

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
Stanislaus County - 1976

SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS - DRY LIMA BEANS - WESTSIDE

By  
E. E. Stevenson, Farm Advisor

Analysis of Costs

These costs are based on an owner-operator management. They include a charge for his labor, his pickup and office. Where crops are grown on a cash or crop-share basis, rent should be substituted for interest on land; interest, repairs and depreciation on buildings and irrigation systems; land taxes and any other items paid for by the landowner. These items, with land figured at \$2,000 per acre, total about \$208.75.

The share rent is the usual renting arrangement for beans, with a one-third share normally going to the landlord. The total cost of production for a 2,000 lb. yield of large limas is \$26.94 for the owner-operator and \$24.77 for the renter. For a 24-sack yield of baby limas, the cost is \$20.29 for the owner-operator and \$17.39 for the renter.

The crop is raised with a minimum of labor and generally is not considered to be subject to great risks from weather. Sometimes, wind and rain have caused considerable losses to individual farmers although the "total crop" is normally not damaged too severely. Damage from insects and disease is also increasing as are pest control costs, including herbicides.

Better than average yields are needed to pay the high costs of farming Westside heavy soils. In recent years, prices have been generally good and have even paid depreciation and interest charges. When prices are lower, only good farmers on good land can produce enough to cover all costs.

Lima beans have not done well on the Eastside. However, both Sacramento Valley and Southern San Joaquin Valley growers have demonstrated that they can grow baby lima types, so it seems unlikely that prices will be high consistently. Westside black-eye costs are about the same as those of baby limas.

Baby Limas and Seed Limas

Costs are lower than for large limas. The greatest differences are in seed, pest control and elimination of hand picking. In spite of lower costs and better yields, baby limas have usually been less profitable than large limas on the better soils because of lower prices. Seed limas are normally grown on contract with the price including some warehousing charges normally paid by the grower of baby or large limas. The profit from seed limas is largely dependent on the variety and the yield.

Blackeyes

The cost of production, based on a 20-sack yield (a little better than average), amounts to about \$18.00 per cwt. Prices have not always been this high.

COST PER CWT AT VARYING YIELDS - DRY LIMA BEANS

Yield in Lbs./A	1600 lbs.	2000 lbs.	2400 lbs.	2800 lbs.	3200 lb
LARGE LIMAS Cash & Depreciation Costs	\$22.16	\$17.73	\$14.77	\$12.66	\$11.07
Owner Basis Total Cost	\$33.68	\$26.94	\$22.45	\$19.25	\$16.84
LARGE LIMAS - Renter Basis Total Cost	\$30.94	\$24.77	\$20.63	\$17.68	\$15.48
BABY LIMAS Cash & Depreciation Costs	\$18.91	\$15.13	\$12.61	\$10.81	\$ 9.46
Owner Basis Total Cost	\$30.44	\$24.35	\$20.29	\$17.39	\$15.22
BABY LIMAS - Renter Basis Total Costs	\$26.08	\$20.87	\$17.39	\$14.90	\$13.04

SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS - DRY LIMA BEANS - STANISLAUS COUNTY - 1976

Based on Average Yield of 2000 Lbs. Per Acre for Large Limas and 2500 Lbs. for Baby Limas

Man labor at \$4.00 per hour equipment operator and \$3.60 for other labor, including Social Security and Compensation Insurance; 80 HP crawler tractor (used) figured at \$6.60 cash cost per hour, \$3.64 depreciation and \$1.82 interest; 60 HP wheel diesel tractor at \$2.60 cash cost per hour, \$1.75 depreciation and \$.88 interest. (L.L. means Large Lima and B.L. means Baby Lima in the description below.)

E. E. Stevenson, Farm Advisor

Ed Yeary, Statewide Farm Advisor

	LARGE LIMA		BABY LIMA	
	Sample Costs		Sample Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cw
<b>Preharvest Cash &amp; Labor Costs:</b>				
Land prep: man & heavy tractor 3 hrs.	\$ 31.80		\$ 31.80	
*Herbicide	4.00		4.00	
Planting: 2 men & heavy tractor - 0.25 hrs.	3.65		3.65	
EDB for nematodes: 2 gals. @ \$5.80/gal.	11.60		11.60	
Treated seed: L.L. 80 lbs. @ 40¢; B.L. 60 lbs. 22¢	32.00		13.20	
Irrigate: 1 pre & 3-4 crop - 6 hrs.	21.60		18.00	
Water: irr. dist. L.L. 3 ft. @ \$9.00; B.L. 2.5 ft.	27.00		22.50	
Pest control: custom (L.L. 3-4 X, B.L. 2-3 X)	40.00		25.00	
Misc: labor, mat., ditches, borders, tractor, etc.	10.60		10.60	
County taxes:	25.00		25.00	
Office, pickup, operating capital, etc.	12.92		10.40	
Repairs: irr. system & equip. except tractor	8.00		8.00	
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST CASH &amp; LABOR COSTS</b>	<b>\$228.17</b>	<b>\$11.41</b>	<b>\$183.75</b>	<b>\$ 7.35</b>
<b>Harvesting Costs:</b>				
Cut & rake: man & heavy tractor 2/3 hr.	\$ 7.10		\$ 7.10	
**Harvest & haul: contract - L.L. \$1/cwt.; B.L. 90¢	20.00		22.50	
Clean, storage, ins., hand sorting L.L.	60.00		50.00	
<b>TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 87.10</b>	<b>\$ 4.35</b>	<b>\$ 79.60</b>	<b>\$ 3.18</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; LABOR COSTS</b>	<b>\$315.27</b>	<b>\$15.76</b>	<b>\$263.35</b>	<b>\$10.53</b>
<b>Depreciation Costs:</b>				
***Irrigation system: cost \$280, life 25 yrs.	\$ 11.20		\$ 11.20	
Buildings: cost \$15, life 20 yrs.	.75		.75	
Tractors: 4 hrs. heavy, 1 hr. wheel	16.31		16.31	
Equipment: cost \$110, life 10 yrs.	11.00		11.00	
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$ 39.26</b>	<b>\$ 1.96</b>	<b>\$ 39.26</b>	<b>\$ 1.17</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH, LABOR &amp; DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$354.53</b>	<b>\$17.72</b>	<b>\$302.61</b>	<b>\$12.10</b>
<b>Interest on Investment @ 8%:</b>				
Land @ \$2,000	\$160.00		\$160.00	
Irrigation system: on 1/2 of \$280 cost	11.20		11.20	
Buildings: 1/2 cost - \$15	.60		.60	
Tractors	8.16		8.16	
Equipment: on 1/2 cost of \$110	4.40		4.40	
<b>TOTAL INTEREST</b>	<b>\$184.36</b>	<b>\$ 9.22</b>	<b>\$184.36</b>	<b>\$ 7.37</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>\$538.89</b>	<b>\$26.94</b>	<b>\$486.97</b>	<b>\$19.47</b>

\* Where bindweed infestations are bad, weed control costs will be higher.

\*\* Harvesting costs are shown on a custom basis. Most growers own their own machines and may do the job cheaper.

\*\*\* Irrigation facilities may vary from almost nothing to over \$300/A. Irrigation costs will vary considerably, depending on the soil, facilities and source of water.