

# SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

## OAT HAY 1976

**SOILS:** Oat hay is grown successfully on a wide variety of soils in Placer and Nevada Counties. It is produced on the shallow hardpan soils of the Sacramento Valley and the deep soils in the 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 broadleaf 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.

This 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 1000 acre partially irrigated farm.

1976 - 200 copies

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE OAT HAY

Production Data: 2 tons/acre yield on 1000 acre farm, 100 acres of oat hay. Labor at \$2.85 and \$3.45 incl. fringe benefits.

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost per Acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials	Kind & Quantity Cost	
<b>CULTURAL COSTS:</b>						
Plow	.80	\$2.75	\$4.90			\$7.65
Disk 2X	.40	1.40	2.25			3.65
Planting	.20	.70	.80	Seed 80 lbs. at \$10/cwt	8.00	9.50
				25 lbs. N at 30¢	7.50	7.50
				13 lbs. P at 20¢	2.60	2.60
Harrow	.10	.35	.55			.90
Misc. labor and materials		3.00	1.00		2.00	6.00
Interest on operating capital					1.70	1.70
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$8.20</b>	<b>\$9.50</b>		<b>\$21.80</b>	<b>39.50</b>

<b>HARVEST COSTS:</b>						
Swath	.25	\$.85	\$.95			\$1.80
Rake	.26	.90	.45			1.35
Bale	.57	2.00	1.55	Wire at \$2/ton	4.00	7.55
Haul	.16	.55	.70			1.25
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>		<b>\$4.30</b>	<b>\$3.65</b>		<b>\$4.00</b>	<b>11.95</b>

<b>CASH OVERHEAD:</b>						
Misc., office, etc.					\$3.80	
Taxes					4.75	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>						<b>\$8.55</b>

<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>		<b>\$12.50</b>	<b>\$13.15</b>		<b>\$34.35</b>	<b>60.00</b>
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Management	5% of 2 tons at \$60 per ton					\$6.00
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INVESTMENT:	Per Acre	Annual Cost		
		Depreciation	Interest 8%	
Land	\$500.00	\$	\$40.00	
Buildings	20.00	1.00	.80	
Equipment	473.00	47.30	18.90	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$993.00</b>	<b>\$48.30</b>	<b>\$59.70</b>	<b>\$108.00</b>

<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>\$174.00</b>
Cost per Ton	at 1 ton yield					\$169.00
	at 2 ton yield					\$ 87.00
	at 3 ton yield					\$ 59.00

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EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT  
FOR OAT HAY PRODUCTION

Item	Cost	Operation Cost per Hour
Tractor, 55 hp crawler	\$40,000	\$4.50
Plow	3,500	1.60
Offset disk	2,400	1.10
Grain drill - 2	6,600	2.65
Harrow	1,700	.80
Truck	8,000	.13/mile
Pickup	5,000	.08/mile
Tractor, 30 hp WD	7,200	1.30
Baler, PTO - 2 wire	4,500	1.45
Swather, SP 12'	10,000	3.80
Rake	1,100	.45
Bale loader, SP	16,800	4.20
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$106,800</b>	

Per acre on 1000 acres for }  
 \$66,100 = \$66.10/acre }  
 Per acre on 100 acres for } = \$473.10  
 \$40,700 = \$407.00/acre }

Depreciation per acre                   \$ 47.31

Interest per acre                         \$ 18.92