.15				\$18.15
File brush	3.0	4.95				4.95
Buck brush	0.3	.66	.41			1.07
Spray 3X	1.0	2.20	4.35	Misc.	\$40.00	46.55
Fertilize (contract)				3 lbs. N/tr - \$1/a.	19.25	19.25
Place and remove heaters	3.0	5.50	1.00	240 gal. oil	31.20	37.70
Lighting				5 callouts	5.66	5.66
Check thermometers	0.7	1.54	1.16			2.70
Fill heaters	1.5	3.85	3.00			6.85
Strip spray	0.3	.66	.48	1 lb. weed killer	3.00	4.14
Chop 4X	0.6	1.32	1.29			2.61
Flail 2X	0.5	1.10	.93			2.03
Drag-roll	0.1	.22	.10			.32
Walk and clean	0.2	.41	.10			.51
Irrigate (sprinklers) 3X	3.0	4.95		Power to pump - 21 ac. in.	11.25	16.20
Summer weed spray	0.3	.66	.48	Weed oil	3.00	4.14
Bees				2 hives @ \$2	4.00	4.00

TOTAL HOURS & CULTURAL COSTS 24.5 \$46.17 \$13.30 \$117.36 \$176.83

Knock	2.0	5.50	3.50			9.00
Rake	1.0	1.65				1.65
Sweep	1.0	2.20	1.50			3.70
Pick up	1.0	2.20	1.35			3.55
Haul to huller	1.0	1.65	1.50			3.15
Hull	2.0	5.50	2.00			7.50

TOTAL HOURS & HARVEST COSTS 8.0 \$18.70 \$9.85 \$28.55

Cash overhead						
Miscellaneous, office expenses, etc.						\$10.27
Taxes and insurance						26.95

TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD \$37.22

TOTAL CASH COST \$242.60

Management 5% of 2000 lbs. @ 30¢ 30.00

INVESTMENT	Per Acre	Annual Cost		
		Depreciation	Interest	
Land	\$1,000.00	—	\$60.00	
Trees	1,000.00	\$28.60	30.00	
Irrigation system	200.00	13.33	6.00	
Buildings	100.00	2.50	3.00	
Equipment (cultural)	250.00	25.00	7.50	
Harvest & hulling equip.	231.00	23.10	6.93	
Orchard heaters (20)	160.00	13.33	4.80	\$224.09
Total	\$2,941.00	\$105.86	\$118.23	

TOTAL COST PER ACRE \$496.69

Cost per pound @ 2000 lb. yield - 24.8¢

Note: The production costs in this study are based on an 80-acre operation. A yield of one ton per acre was used as a basis for figuring costs. A yield of one ton per acre is far better than the county average but is well within the range of the better orchards in the county.

Labor rates per hour as used in this study are \$1.65 for unskilled help, \$2.20 for skilled help and \$2.75 for the knocker and huller operator. These figures include not only the cash wage per hour but also all other costs for labor such as Social Security, Workmen's Compensation and other fringe costs.

Cultural Equipment for an 80-Acre
Almond Orchard under Nontillage

1 - Diesel wheel tractor, 40-45 HP	\$5,000
1 - 4 WD Jeep or equal	2,500
1 - Orchard sprayer, used	3,500
1 - Weed sprayer and boom, trailer mounted	600
2 - Heater oil service tanks	1,500
1 - 12 foot Rotary chopper	1,550
1 - 7 foot Flail mower	675
1 - Front end loader with brush rake attachment	1,500
1 - Sprinkler pipe trailer	300
1 - Chain saw and miscellaneous pruning equipment	250
1 - Heater oil storage tank and pump	1,000
1 - Fuel storage tank and pump	500
Thermometers and frost alarm	100
Soil moisture meter and blocks	150
Shop tools	800
Orchard heater lighting equipment	100
	\$20,025

Harvest and Hulling Equipment

1 - Pickup machine	\$8,500
1 - Knocker	5,000
1 - Sweeper	1,500
3 - Carts	1,200

Hulling Plant

1 - Receiving pit	1,000
1 - Pre-cleaner	1,500
1 - Stoner	1,800
1 - Huller	8,000
1 - Air separator	1,400
Miscellaneous elevators, conveyors, bins, motors	3,500
Dust collectors and blowers	650
Electric service and wiring	1,000
	\$18,450

1 - Metal building 40 x 60 x 15 side wall on 4" slab, including shop space	\$8,400 ^o
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Fred Montgomery, Harry Mead and Sam Lewis, almond growers at Durham, Butte County, Clem Meith, University of California Farm Advisors' Office, Oroville, and Phil Parsons, Extension Economist, University of California, Davis, cooperated in preparing the data presented here.