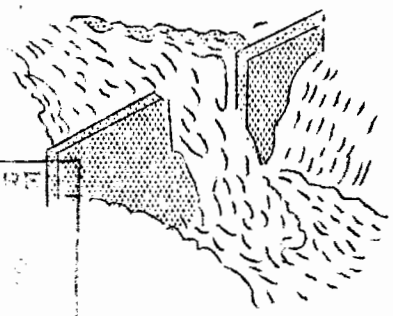
ECONOMICS OF MEADOW HAY PRODUCTION WITH FLOOD IRRIGATION

Modoc County - 1969



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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE MEADOW HAY - MODOC COUNTY 1968

Yield - 1½ tons hay and 2.5 AUM

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and labor cost per acre: Labor	Fuel and repairs	Materials		Total	Your Cost
Cultural							
Drag	.1	.20	.11			.31	
Fertilize (contract)				150 lbs Ammonium Sulfate spread	= 4.47	4.47	
Irrigate	.3	.45	.40	District Tax	= .25	1.10	
TOTAL CULTURAL COST -		.65	.51		4.72	5.88	
Harvest							
Swath	.25	.50	1.06			1.56	
Bale	.4	.80	1.04	Wire, $1/Ton	= 1.50	3.34	
Haul (contract)				$3/Ton	= 4.50	4.50	
TOTAL HARVEST COST -		1.30	2.10		6.00	9.40	
Miscellaneous Overhead - 5% of above					= .75		
Tax - $300 Value x 25% at rate of $7					= 5.25		
Crop Insurance - $.80 per $100 Value					= .22		
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS COST						6.22	
TOTAL CASH COSTS -						21.50	
Management - 5% of 1½ Tons at $18						1.35	

Investment	Per acre	Annual Cost: Depreciation	Interest		
Land	$300.00	-	$18.00		
Fences	5.00	$ .25	.15		
Equipment	57.92	7.81	1.75		
TOTAL INVEST. - $362.92		$8.06	$19.90	27.96	
TOTAL COST PER ACRE -				50.81	
TOTAL COST PER TON -				33.87	
CREDIT 2.5 AUM @ $4.00				-10.00	
NET COST PER ACRE -				$40.81	
NET COST PER TON -				$27.21	

Labor: Skilled - $2.00 per hour
Irrigators - $1.50 per hour

Suggestions for Producing Higher Yields of Better Quality Meadow Hay.

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1. Intermittent rather than continuous irrigation will discourage low producing water loving grasses and increase production with higher quality grass & clover.

2. Split application of fertilizer will greatly increase fall pasture. Apply 150-200 lbs. amonium sulfate in April. Cut meadows in mid-June. Apply 150 lbs. amonium sulfate after cutting and irrigate.

3. Cut hay by July 10 for highest quality.

4. Rotate cutting time for fields every year. This rotating allows clover to set and mature seed.

5. Fertilize tame grasses with 300-500 lbs. of amonium sulfate. Water loving grasses respond to fertilizer but to a lesser degree. Test plot results show the greatest margin between dollar spent for fertilizer and dollar returned by increased production occurs when 300-500 lbs. of amonium sulfate is applied per acre.