

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA  
SHASTA VALLEY, SISKIYOU COUNTY  
JANUARY 1974

Production data: Yield 5 tons

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and labor cost per acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
<u>Cultural Costs</u>						
Burn ditches	.1	.30	.40 backhoe		.10	.80
Spray weevils (contract)			Fly \$2.50 + \$1.65 Furadan		4.15	4.15
Fertilizer (contract)			Spread \$1.25 + Sulfur \$2 + Super \$9 =		12.25	12.25
Irrigate 6 times	1.20	3.60	3.00 pickup Power to pump If in Montague Irrigation District: 3 acre feet x \$2 = \$6 Reduce cost \$4		10.00	16.60
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>3.90</b>	<b>3.40</b>		<b>26.50</b>	<b>33.80</b>
<u>Harvest Costs</u>						
Swath 3 times	.75	2.25	3.11			5.36
Bale 3 times	.75	2.25	2.36	Wire \$2.60 x 5 ton=13.00		17.61
Haul (contract)				\$3.50/ton x 5	17.50	17.50
				\$1.50/ton x 5	7.50	7.50
Rake 25% of time	.1	.30	.13			.43
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>		<b>4.80</b>	<b>5.60</b>		<b>38.00</b>	<b>48.40</b>
<u>Cash Overhead</u>						
Misc., Office, etc.			x 6% of cash cost			4.93
Taxes \$400 x 25%			x \$7 rate + machinery tax 50¢			7.50
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>						<b>12.43</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>						<b>94.63</b>
Management 5% of 5 tons @ \$50						12.50
<u>Investment</u>						
		<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>			
			<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest @ 8%</u>		
Land		\$400.00	--	\$32.00		
Irrigation (Ditches 20 years)		10.00	\$ .50	.40		
Equipment		66.89	10.19	2.68		
Stand (7 years)		60.00	8.60	2.40		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$536.89</b>	<b>\$19.29</b>	<b>\$37.48</b>		<b>56.77</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>163.90</b>
Cost per ton @ 5 ton yield						32.78

## INVESTMENT FOR ALFALFA

Shasta Valley, Siskiyou County, January 1974. Based on 300 acres of alfalfa on a 700 acre farm.

Item	Cost	Annual use (acres)	Cost per acre	Life (yrs.)	Depreciation	Interest at 8%	Cash costs per hour		
							Fuel	Repairs	Total
Swather 12'	15,000	400	37.50	7	5.36	1.50	.90	3.25	4.15
Baler - 2 wire	6,000	300	20.00	5	4.00	.80	.75	1.50	2.25
Tractor - 35 hp	5,000	700	7.14	12	.60	.29	.30	.60	.90
Side rake - 8'	900	400	2.25	10	.23	.09	--	.40	.40
TOTAL	26,900		66.89		10.19	2.68			

Two representative alfalfa growers helped put this cost study together. These represent growers that have 300 acres of alfalfa.

Labor rates worked out to be \$3 per hour with fringe benefits, such as, social security and workmen's compensation.

Some operators may have a higher rate if they provide housing, etc.

Fertilizer rates were 150 pounds per acre of sulfur and 200 pounds per acre of single super sulfate.

The growers involved irrigated with wells and/or irrigation district water. If they irrigate from the district then the cultural costs per acre is reduced by \$4 per acre.

Baling wire costs used were \$42.50 per roll. Therefore, if the costs goes up further then an adjustment must be made.

The tax rate on land is agricultural preserve rate. Machinery tax is one-half per acre cost of machinery x 25% to get valuation x .06 per hundred. Stand life is considered to be 7 years.

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The University of California, Davis  
Extension Service  
without regard to race, color, or national  
origin.