

SG-SV-74

**SAMPLE COSTS**

**TO PRODUCE**

**SUGAR BEETS**

**IN THE LOWER**

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY**

**1974**

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**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

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**SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE SUGAR BEETS**  
Lower Sacramento Valley - 1974

Based on 200 acres of sugar beets on a 1,000 acre ranch. Yield: 25 tons per acre, 5-17% sugar. Labor rates including fringe benefits \$3.50 and \$2.60 per hour.

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and labor cost per acre			Total
		Labor	Fuel & repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity Cost	
dollars					
<u>Cultural Costs</u>					
Disc 3X	.6	2.10	4.20		6.30
Landplane 2X	.3	1.05	2.05		3.10
Subsoil 2X	1.0	3.50	8.00		11.50
Land cultivator	.2	.90	1.65		2.55
Harrow & roll 2X	.3	1.05	1.05		2.10
List & fertilize	.2	.90	1.70	150# N @ \$.20	30.00
Plant, herbicide, fertilize	.4	1.40	2.90	Seed	6.00
				Herbicide	9.80
				4-10-10 30 gal.	23.55
Cut & fill ditches 3X	.2	.70	.70		1.40
Irrigate 9X	7.2	18.70		Water 4 ac. ft. @	
				\$2.50	10.00
Cultivate 2X	.5	1.75	2.20		3.95
Insect control 3X				Materials	17.00
				Plane	6.00
Lay by herbicide	.3	1.05	.95	Herbicide	4.00
Thin & pull weeds contract		25.00			25.00
Misc. labor	1.5	5.25	3.25		8.50
Crop loan interest					7.60
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>63.35</b>	<b>28.65</b>		<b>113.95</b>
<u>Harvest Costs</u>					
Top & dig				Contract @ \$1.55	38.75
Haul (20 mi.)				Contract @ \$1.00/ton	
				plus \$.04 mile	45.00
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>					<b>83.75</b>
<u>Cash Overhead</u>					
Misc., office, ets.					18.30
Taxes on equipment					1.55
Rent				20% of 25 tons @ \$35	175.00
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>					<b>194.85</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>		<b>63.35</b>	<b>28.65</b>		<b>392.55</b>
Management 5% of 25 tons @ \$35.00					43.75
<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>			
Equipment	\$155	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest 8%</u>		
Total		\$15.50	\$6.20		21.70
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>					<b>550.00</b>
Cost per ton @ 25 ton yield					22.00

**COST OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS**

Yield - tons	15	20	25	30	35
Production cost per ton	\$33.72	\$24.48	\$22.00	\$20.35	\$19.17

## SUGAR BEET CULTURAL BRIEFS

Soil Requirements: Good drainage and well leveled for good water distribution is more important than soil texture.

Planting Dates: February to June

Harvest Dates: Sugar beets require at least 5 months of good growing weather to produce a profitable crop. Fall harvest extends from August until stopped by wet weather which may be November or December. Spring harvest March to June.

Varieties: Arranged through your sugar processor.

Seeding Rate: 8-12 seeds per foot of row--2.0 to 5.0 pounds per acre.

Fertilizer: 0-240 pounds nitrogen. 50-100 lbs. P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> when required.

Irrigation: Never let the crop wilt or suffer from shortage of water. 3-5 acre feet required.

Rotations: Grown in rotation with a wide variety of field crops. Should have several years between beet crops.

Weed Control: Water grass and morning glory may need control measures. Herbicide used in most fields at planting or post emergence depending on date of planting. See your Farm Advisor for recommended materials and application rates.

Insect Control: Beet army worm, nematodes, aphids, and leafhoppers are major pests which may require control.

Diseases: Beet yellows, beet mosaic, root rot, powdery mildew, and leaf spot are possible diseases.

Marketing: Contracts with processors are required.

Normal Yields: 20-30 tons, sugar content 14-16%.

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