

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

January - 1968

Agriculture

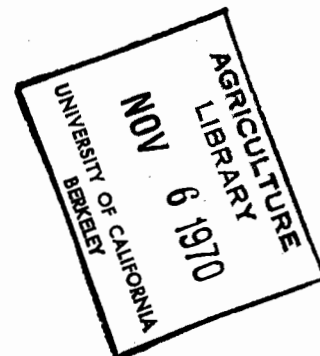
• Notes from the Sacramento County Farm Advisor •

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTIONAreas of Adaptation: Outside of cool Delta area.Soil Requirements: Deep, well-drained soil, sandy loam to clay loam.Planting Dates: October, November, February.Harvest Dates: September.Varieties: Numerous public and private varieties.Rotation: Usually three to six years alfalfa seed in rotation with annual row crops.Seeding Rates: 1½ to 2 pounds per acre in 36 to 40 inch rows.Fertilizers: 16 pounds nitrogen plus 8 pounds P (20 lbs. P₂O₅) at planting time. Most of sedimentary soils have adequate phosphorous to supply plant requirements after the stand is established. Where soils are phosphorus deficient, apply 35 pounds P (80 lbs. P₂O₅) at planting time and annually following harvest.Irrigation: Winter irrigation to fill soil profile plus one or two irrigations during growing season. On shallower soils usually no winter irrigation is required but more crop irrigations are necessary.Normal Yield: 400 pounds per acre (250 to 800 lbs.)Weed Control: Pre-plant - EPTC, IPC; post-emergence (seedling) 2,4-DB. Established - weed oil, Diuron, CIPC, cultivation.Insect Problems: Lygus, stinkbugs, spider mites, army worms, spotted alfalfa pea aphid, and chalcid fly.Pollination: Honey bees, leaf-cutting bees.Harvest: Direct combine following defoliation or combining following swathing.References: "Weed Control Recommendations", Leaflet 168 (revised annually).
"Pest and Disease Control Recommendations", (revised annually).
"Pollinating Alfalfa With Leaf-Cutting Bees", AXT-160.
"Honey Bees in Alfalfa Pollination", OSA-197.
"Quality Alfalfa From Seed to Feed", P.

Prepared by

T. S. Torngren, Sacramento County Farm Advisor
and

Thomas E. Kearney, Yolo County Farm Advisor



SAMPLE COST OF PRODUCTION

Alfalfa Seed - Mature Stand - Row Planted

Yolo County 1967, Yield - 400 lbs. (clean weight)

Skilled Labor \$1.76 including social security and workmen's compensation

Unskilled Labor \$1.40 including social security and workmen's compensation

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash & Labor Costs Per Acre			Materials	Total
		Labor	Fuel & Repairs			
			Tractor	Implt.		
<u>Growing Costs</u>						
Burn straw	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$.25	\$.25
Irrigate - fall	1.50	2.10	----	----	----	2.10
Water - 1/2 acre foot @ \$3/acre foot (pumping charge)					1.50	1.50
Cultivate 2X - fall	.50	.88	.72	.80	----	2.40
Cultivate 2X - spring	.50	.88	.72	.80	----	2.40
Furrow	.25	.44	.36	.40	----	1.20
Cut-back - chop	.60	1.05	.86	.09	----	2.00
Irrigate 2X	3.00	4.20	----	----	----	4.20
Water - 1 2/3 acre foot @ \$3/acre foot (pumping charge)					5.00	5.00
Pest control - hire ground rig 3X @ 2.00					6.00	6.00
Materials 3X					17.76	17.76
Pest control - hire airplane					1.75	1.75
Material					5.92	5.92
Hand weeding	5.00	7.00	----	----	----	7.00
Bees - 3 hives					9.00	9.00
Certification inspection					.20	.20
Move equip, set-up and service @ 10% of time	.19	.33	----	----	----	.33
TOTAL	\$11.54	\$16.88	\$2.66	\$2.09	\$47.38	\$69.01
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Compensation insurance, social security @ 12% cash wage						2.03
Phone, pickup, roadside weed control @ 11% growing costs						7.81
TOTAL						\$ 9.84
<u>Taxes - Land</u>						17.10
Total Cost Up To Harvest						\$95.95
<u>Harvesting Costs</u>						
Defoliate - hired application & material					6.00	6.00
Combine	1.00	1.96	3.40	----	----	5.36
Haul - hire					.80	.80
Cleaning, bags, tags, etc. @ \$3.15/cwt					12.60	12.60
TOTAL	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.96	\$3.40	----	\$19.40	\$ 24.76
Total Growing and Harvesting Costs						\$120.71
<u>Investment Costs</u>						
Land - \$900/acre @ 6%						54.00
Buildings @ \$15/acre						1.20
Irrigation wells and pumps						2.85
Tractors and equipment						12.22
Stand depreciation \$36 - 6 year life						6.00
TOTAL INVESTMENT COSTS						\$76.27
<u>Management - 5% of 4 cwt @ \$35/cwt</u>						7.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$203.98
COST PER 100 POUNDS						\$ 51.00