

RICE

COSTS

IN
COLUSA
COUNTY

Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
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UC Cooperative Extension

RICE COSTS IN COLUSA COUNTY

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This publication is primarily for the beginner or the man contemplating rice production for the first time, and is designed to give a method of figuring production costs. The costs given here are typical of Colusa County. However, as in all cost data, certain conditions must be assumed. Costs will vary when rice is grown under conditions other than those used in compiling this publication.

Size of Operation

The minimum size of operation to return a satisfactory living is about 150 acres. This will vary depending on the productive capacity of the land, the price level, and the managerial ability of the operator.

However, the amount and size of equipment which is necessary for rice production will permit one man, with a minimum of hired labor, to handle 300 acres. This same equipment will also handle up to 450 acres by using more hired labor. It is to the operator's advantage to farm as large an acreage as possible in order to reduce the overhead per acre.

Using smaller equipment or fewer machines usually does not prove successful because jobs cannot be performed when needed, with resulting lower yields.

Yields

Rice is Colusa County's major crop, being produced on about 75,000 acres of land in Colusa County. This is an increase of about 3 times over the pre-war acreage. Most of the heavy soils of the county are adapted to rice production. Alkali prohibits production in some areas, and other crops may be more profitable on the better soils.

Average yields for the county declined materially in the early 40's as less suitable land was brought into production. Yields have increased during the past few years however, due to more use of fertilizer, land leveling, and other practices. Yields for the years 1948-52 averaged 2,870 pounds per acre.

Yields of 3,500 pounds should be obtained on most of our rice land with good management.

Suggested Reading

- "Rice Production in California" - Loren Davis
California Agricultural Extension Bulletin 163-1949
- "Rice Fertilization in Colusa County" - Karl H. Ingebretsen, Agricultural Extension Service - 1953
- "The Rice Journal" - 806 Perdida St., New Orleans, La.
- "Rice Production & Marketing in the United States"
U.S.D.A. Miscellaneous Publication No. 615
- "Rice Market Review" - Federal-State
Market News Service, San Francisco
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Data on Acreage, Yield, and Price

	Colusa County			California	
	Acres	Yield	Price	Acres	Yield
1945	48,674	2,465	3.25	235,000	2,660
1946	55,000	2,545	3.81	261,000	3,030
1947	52,000	2,585	6.64	256,000	3,140
1948	49,500	2,460	4.66	256,000	2,670
1949	63,040	3,000	3.30	305,000	3,350
1950	47,693	3,100	4.45	238,000	3,480
1951	71,327	2,600	4.75	314,000	3,300
1952	73,012	3,140	6.03	330,000	3,600
1953	92,465	2,780	5.06	412,570	2,900
1954				461,500	3,100

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Source: Colusa County Agricultural Commissioner
and U.S.D.A. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

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