

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA  
Merced County -- 1977

Yield 7 tons per acre with a 3-year stand life. Man labor \$3.60 per hour total and equipment operator \$4.00. 50 hp Wheel Diesel Tractor per hour cash costs \$2.60.

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
dollars						
<b>Cultural Costs</b>						
Irrigation	6.0	\$21.60	\$ 6.90	Water \$15/ac total	\$ 15.00	\$ 43.50
Fertilize				Materials & application	22.00	22.00
Weed control				Materials & application	15.00	15.00
Insect control				Materials & application	15.00	15.00
Misc. labor & materials	1.0	4.00	2.60		3.00	9.60
Interest on operating capital					5.25	5.25
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$25.60</b>	<b>\$ 9.50</b>		<b>\$ 75.25</b>	<b>\$110.35</b>
<b>Harvest Costs</b>						
Swath 6X		\$ 6.55	\$ 7.15			\$ 13.70
Combine windrow & turn 6X	.5	2.00	1.30			3.30
Bale				Contract @ \$9.00/ton	63.00	63.00
Roadside				Contract @ \$3.00/ton	21.00	21.00
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>		<b>\$ 8.55</b>	<b>\$ 8.45</b>		<b>\$ 84.00</b>	<b>\$101.00</b>
<b>Cash Overhead</b>						
Misc., office, etc.					\$ 13.72	
Repairs					18.00	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>						<b>\$ 31.72</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>		<b>\$34.15</b>	<b>\$17.95</b>		<b>\$190.97</b>	<b>\$243.07</b>
Management 5% of 7 tons @ \$67						\$ 23.45
<b>Investment</b>						
		<b>Per acre</b>		<b>Annual Cost</b>		
Land		700		<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>Interest 8%</b>	
Stand		162		\$54.00	6.48	
Equipment & irrigation system		300		15.00	12.00	
		<u>1162</u>		<u>\$69.00</u>	<u>\$ 74.48</u>	
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>\$143.48</b>
<b>Cost per ton @ 7-ton yield</b>						<b>\$410.00</b>
						<b>\$ 58.57</b>

SAMPLE COST AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield - Tons per acre	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cash Costs per Ton	\$48.61	\$40.51	\$34.72	\$30.38	\$27.01	\$24.31
Total Costs per Ton	\$82.00	\$68.33	\$58.57	\$51.25	\$45.56	\$41.00

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Cooperative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California and Merced County cooperating.

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