

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California and Lake County cooperating

Kelseyville, California 95451

May, 1964

WALNUT COST AVERAGES - LAKE COUNTY, 1964 - IRRIGATED

COSTS: This analysis has been prepared with the cooperation of a number of cooperating growers. The costs in this case are for irrigated orchards and are NOT intended to indicate specific costs of operating a particular orchard. These figures are intended to be averages. It should be pointed out that an individual grower would have varying costs in relation to the amount of labor that he contributes to the enterprise. Results would reflect lower cash costs where the grower, on a small acreage, would accomplish most of the necessary labor.

CULTURAL: The irrigated orchards in Lake County do not constitute a major portion of the total acreage. Irrigated hill orchards are limited in acreage. Walnut trees as a group are considered sensitive to excess boron and this factor should be considered when applying irrigation waters and particularly when drilling new wells. If your water quality is unknown, an analysis is desirable.

SPRAYING AND DUSTING for insects and disease control is carried out as needed. In most cases spraying or dusting is directed toward the control of oyster shell scale, frosted scale, aphid and mites. Rarely is a walnut orchard treated for control of blight. The control of insects is a subject of rapid change and those interested in use of a suitable material should contact the Farm and Home Advisors Office or their chemical field men.

FROST: The frost problem is a question of major concern to many valley growers and is a point on which all individuals concerned should be aware. It is the recommendation of the Farm and Home Advisors Office that operators of orchards with known cold areas make use of frost fighting equipment.

OUTLOOK: The walnut producing area within the State of California is shifting Northward due to population pressure and industrial developments. Although major removals have occurred in the Southland new plantings North of the San Luis Obispo-Kern County line are continuing to maintain an increase in production capacity in the walnut industry. Coastal areas south of San Francisco and the great central valley, with more favorable spring growing conditions, are making use of earlier blooming higher producing varieties than is possible in Lake County. New acreage developments are continuing to be made in Lake County, many of which are on hill lands, and at this time are of the less productive later blooming strains.

The producing acreage of walnuts in Lake County in 1963 as taken from the Agricultural Commissioners report is 8,213. The non-producing acreage at this time is 1,916. Black walnut acreage is 3,166 acres.

RELATIVE COSTS: Are considerably higher than the cost analysis study prepared in 1955. In 1955 per/100# cost was computed as \$17.65, against the current computation of \$27.44.

Russell H. Gripp
Farm Advisor

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE WALNUTS IN LAKE COUNTY - IRRIGATED - Russell H. Gripp & A. Doyle Reed

5/18/64

Yield - 1600 lbs. 60 A. Unit

Income 1600 lbs. @ 20¢ \$320.00

Operation	Hrs/Acre	Labor	Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre			Total
			Fuel & Repairs	Materials		
Cultural						
Pruning & Brush Disposal		\$11.50	\$1.50			\$13.00
Cultivate 5 times	2.5	4.15	3.10			7.25
Irrigate 3 times	3.0	4.95	3.00	Power for 1½'	\$12.00	19.95
Fertilize	.5	.80	.60	Nitrogen 100 lb.	15.00	16.40
Dust 2 times	.4	.65	.50	Materials	13.00	14.55
Misc.		5.00	1.25		2.00	8.25
Total Cultural		\$27.05	\$9.95		\$42.00	\$79.00
Harvest						
Shake	2.0	3.30	3.00			6.30
Pick				1600 lb.@2¢	32.00	32.00
Haul to huller	.5	1.65	.65			2.30
Hull & dehydrate				1600 lb.@\$35 -T	28.00	28.00
Haul to market				1600 lb.@ 5 -T	4.00	4.00
Supervision		10.00				10.00
Total Harvest		\$14.95	\$3.65		\$64.00	\$82.60
Total Cash & Labor Cost						\$161.60

Investment	Per Acre	Years Life	Annual Cost			Total
			Depreciation	Interest	Overhead	
Land	1000			\$ 60.00	Taxes \$35.00	
Buildings	62.50	25	\$ 2.50	1.90	Misc. 8.65	
Trees	1500	40	37.50	45.00	Mgt. 16.00	
Irrigation system	150	10	15.00	4.50	5% of gross	59.65
Equipment	395	10	39.50	11.85		
Total	3107.50		\$94.50	\$123.25		\$217.75
Total Cost per/Acre						\$439.00
Cost per 100 lbs. @ 1600# Y						27.44

Equipment for Min. Unit of 60 A.

Tractor 30 HP 2@ 3600	\$7200.00	Buildings - \$3750.00
Shaker	2200.00	
Pickup	2300.00	
Trailer 3	1200.00	
Disc.	800.00	
Fertilizer spreader	400.00	
Duster	300.00	
Misc.	1400.00	
Total	\$15800.00	(60 acres \$263.33)