



Sample Costs
to
Produce
Almonds
in the Northern
San Joaquin Valley

1975

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALMONDS
IN THE NORTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - 1975
 Cost Analysis Work Sheet

Practices are representative of flood irrigation on the valley floor. Costs are for a mature orchard with 75 trees per acre and a yield of 2750 pounds of in-shell nuts per year. Based on labor @ \$2.80 and \$4.00 per hour; medium-wheel tractor per hour cash costs @ \$1.85; depreciation @ \$2.00 and interest @ \$1.00. Shell-out is 58%.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
Pre-Harvest Cash Costs:				
Pruning: 10 hours labor	\$ 28.00			
Brush disposal: 2 hours labor + 1 tractor hr.	9.85			
Fertilizer: materials	84.50			
Application: 2X @ \$2.00	4.00			
Spray: materials + application 3 1/2 times				
\$69.50 + \$30.60	100.00			
Ridging and knock ridges - 1 hr. per acre man + tractor	5.85			
Water: 3 1/2 acre feet @ \$4/acre foot	14.00			
Irrigation: 3 hours labor	8.40			
Weed control: mow centers spray tree rows - 1 hr. labor + tractor	5.85			
Bees: 2 hives @ \$10.00	20.00			
Disc 2X and 4X springtooth - 1 2/3 hr. man+tractor	9.77			
Taxes	75.00			
Remove and replant 2 trees per acre	20.00			
Misc. labor and materials, including 2 tractor hrs.	20.00			
Repairs, except tractor	10.00			
Frost protection - 3 man + 1 tractor hr./acre + \$45 fuel	56.45			
Harvest preparation: 1 hr. man + tractor	5.85			
chemical weed control	9.00			
Office and business costs	25.65			
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	\$ 512.27	\$18.63		
Harvest Costs:				
Knock and pole	\$ 56.25			
Rake and sweep 1 hr. labor and machine + driver	14.00			
Pick up and haul to huller: machine + driver \$30	30.00			
1 hr. tractor+operator	5.85			
Hull - 2c/lb. in-shell	55.00			
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS	\$ 161.10	\$ 5.86		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$ 673.37	\$24.49		
Depreciation:				
Irrigation system: \$175, 25 year life	\$ 7.00			
Buildings: \$75, 25 year life	3.00			
Tractor: 8 hr. @ \$2.00/hr.	16.00			
Equipment: \$300, 10 year life	30.00			
Trees: \$1900, 20 year life	95.00			
Heaters: \$56.25/acre, 10 year life	5.63			
Wind machine + tanks: \$200.00, 15 year life	13.33			
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$ 169.96	\$ 6.18		
Interest on Investment @ 8%:				
Irrigation system: 1/2 cost, \$87.50	\$ 7.00			
Buildings and equipment: 1/2 cost, \$187.50	15.00			
Tractor: 8 hrs. @ \$1.20/hr.	9.60			
Trees: 1/2 cost, \$950 X 2	76.00			
Land: \$1800	144.00			
Heaters: 1/2 cost, \$28.13	2.25			
Wind machine + tanks: 1/2 cost, \$100	8.00			
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	\$ 261.85	\$ 9.52		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$1105.18	\$40.19		
TOTAL COST OF NUT MEATS (58% shell out)				
1595 lbs. nut meats				\$69.29

SAMPLE COSTS PER POUND OF NUT MEATS AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield (pounds/acre)	1000	1125	1250	1500	1750	2000	2250	2500
Cash costs								
per Cwt.	\$ 65.29	\$58.42	\$52.92	\$44.67	\$38.78	\$34.37	\$30.93	\$28.18
Total costs								
per Cwt.	\$108.38	\$96.72	\$87.39	\$73.40	\$63.41	\$55.91	\$50.08	\$45.42

ABOUT THIS SHEET

These sample costs are based on a typical mature orchard grown in the northern San Joaquin Valley. The cost data in this sheet are used as a guide to determine costs for a specific orchard situation.

PROFIT. Some orchards will consistently produce twice as many pounds of almond meats per acre as will other orchards. Yield of almond meats per acre and price per pound are the main factors that determine profit. High producing orchards are usually located on excellent soil, are located in frost-free locations, have good varieties, and are well irrigated, fertilized and sprayed.

CROSS-POLLINATION. Most varieties are self-sterile and require cross-pollination. Two or more varieties are required. Varieties should be planted in single rows to facilitate the transfer of pollen between varieties by bees. Strong beehives are needed in the orchards during bloom.

IRRIGATION AND FERTILIZATION. Four to eight irrigations are required per season, for a total of 3 to 4 acre feet of irrigation water. Nitrogen fertilizers (150-175 pounds of actual nitrogen) are needed by most soils. Potash is needed on some soils. Zinc and boron (minor elements) are needed on many sandy soils.

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