

IRRIGATED BARLEY IN STANISLAUS COUNTY - 1976

Based on a yield of 3000 lbs. per acre. Man labor at \$4.00 per hour total cost to grower for equipment operator (\$3.60 total cost to grower for other labor.), 80 H.P. crawler tractor per hour cash costs \$6.60, depreciation \$3.64, interest \$1.82. 60 H.P. wheel diesel tractor \$2.60, \$1.75 and \$.88.

	<u>Sample Costs</u>	
	<u>per acre</u>	<u>per cwt.</u>
<u>Preharvest Cash Costs:</u>		
Land preparation: Disc 2x, harrow, ditch & border work, etc. 1½ hrs. man and tracklayer	\$ 15.90	
Fertilize: Contract 75# N @ \$.20/lb. + spread	17.00	
Plant: 1/4 hr., 2 men and wheel tractor	2.55	
Seed: 100 lbs. @ \$.11	11.00	
Irrigate 2x: 1 ft. water @ \$.50 (\$9 - Westside) labor: 1 hour	.50 3.60	
Broadleaf weed control: \$4 custom appl. + \$2 material	6.00	
Miscellaneous including labor, ½ hr. wheel tractor	6.30	
County and district taxes: 40% of \$30	12.00	
Repairs, except tractor	2.30	
Office, car, insurance, business costs, etc.	5.48	
TOTAL PREHARVEST CASH COST	\$ 82.63	\$2.75
<u>Harvesting Costs:</u>		
Custom combine: \$8/ton	\$ 12.00	
Hauling: \$3/ton	4.50	
TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS	\$ 16.50	\$.55
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$ 99.13	\$3.30
<u>Depreciation:</u>		
Gravity irrigation system (cement pipeline and gates): \$280 cost, 25 year life	\$ 11.20	
Equipment (except tractors): \$35 cost, 10 year life, 40% of \$3.50	1.40	
80 H.P. crawler tractor: 1½ hr. @ \$3.64	5.46	
60 H.P. wheel tractor: ¾ hr. @ \$1.75	1.31	
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$ 19.37	\$.65
<u>Interest on Investment @ 8%:</u>		
Land: \$1500 - 40% of \$120	\$ 48.00	
Irrigation system: \$280 cost - 40% of \$22.40	8.96	
Equipment: (except tractors) \$35 - 40% of \$2.80	1.12	
Crawler tractor: 1½ hr. @ \$1.82	2.73	
Wheel tractor: ¾ hr. @ \$.88	.66	
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	\$ 61.47	\$2.05
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$179.98	\$6.00

SAMPLE COST PER CWT. AT VARYING YIELDS

<u>DOUBLE-CROP</u>						
Yield: pound per acre	2000	3000	4000	5000	6000	
Cash and Depreciation Costs	\$5.95	\$3.95	\$2.96	\$2.37	\$1.98	
Total Cost Per Cwt.	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$4.50	\$3.60	\$3.00	
<u>SINGLE-CROP</u>						
Cash and Depreciation Costs	\$6.83	\$4.55	\$3.41	\$2.73	\$2.28	
Total Cost Per Cwt.	\$13.27	\$8.85	\$6.64	\$5.31	\$4.42	

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Barley has been grown in the irrigated part of Stanislaus County for many years as growers found the climate and soils better adapted to barley than to wheat. The crop does well in this area, and yields of 2 to 2½ tons per acre can be obtained by better than average farmer. Yields are higher on the deeper and heavier soils.

There is a market for all of the barley we can produce, primarily in poultry and dairy feeds, but prices are not always high enough to pay the cost of production on the lighter soils. With top yields, fairly reasonable returns are possible. Barley prices are largely determined by the competitive feed grain prices of grain sorghums, corn and wheat delivered from mid-western or southwestern producing areas.

Barley is not really well adapted to double-cropping in this area so the acreage has been decreasing. On the Eastside, it matures later than oats harvested as silage or hay which makes it more difficult to double-crop. Most dairymen prefer oats which better fulfill their need for roughage and they buy their feed grains. Most "nondairymen" choose oats because they can get their summer crop planted earlier.

A few good farmers have found they can double-crop barley and corn silage or corn grain. However, this requires a very efficient operation, especially when a corn grain crop follows, to be able to get all of the operations done on time. A few growers have been able to get their barley crop harvested a week or two earlier by swathing rather than combining. Barley still remains one of the few choices an Eastside farmer has for a winter crop.

There is very little irrigated barley grown on the Westside. Competitive crops are more profitable and volunteer barley can be a troublesome weed. It seems unlikely that this picture will change.

The future acreage will probably continue to decrease slowly unless the trend toward trees, vineyards and vegetable crops changes. Since some growers are going to remain in barley production for one reason or another, we want to look at some of the management factors which will allow them to do the best job possible.

The costs listed on the other side include a charge for the owner-operator's labor, his pickup, office and telephone. Depreciation and interest charges are included on the equipment, buildings and irrigation facilities. The amount for interest on land investment and for county taxes provides a "rental allowance" of about \$60 an acre, which is 40% of the \$150 which would be charged for the entire year. This is about 50% higher than customary cash rents. (For single crop it would be \$171.60, which is not realistic.)

Unless grain prices continue to increase, along with costs, the crop will not return enough to pay for all of the costs. In order to make the crop more profitable the farmer must reduce his expenses by careful management of his farming and equipment, and he must have above average yields.

The cost data sheet on the reverse side will provide a more detailed picture of production costs. The cash costs will not differ much from grower to grower. Depreciation and interest on investment will be considered differently by various growers. For the man who owns his land, the interest on his investment and a "realistic" depreciation charge may be sufficient income. For the man who is trying to pay for a ranch and provide a living for his family, it does not appear that double-cropped barley offers much promise. As a single-crop it is practically impossible to make a profit because of the addition of \$18 in county taxes which increases the total cash costs to \$115.83, the added \$72 for interest on land and \$13.44 for interest on irrigation system increases the total charge for interest on investment to \$146.91 and the total cost of production to \$265.42. This results in a total cost per cwt of \$8.85 for a 3000-pound yield.