

SG-SC-64

SAMPLE COST

TO PRODUCE SUGAR BEETS

IN ANTELOPE VALLEY

1964

By

Donald M. May
Farm Advisor

University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Los Angeles County

UC Cooperative Extension

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE SUGAR BEETS

Based on a 200-acre farm, a yield of 25 tons with 16% sugar; cash costs per hour for labor for tractor driver-\$1.50, irrigator-\$1.25, 40-HP tractor-\$1.20, and 50-HP tractor-\$1.30

	Hours Per Acre	Labor Costs \$	Equipment Costs \$	Materials		Total Costs \$	Your Costs \$
				Kind & Amount	Cost \$		
Cultural:							
Plow one time	1.25	1.88	1.62			3.50	
Disk three times	2.25	3.38	2.93			6.31	
Landplane two times (custom)			6.50			6.50	
List and inject fertilizer	.75	1.12	1.00	50 units N @ 11¢/lb.	5.50	7.62	
Plant + seed 7#/acre	.75	1.12	.90	Hybrid @ 75¢/lb.	5.25	7.27	
Roll two times	.40	.60	.48			1.08	
Cultivate 4 times and chisel	3.00	4.50	5.10			9.60	
Inject nitrogen two times	1.00	1.50	1.30	150 units N @ 11¢/lb.	16.50	19.30	
Thin one time (contract)		28.00				28.00	
Chisel one time	.50	.75	.65			1.40	
Weed two times		30.00				30.00	
Irrigate	12.80	16.00	20.00	6 acre-feet @ \$8/acre-foot	48.00	84.00	
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS						\$ 204.58	
Harvest:							
Dig (custom) \$1.25/ton			31.25				
Haul (custom) 85¢ + 3¢/mile			33.25				
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						\$ 64.50	
	<u>Investment per acre</u>	<u>Depreciation per acre</u>	<u>Interest per acre</u>				
Tractors & trucks	\$70.00	\$7.00	\$2.10	General expense		10.00	
Cultural	19.45	1.95	.58	Taxes		1.00	
TOTAL	\$89.45	\$8.95	\$2.68	Rent		40.00	
				TOTAL CASH COSTS		\$ 320.08	
				Depreciation - equipment		8.95	
				Interest on investment @ 6%		2.68	
				TOTAL NONCASH COSTS		\$ 11.63	
				TOTAL ALL COSTS		\$ 331.71	

This study was compiled in cooperation with several local sugar beet growers.

Cultural Operations

Cultural operations include land preparation, fertilization, planting, cultivation, thinning, weeding, and irrigation.

A typical operation may include disking, plowing, disking, land planting two times, disking, and then listing for planting. A prefertilization of 50 units of N per acre is applied during the listing operation. After listing, the beds are shaped and planted in the same operation. As the seedlings start to emerge, the field may be rolled with a snizzer or western roller from one to three times, depending upon the soil surface crust.

Land preparation is done from January through March. Planting is done in March and April. Cultivation and chiseling start in late April and will continue through June. Chisels are generally used with each cultivation and one late chiseling may be made following the last cultivation. Thinning starts approximately six weeks after planting and the field is weeded once in June and once in July. The second application of 60 to 75 pounds of N per acre is made shortly after thinning in May and the final application of 60 to 75 pounds of N in late June or early July. Both sprinkler and furrow irrigation are being used. One has little, if any, advantage over the other type of irrigation.

DOLLAR RETURNS PER ACRE AT 16% SUCROSE

<u>Net Selling Price</u> <u>Per CWT Sugar</u>	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.50	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.50
<u>Yield</u> <u>Tons/Acre</u>	<u>Gross Return in Dollars/Acre</u>			
15	\$202.50	\$218.25	\$230.25	\$242.25
20	270.00	291.00	307.00	323.00
25	337.50	363.75	383.75	403.75
30	405.00	436.50	460.50	484.50
35	472.50	509.25	537.25	565.25

As sucrose percent increased or decreased, the price per ton changed accordingly. Gross return includes government payment.