

sorghums (forage)

sample costs

and

production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 7
UC Cooperative Extension

SORGHUMS (FORAGE)--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$1.90 per hour (\$1.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fringe benefits).

Based on 45 tons per acre -- double cropped.

| OPERATION | Custom Rate | MATERIALS | | HAND LABOR | | SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------|------------|---------|-----------------------|
| | | Type | Cost | Hours | Dollars | |
| LAND PREPARATION | | | | | | |
| Disc 2x | 2.00 | | | | | 4.00 |
| Float 2x | 1.00 | | | | | 2.00 |
| Fertilize | 1.00 | 200# N (NH ₃) | 12.00 | | | 13.00 |
| List | 3.00 | | | | | 3.00 |
| TOTAL LAND PREPARATION | | | | | | 22.00 |

GROWING PERIOD

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|-----|-------|--------------|
| Plant | 3.00 | 15# seed | 3.45 | | | 6.45 |
| Weed Control | 2.00 | herbicide | 4.50 | | | 6.50 |
| Fertilize | 3.00 | 100# N (NH ₃) | 6.00 | | | 9.00 |
| Fertilize | | water run 50# N (2x) | 6.00 | | | 6.00 |
| Irrigation 15x | | water 7.5 ac. ft | | 7.8 | 15.00 | 30.00 |
| TOTAL GROWING PERIOD | | | | | | 57.95 |

HARVESTING COSTS

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|------------------|
| Chop | 1.00 ton | | | | | 45.00 |
| Haul | 1.00 ton | | | | | 45.00 |
| Pack & Seal | 17.50 | | | | | 17.50 |
| TOTAL HARVEST COST | | | | | | 107.50 |
| Land rent | | | | | | 50.00 |
| Cash overhead 15% of above | | | | | | 35.62 |
| TOTAL COSTS | | | | | | \$ 273.07 |

Cost per green ton = \$ 6.07

SUMMARY

Top quality silage depends upon the nature of the forage as well as the ensiling method. Poor quality forage results in poor quality feed. Shrinkage at times may exceed 25 percent. Greater value will result when the following practices are followed --

- ✓ plant adapted varieties
- ✓ harvest at proper time

WHEN TO HARVEST

Harvest when grain is in the soft to medium dough stage.

SOIL PREPARATION

Soils suited to good alfalfa production should produce sorghums well.

PLANTING RATES & DATES

When soil temperature reaches 65°F, plant 10 to 20 lbs. seed per acre on 30 to 36 inch beds. Irrigate up.

For double cropping, plant March 15 to April 1. For a single crop, plant March 15 to July 1.

FERTILIZATION

Only nitrogen is recommended. Phosphorus requirement is fulfilled by phosphorus fertilizers applied to previous crops. A single crop uses 150 to 200 lbs. of actual nitrogen per acre. If double cropped, at least another 100 lbs. of nitrogen should be applied after the first cutting. On sandy soils, the same amounts should be used in split applications.

IRRIGATION

Apply water often enough to prevent leaves from curling.

PEST & DISEASE CONTROL

Consult your Field Crop Pest Control Recommendations for latest recommendations.

VARIETIES

Consult Farm Advisors' Office for latest recommendation.

WEED CONTROL

Weed control chemicals are recommended for either pre-emergence or post-emergence use.

Prepared by
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