

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
PLACER AND NEVADA COUNTIES

SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

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OAT HAY - SUMMER FALLOW

Soils: Oat hay is grown successfully on a wide variety of soils in Placer and Nevada Counties. It is produced on the shallow hard pan soils of the Sacramento Valley and the deep soils in upper foothills.

Planting: September, October and November are the usual planting months. Some winter sowing is done during December, January and February at lower elevations. Early fall stand establishment should be made at higher elevations to prevent heaving injury caused by cold weather.

Varieties: Popular oat hay varieties include California Red, Sierra and Curt. California Red should be the variety used for plantings made in early fall.

Fertilization: 20-40 lbs. nitrogen and 20-40 lbs. P_2O_5 (9-17P) applied per acre at planting time is the usual practice.

Weed Control: Most broad leaf weeds in oats can be controlled with MCPA or 2,4-D amine. To obtain the most current chemical control recommendations, ask for "Weed Control Recommendations" published annually by the University of California and available at the Farm Advisor's Office.

Harvesting: Most oat hay in Placer-Nevada Counties is cut in late May or early June. Oat hay is most nutritious if cut when the plants have headed and some of them are shedding pollen. If cutting at flowering stage is not possible, delay until the dough stage.

Drought or excessive nitrogen fertilization may result in nitrate accumulation in immature oats. If plants grown under these conditions are cut at the flower stage the hay may be toxic to certain types of livestock. To avoid nitrate problems, wait until the late dough stage to cut oats for hay where drought or excess nitrogen conditions prevail.

The Sample Cost of Production is based on 100 acres of oat hay produced every other year with the land being fallowed in alternate years. Fallow year costs are included in this Sample Cost of Production, which is based on a 1,000 acre partially irrigated farm.

The interest and depreciation are based on \$46,200 investment for equipment, including a 55 hp track layer, plow, offset disk, two grain drills, harrow, truck and pickup, 30 hp wheel tractor, baler, swather, rake and bale loader. Labor costs include Social Security and Workman's Compensation.

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE OAT HAY

Production data: 2.5 Ton/acre \$2.25/hr. tractor driver
 1,000 acre farm \$1.85/hr. truck driver
 100 acres oat hay

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and labor cost per acre			Total
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials Kind & Quantity Cost	
Cultural costs					
Plow	\$.80	\$1.80	\$1.58		\$3.38
Disk 2X	.40	.90	1.65		2.55
Planting	.20	.45	.70		1.15
				Seed 80#/A 4.80	4.80
				25 lbs N/A 3.00	3.00
				13 lbs P/A 1.30	1.30
Harrow	.10	.23	.14		.37
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS	1.50	3.38	4.07	9.10	16.55
Harvest costs					
Swath	0.25	.56	.80		1.36
Rake	0.26	.59	.40		.99
Bale	0.57	1.28	1.18	Wire @ 0.90/T 2.25	4.71
Haul		contract @ \$3.50/T		7.88	7.88
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS	1.08	2.43	2.38	10.13	14.94
Cash overhead					
Misc., office, etc.		@ 6%			1.89
Taxes (Based on the Placer County rate under the Land Conservation Program)					2.31
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					4.20
TOTAL CASH COST					\$35.69
Management 5% of 2.5 ton @ \$30.00 per ton					3.75

INVESTMENT	Per Acre	Annual Cost	
		Depreciation	Interest 7%
Land	500.00		35.00
Buildings	8.80	0.44	0.30
Equipment	73.26	7.32	2.56
Total	582.06	7.76	37.86
			\$45.62

TOTAL COST PER ACRE			\$85.06
Cost per Ton @ 1.5 ton yield		53.21	
2.5 ton yield		34.02	
3.5 ton yield		26.33	

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