

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW IRRIGATED PASTURE IN MADERA COUNTY

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Costs of growing any crops will vary considerably on different ranches. The table below contains approximate costs of producing irrigated pasture in Madera County. These costs are not based on conditions for any one ranch. This table is designed as a guide in helping you to determine the cost of producing irrigated pasture on your ranch and in aiding you to appraise and plan your own crop program.

This cost analysis is based on irrigated pasture grown on land of somewhat lower quality than that best adapted for alfalfa and row crops. Much of this land may be sandy, contain hardpan or alkali. It is also based on a moderate sized acreage with the use of both well and ditch water.

Where conditions vary from those given, you can make adjustments accordingly in appraising your irrigated pasture. On the basis of 14 animal unit months per acre, this analysis shows a cost of \$5.06 per animal unit month. This production may be considerably higher than is usually obtained from alkali or hardpan land or from poorly managed pastures. If the production were only 8 animal unit months, the cost per animal unit month would be \$8.85. Acre costs would vary only slightly with difference in production.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per An. Unit Month (1)	Per Acre	Per An. Unit Month
LABOR COSTS: (2)				
Mow, fertilize, drag, fence work, etc.				
3 man hrs. & 2 tractor hrs. for season	\$5.40			
Irrigation labor - 10 man hours	10.00			
Total Labor and Field Power Cost	\$15.40	\$1.10		
MATERIAL COSTS:				
Irrigation water: 5 acre feet - tax & power	12.50			
Fertilizer & Misc. - annual average	7.00			
Total Material Cost	19.50	1.39		
CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:				
General expense: Office, phone, car, etc.	1.75			
County taxes	4.00			
Repairs & Miscellaneous overhead	2.00			
Total Cash Overhead Cost	7.75	.55		
TOTAL CASH, LABOR AND FIELD POWER COST	42.65	3.04		
DEPRECIATION:				
Stand: \$30 net cost - 10 yrs. life	3.00			
Irrigation facilities: \$80 cost - 20 yrs. life	4.00			
Fences: \$22.50 cost - 15 yrs. life	1.50			
Other equipment: \$11 cost - 10 yrs. life	1.10			
Total Depreciation Cost	9.60	.69		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%				
On stand, irrigation facilities, fences & other equipment at $\frac{1}{2}$ original cost \$71.75	3.59			
On land at \$300	15.00			
Total Interest On Investment	18.59	1.33		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	70.84	5.06		

(1) Based on 14 Animal Unit Months of pasturage.

(2) Man labor at \$1.00 per hour and light tractor at \$1.20 per hour.