

SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR SUGAR BEETS - ALAMEDA COUNTY - FREMONT-UNION CITY AREA

Yield: 18 tons of clean beets per acre

	Man Labor	40 H.P. Tractor	25 H.P. Tractor	Pickup & Trailer	Cost per Acre	Cost per Ton
Disk and Roll, 4 times	2.0	2.0			6.80	
Plow, 1 time	1.0	1.0			3.40	
Land Plane or Float, 1 time	0.5	0.5			1.70	
Plant	0.5	0.5			1.28	
Cultivate and Furrow, 5 times	2.5		2.5		6.38	
Thin (contract \$25.00 per acre)					25.00	
Fertilize, 1 time	1.5		1.0		3.30	
Irrigate, 3 times	7.5			1.5	11.63	
Weed	18.0				19.80	
Miscellaneous	3.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	6.78	
TOTAL CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER	36.5	4.5	4.0	2.5	86.07	4.78
TOTAL HARVEST (contract - \$2.75 per ton) (18 tons plus 1 ton dirt)					52.25	2.90
Fertilizer - 100 units N @ 15¢ per unit					15.00	
Irrigation, power to pump 18 acre-in. @ \$4.30					6.45	
ed, 5 lbs. @ 65¢					3.25	
Miscellaneous Supplies					1.00	
TOTAL MATERIALS					25.70	1.43
General Expenses (5% of all costs above)	Tenant		Owner-Operator			
	Cost/A.	Cost/Ton	Cost/A.	Cost/Ton		
County Taxes, Property + Personal Property	2.50		50.00			
Repairs other than covered by equipment rates	3.00		4.00			
Insurance, Comp., Soc. Sec., Liability, etc.	2.50		3.00			
Rent (1)	60.00		-----			
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	76.20	4.23	65.20	3.62		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	240.22	13.34	229.22	12.73		
Depreciation on Buildings & Equipment	13.68*	0.76	18.58*	1.04		
TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COSTS	253.90	14.10	247.80	13.77		
Interest on Investment (6%)	5.73*	0.32	99.25*	5.51		
TOTAL ALL COSTS, EXCEPT MANAGEMENT	259.63	14.42	347.05	19.28		

Additional information on labor, equipment, depreciation and interest on investment is given on the front of this sheet.

(1) Rents are normally based on a percentage of the gross return (20-25%)

INVESTMENT OVERHEAD - Based on 100 acres of land, 132 crop acres, 33 acres of sugar beets	Orig. Cost 100 A.	Dollars per Acre		
		Av. * Value	6% Int.	Depreciation
Land @ \$1500	\$150,000.00	1,500.00	90.00	-----
Irrigation System (perm)	9,350.00	35.42	1.93	3.48
Buildings for Personnel & Equip.	7,000.00	26.52	1.59	1.42
REAL ESTATE VALUES	166,350.00	1,561.94	93.52	4.90
Tractors, Truck, and Trailer	16,800.00	63.63	3.82	9.24
Tillage Equipment	4,950.00	21.38	1.23	2.73
Misc. Tool, Irrig. Pipe, etc.	3,000.00	11.36	.68	1.71
OPERATING EQUIPMENT VALUES	24,750.00	96.37	5.73*	13.68*
TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUES	\$191,100.00	1,658.31	99.25*	18.58*

* Average value for items that depreciate is estimated at half of the original cost, since over useful life they decline from cost to zero.

Field crops
Sugar Beets

Let's Talk About...

Sugar Beet Production

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June - 1962

THE INDUSTRY - Annually, more than 2,000 acres of sugar beets are grown in Southern Alameda County. These are located on irrigated soils in the Fremont, Union City, and Pleasanton areas. The harvested beets are processed at the Holly Sugar Corporation Mill at Alvarado.

Sugar beets are normally planted between February 1 and the last of May. Harvest begins in August and continues until late Fall. Average yields range between 17 and 23 tons per acre; the average sugar content between 14 and 15 percent.

The number of acres a farmer can plant is determined by the USDA through its local ASC office or by the sugar company through its farmer's contract. Many operators plant sugar beets as part of a regular 3-year crop rotation system. Others grow them on a cash crop basis.

TRENDS

- The total acreage of sugar beets is decreasing. Factors causing this trend are the urbanization of agricultural lands, increasing property costs, and a build-up of diseases and nematodes. Within the industry, major developments include the production of hybrid seed, the use of pelleted seed, and mechanized harvesting.

INPUTS & COSTS

- Shown on the reverse side of this sheet are sample inputs and costs. These statistics summarize the economic information developed on the production of sugar beets in the Fremont-Union City area. Enterprises represented are irrigated, 100 acre, combination row-crop operations that regularly produce yields above the county average.

The labor costs listed are calculated at the following hourly rates: tractor and truck driving, \$1.50; irrigation labor, \$1.25; other labor, \$1.10; 40 h.p. crawler tractor, \$1.90; 25 h.p. wheel tractor, \$1.05; ½ ton pickup, \$1.50. These equipment rates are for cash costs only on fuel, oil, repairs, licenses, and insurance.

Further projection of this sample input and cost information gives the following production and marketing costs for varying yields.

Cost Measurement	Unit	Yield - Tons per Acre				
		12	15	18	21	24
Cash Production & Marketing Costs	Acre	\$214.08	221.97	229.22	238.02	247.12
Cash Production & Marketing Costs	Ton	17.84	14.80	12.73	11.33	10.30
Depreciation & Interest on Investment	Ton	9.82	7.85	6.55	5.61	4.91
Total Costs except Management	Ton	27.66	22.65	19.28	16.94	15.21

FOR CHAMBERLAIN