

Let's Talk About...

Cucumber Production

Prepared by: Stanley Coates, Farm Advisor

June - 1962

THE INDUSTRY - Southern Alameda County is one of the leading cucumber producing districts in California. Annually 1,000 or more acres of pickling-type cucumbers are grown on the irrigated soils in the Fremont, Union City, and Pleasanton areas. Four major processing organizations are located in or near these production areas.

Cucumbers are planted in early May. Harvest begins about the Fourth of July and continues through August. Average yields range between 8 and 15 tons per acre.

Many vegetable growers use cucumbers as part of a double cropping system. Cucumbers fit such a program because they are a short season crop; their production does not interfere with that of cauliflower or winter vegetables; they require labor at a time when labor is available; and they furnish growers a cash return during the summer months.

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 cucumbers 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; 2 ton truck, \$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				
		9.0	10.5	12.0	13.5	15.0
Cash Production & Marketing Costs	Acre	\$472.19	521.69	571.19	620.69	670.19
Cash Production & Marketing Costs	Ton	52.46	49.68	47.60	45.98	44.68
Depreciation & Interest on Investment	Ton	8.11	6.95	6.08	5.41	4.87
Total Costs except Management	Ton	60.57	56.63	53.68	51.39	49.55

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA • AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR CUCUMBERS - ALAMEDA COUNTY - FREMONT-UNION CITY AREA
Yield: 10.5 Tons per Acre

	Man Labor	40 H.P. Tractor	25 H.P. Tractor	2 Ton Truck	Cost																																																					
					per Acre	per Ton																																																				
Disk and Roll, 4 times	2.0	2.0			6.80																																																					
Flow, 1 time	1.0	1.0			3.40																																																					
Float or Land Plane, 1 time	0.5	0.5			1.70																																																					
Harrow and Roll, 5 times	1.75	1.75			5.10																																																					
Furrow	0.33	0.33			1.13																																																					
Pre-Irrigate	2.5			0.5	4.08																																																					
Plant and Roll	0.6		0.6		1.63																																																					
Cultivate, 4 times	3.0		3.0		7.66																																																					
Thin	9.0				9.90																																																					
Furrow and Fertilize	1.0		1.0		2.55																																																					
Irrigate, 7 times	14.0			3.0	22.00																																																					
Weed	10.0				11.10																																																					
Dust (contract \$2.50 per acre)					2.50																																																					
Miscellaneous	3.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	6.78																																																					
TOTAL CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER	48.68	6.08	5.1	4.5	86.33	8.22																																																				
TOTAL HARVEST (contract - 55% of gross return @ \$60.00 per ton)					346.50	33.00																																																				
Insect Control, 1 dust - 40 lbs. sulfur @ \$4.75 cwt.					1.90																																																					
Fertilizer - 500 lbs. 16-20 + 60 lbs. N					29.00																																																					
Irrigation, power to pump 3 acre-ft. @ \$4.30					12.90																																																					
Seed, 4 lbs. @ \$1.25					5.00																																																					
Miscellaneous Supplies					1.00																																																					
TOTAL MATERIALS					49.80	4.7																																																				
					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Tenant</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Owner-Operator</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Cost/A.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Cost/Ton</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Cost/A.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Cost/Ton</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Expenses (5% of all costs but harvesting)</td> <td>6.81</td> <td></td> <td>6.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>County Taxes, Property + Personal Property</td> <td>1.25</td> <td></td> <td>25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Repairs other than covered by equipment rates</td> <td>3.00</td> <td></td> <td>4.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance, Comp., Soc. Sec., Liability, etc.</td> <td>2.75</td> <td></td> <td>3.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rent</td> <td>50.00</td> <td></td> <td>-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</td> <td>63.81</td> <td>6.08</td> <td>39.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL CASH COSTS</td> <td>546.44</td> <td>52.04</td> <td>521.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Depreciation on Buildings & Equipment</td> <td>13.80*</td> <td>1.31</td> <td>18.70*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COSTS</td> <td>560.24</td> <td>53.35</td> <td>540.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest on Investment (6%)</td> <td>5.78*</td> <td>.55</td> <td>54.30*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL ALL COSTS, EXCEPT MANAGEMENT</td> <td>566.02</td> <td>53.90</td> <td>594.69</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Tenant		Owner-Operator		Cost/A.	Cost/Ton	Cost/A.	Cost/Ton	General Expenses (5% of all costs but harvesting)	6.81		6.81	County Taxes, Property + Personal Property	1.25		25.00	Repairs other than covered by equipment rates	3.00		4.00	Insurance, Comp., Soc. Sec., Liability, etc.	2.75		3.25	Rent	50.00		-----	TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	63.81	6.08	39.06	TOTAL CASH COSTS	546.44	52.04	521.69	Depreciation on Buildings & Equipment	13.80*	1.31	18.70*	TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COSTS	560.24	53.35	540.39	Interest on Investment (6%)	5.78*	.55	54.30*	TOTAL ALL COSTS, EXCEPT MANAGEMENT	566.02	53.90	594.69
Tenant		Owner-Operator																																																								
Cost/A.	Cost/Ton	Cost/A.	Cost/Ton																																																							
General Expenses (5% of all costs but harvesting)	6.81		6.81																																																							
County Taxes, Property + Personal Property	1.25		25.00																																																							
Repairs other than covered by equipment rates	3.00		4.00																																																							
Insurance, Comp., Soc. Sec., Liability, etc.	2.75		3.25																																																							
Rent	50.00		-----																																																							
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	63.81	6.08	39.06																																																							
TOTAL CASH COSTS	546.44	52.04	521.69																																																							
Depreciation on Buildings & Equipment	13.80*	1.31	18.70*																																																							
TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COSTS	560.24	53.35	540.39																																																							
Interest on Investment (6%)	5.78*	.55	54.30*																																																							
TOTAL ALL COSTS, EXCEPT MANAGEMENT	566.02	53.90	594.69																																																							

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

INVESTMENT OVERHEAD - Based on 100 acres of land, 132 crop acres, 33 acres of cucumbers	Orig. Cost 100 A.	Dollars per Acre		
		Av.* Value	6% Int.	Depre- ciation
Land @ \$1500	\$150,000.00	750.00	45.00	-----
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	811.94	48.52	4.90
Tractors and Truck	16,800.00	63.63	3.82	9.24
Tillage Equipment	5,125.00	21.38	1.28	2.85
Misc. Tools, Irrig. Pipe, etc.	3,000.00	11.36	.68	1.71
OPERATING EQUIPMENT VALUES	24,925.00	96.37	5.78*	13.80*
TOTAL INVESTMENT VALUES	\$191,275.00	908.31	54.30*	18.70*