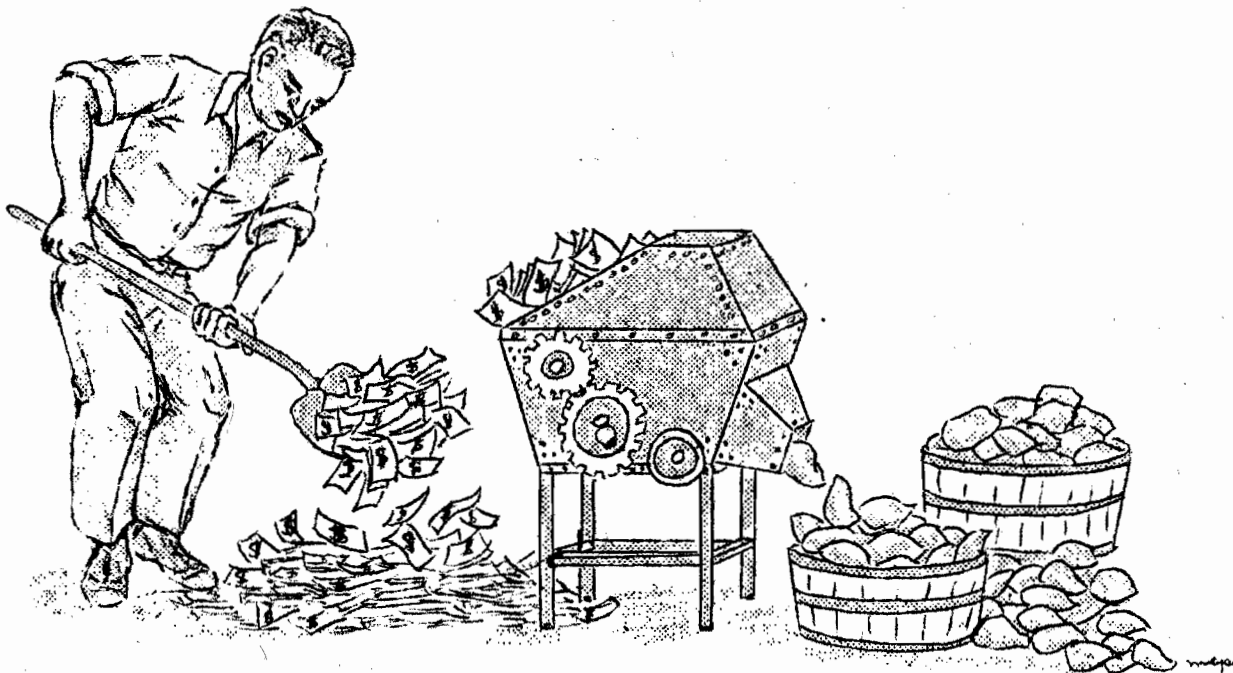

SAMPLE COSTS OF GROWING SWEET POTATOES



University of California, Agricultural Extension Service, Merced County

UC Cooperative Extension

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SAMPLE COSTS OF GROWING SWEET POTATOES IN MERCED COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

BASED ON A TOTAL YIELD OF 11,000 LBS. PER ACRE (8,000 LBS. MARKET, 3,000 LBS. SEED AND CULLS). MAN LABOR @ \$1.00, LIGHT TRACTOR @ \$1.30, TRUCK @ \$2.25.

	OWNER		RENTER	
	Sample Costs Per Acre	Per Cwt. on 8000 lbs.	Sample Costs Per Acre	Per Cwt. on 5333 Lbs.
Fertilize & cover crop: 2 man & 2 tractor hrs.....	4.60		4.60	
Hot bed work: 10 man and 1 tractor hrs.....	11.30		11.30	
Land preparation: 4 man & 4 tractor hrs.....	9.20		9.20	
Pulling & planting: 12 man, 2 tractor, 1 truck hrs..	16.85		16.85	
Crop cultivation: 4 man & 4 tractor hrs.....	9.20		9.20	
Hoeing: 10 man hrs.....	10.00		10.00	
Irrigating: Av. 8 times - 16 man hrs.....	16.00		16.00	
Cut vines: 1 man & 1 tractor hr.....	2.30		2.30	
Dig: 4 man & 4 tractor hrs.....	9.20		9.20	
Pull & stack, break, sort (contract).....	60.00		60.00	
Field pack: 16 man hrs.....	16.00		16.00	
Hauling: 5 man & 5 truck hrs.....	16.25		16.25	
Miscellaneous labor: 4 man, 1 tractor, 1 truck hrs..	7.55		7.55	
TOTAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER	188.45	2.36	188.45	3.54
Irrigation water.....	5.00		-	
Fertilizer: 800 lbs. 8-10-12 @ 75.00	30.00	2/3	20.00	
Hot bed (gin cleanings).....	5.00		5.00	
Seed: 400 pounds @ 6¢.....	24.00		24.00	
Soil treatment (\$7.00 to \$40.00).....	35.00	2/3	23.33	
Miscellaneous.....	2.00		2.00	
TOTAL MATERIAL COST	101.00	1.26	74.33	1.39
General expense: 5% of total labor & materials.....	14.47		13.15	
County taxes.....	5.07		-	
Repairs, insurance, miscellaneous cash costs.....	3.00		3.00	
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD COST	22.54	.28	16.15	.30
TOTAL CASH AND LABOR COSTS	311.99	3.90	278.93	5.23
Depreciation:				
Vine cutter - \$13.75 costs - 10 yr. life.....	1.38		1.38	
Digger - \$25.00 cost - 10 yr. life.....	2.50		2.50	
Improvements - \$20.00 cost - 20 yr. life.....	1.00			
Other equipment - \$30.00 costs - 10 yr. life.....	3.00		3.00	
TOTAL DEPRECIATION COST	7.88	.10	6.88	.13
Interest on investment at 5%:				
Improvements at 1/2 original cost.....	.50		-	
Tillage & other equip. at 1/2 original cost.....	1.72		1.72	
Land at \$400.....	20.00		-	
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	22.22	.28	1.72	.03
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	342.09	4.28	287.53	5.39
CREDIT FOR VALUE OF SEED & CULLS @ 2¢	60.00	.75	40.00	.75
NET COST OF PRODUCING 8,000 LBS. MARKETABLE	282.09	3.53		
NET COST OF PRODUCING 5,333 LBS. MARKETABLE			247.53	4.64

Above costs do not include any allowance for management, container, loading, or storage.

The inputs used in these computations are conservative estimates based upon a limited survey of growers' expectations. To find costs at present date, refigure items using current rates.

Other sweet potato publications available from this office:

"Sweet Potato Production & Handling in California",
Circular No. 431, University of California

"Diseases of Sweet Potatoes", Farmers Bulletin No. 1059,
United States Department of Agriculture

"Nematode Control for Sweet Potatoes", Merced County
Agricultural Extension Service

J. Ian Stewart, Farm Advisor
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