

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION
Cost Analysis Work Sheet 1973

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Sample costs to produce Certified Alfalfa Seed on the West Side of Fresno County. Based on a yield of 700 pounds of cleaned seed per acre. Man labor \$2.90 per hour total and equipment operator \$3.50. Eighty horsepower-tracklayer per hour cash costs \$4.70, depreciation \$2.00, and interest \$1.54. Medium wheel tractor \$1.70, 90¢, and 50¢.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Pound	Per Acre	Per Pound
<u>Pre-harvest Cash Costs</u>				
Field clean up and straw disposal. Combine wind rows 1/8 hour per acre man and wheel tractor	\$	3.65		
Chisel 1x: 1/3 hour per acre man and tracklayer		2.73		
Irrigate: Fall and winter irrigations 1 1/4 ac. ft.		15.00		
Spring irrigation 3/4 ac. ft.		9.00		
2 summer irrigations 1 ac. ft.		12.00		
(water cost \$12.00 ac. ft.)				
labor: 11 hours total		31.90		
Disc or harrow: Fall 2x; spring 1x 1/2 hour man and tracklayer		4.10		
Furrow out and cultivate 1/2 hour man and wheel tractor		2.60		
Cultivate 2x: 1/2 hour man and wheel tractor		2.60		
Chemical weed control; custom		10.50		
Flail back: Flail chopper 1/2 hour per acre man and wheel tractor		2.60		
Miscellaneous tractor work: 1/2 hour man and tracklayer		4.10		
Insect control: Materials 5 applications at \$2.00		45.00		
Bee rental: 3 strong colonies at \$10.00		30.00		
Dessicate: contract		8.00		
Taxes: estimate		13.80		
Repairs to equipment except tractors		10.00		
Office and business expense		15.81		
Total Pre-harvest Cash Costs	\$233.39	33.34¢		
<u>Harvesting and Processing Costs</u>				
Harvest and haul: 700 lbs. clean seed at 2¢ with \$16.00 ac. minimum		16.00		
Cleaning and bagging: \$2.00 cwt. field run; 875 lbs. at \$2.00		17.50		
Re-run or "Magnetics": (ave. 40% of clean crop seed total) 280 lbs. at \$1.50 cwt.		4.20		
Bags: 65¢ cwt. clean seed		4.55		
Fees: Certification Fee and Certified Seed Council, 30¢ cwt. clean seed, Research 20¢ cwt.		3.50		
Field inspection: 25¢ per acre		.25		
Total Harvesting and Processing Costs	\$ 46.00	\$6.57		
Total Cash Costs	279.39	\$39.91		

ALPHA SEED PRODUCTION

Fixed Costs	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Pound	Per Acre	Per Pound
Depreciation				
Establish Stand				
Deep plow or chise.	\$ 4.10			
Disc 3x.	8.20			
Land plane 2x	4.10			
Float 3x	2.05			
List beds	2.60			
Cultipak	1.30			
Plant	2.70			
Seed: 3/4 lb at \$2.50	1.88			
Irrigator water	12.00			
labor	5.80			
weeding; weedicide	21.60			
Miscellaneous overhead	4.00			
Lash costs	5.10			
Total	\$89.53			

Stand Depreciation; 3 year life	2.84		
Irrigation equipment			
\$240 cost, 10 years	24.00		
Tractors: Crawler: 1 1/3 hours at \$2.00	2.66		
Wheel: 1 5/8 hours at \$1.00	1.46		
Other equipment: \$40 Cost, 10 years	4.00		
Total Depreciation	31.96	8.85c	

Interest on Investment at 8 Percent			
Irrigation system: 1/2 cost \$120	9.60		
Tractors: Crawler: 1 1/3 hours	2.05		
Wheel: 1 5/8 hours at 1.00	.81		
Other equipment: 1/2 cost at \$40	1.60		
Stand: 1/2 cost, \$44.77	3.58		
Land: \$550	44.00		

Total Interest on Investment	63.64	8.81c	
Total Cost of Production	402.99	57.57c lb.	

SAMPLE COSTS AT VARIOUS YIELDS

Yield:	Average		Exceptional						
	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1200	1400
Cash Costs									
Per Acre \$	266.64	270.89	275.14	279.39	283.64	289.89	296.14	308.64	321.14
Per Pound c	66.7	54.2	45.9	39.91	35.5	32.2	29.6	25.7	22.9
Total All Costs									
Per Acre \$	389.24	394.49	398.74	402.99	407.24	413.49	419.74	432.24	444.74
Per Pound c	97.3	78.9	66.5	57.7	50.9	45.9	42.0	36.0	31.8

Farm & Home Advisors Service
1720 S. Maple Avenue, Fresno, Calif. 93702

October 16, 1953
900 copies

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, U. S. Department of Agriculture and University of California co-operating

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