

SAMPLE COSTS OF ESTABLISHING AN ALFALFA STAND
(Sprinkler Irrigation)
San Benito County, 1973

H. Bill Collins, Farm Advisor

Philip S. Parsons, Ext. Economist

150 acres of alfalfa on a 200 acre farm

Operation	Hrs. Per Acre	Cash and Labor Costs Per Acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials What	Cost	
Cultural Costs						
Plow or chisel, 1x	.51	\$1.33	\$1.69			\$ 3.02
Disc and harrow, 4x	1.36	3.54	2.77			6.31
Springtooth & roll, 1x	.22	.57	.50			1.07
Irrigate, 1x	.80	2.08		3 acre inches	\$ 1.06	3.14
Fertilize (contract)				400 lbs. 0-21-0	22.58	22.58
Drill, roll, seed	.30	.89	.46	drill rental	2.00	3.35
				20# seed/a @ 72¢/lb.	14.40	14.40
TOTAL CULTURAL COST		\$8.41	\$5.42		\$40.04	\$53.87
Cash Overhead						
Misc., office, pickup, insurance, interest on operating capital, 12% of cultural costs						\$ 6.46
Taxes on equipment						2.15
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD						\$ 8.61
TOTAL CASH COST						\$62.48
Investment Costs						
		PER ACRE ⁽²⁾	DEPRECIATION	INTEREST		
Shop and equipment storage		5.00	.13	.20		
Tractor, diesel crawler, 40 hp ⁽¹⁾		97.00	6.47	3.88		
Tractor, diesel wheel, 40 hp ⁽¹⁾		4.40	.44	.18		
Tractor, gas wheel, 30 hp ⁽¹⁾		.96	.06	.04		
Subsoiler, 6 ft.		10.75	3.21	.43		
Plow, 2-way mold board, 4-16		15.00	1.50	.60		
Harrow, springtooth, 16 ft.		8.60	.86	.34		
Harrow, spike, 12 ft.		2.10	.11	.08		
Roller, 10 ft.		7.50	.38	.30		
Disc, tandem, 8 ft.		4.00	.40	.16		
Sprinklers, laterals, risers, mainlines		2.45	.25	.10		
Booster pump, 50 hp		3.27	.47	.13		
TOTAL INVESTMENT OVERHEAD		161.03	14.28	6.44		\$20.72
TOTAL COST OF STAND						\$83.20

(1) Horsepower at 75% of maximum

(2) In this study investment costs charged to alfalfa, of certain machinery and equipment, have been pro-rated between alfalfa stand charges and alfalfa production charges proportionate to estimated use on each.

	<u>Alfalfa Stand</u>	<u>Alfalfa Production</u>
Tractor, diesel wheel, 40 hp	10%	90%
Tractor, gas wheel, 30 hp	3%	97%
Sprinkler irrigation equipment	3%	97%
Shop and equipment storage	10%	90%

ALFALFA STAND
 (Sprinkler Irrigation)
 San Benito County, 1973
 APPENDIX --- COSTS USED

DETAILS OF FUEL & REPAIR COSTS FOR MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT

	<u>Size</u> (1)	<u>Hrs. Per</u> <u>Acre</u>	<u>Fuel, Repairs</u> <u>Per Hour</u>	<u>Cost Per</u> <u>Acre</u>
Tractor, diesel crawler	40 hp		\$2.15	
Tractor, diesel wheel	40 hp		1.34	
Tractor, gas wheel	30 hp		1.20	
Subsoiler	6 ft	.83	.95	\$.79
Plow, 2-way mold board	4-16	.51	1.35	.69
Harrow, springtooth	16 ft	.22	.75	.17
Harrow, spike	12 ft	.33	.20	.07
Roller	10 ft	.34	.18	.06
Disc, tandem	8 ft	.34	.50	.17

HOURLY LABOR RATES USED

	<u>Base</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Fringes</u> <u>& Other</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Base</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Fringes</u> <u>& Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Planting	\$2.45	\$.50	\$2.95	Irrigator	\$2.15	\$.45	\$2.60
Tractor Driver	2.15	.45	2.60				

(1) Horsepower at 75% of maximum