

BE-SC-49

INTRODUCTION

This study of the cost of producing Large Lima Beans in Ventura County in 1949 was made by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of California at the request of the County Planning Conference. Similar studies were made prior to 1940.

In this study 16 growers reported costs and management practices on 1832 acres. Six of these growers produced dry lima beans for the market. Five produced seed beans. One grower with 90 acres produced green beans for the freezer and three sold the crop as market dry beans, seed beans, and freezer beans. One grower with 50 acres grew Garbanzo beans on non-irrigated land.

In the tables each record is given a serial number and they are grouped according to the kind of market outlet, with averages for each group. In this way the grower can compare the profit possibilities of each type of production. Each cooperator in the study can compare his own cost or input with the average and with others. By this means he may determine the strong and weak points in his management practices.

This study is a little different from most enterprise studies in that the costs of land, rent; interest and depreciation are not included.

Definition of terms as used in this study are:

Total Cash Costs:-- includes all man labor, field power, all materials and cash overhead.

Man Labor:-- includes hired and operator's or owner's time charged at current wage rates.

Field Power:-- includes tractor, truck, thresher, etc., charged at contract rates or rates sufficient to cover all costs, including operating, repairs, depreciation, and interest on investment.

Materials:-- includes cost of all materials used in producing the crop, irrigation water, fertilizer, seed, sacks, pest control material, and miscellaneous.

Cash Overhead:-- includes taxes, insurance, 5 per cent interest on operating costs and other miscellaneous cash costs.

Total Income:-- includes sale or value of No. 1 beans, culls, straw, and miscellaneous.

Income above Cash Costs:-- is the difference between total income and total cash costs. This is not to be interpreted as the net profit since land and capital improvement costs have not been included. This cost would add from \$50 to \$100 per acre.

It should not be concluded from this study that the averages shown are averages for the entire industry. It can be said only that they are the averages for the acreage in the study as reported by the growers.

It is hoped that growers, by carefully studying the following tables, will be able to better analyze their own management practices and inputs of labor and material, increase their yields, and reduce costs.

Yields x price = income. Income - costs = Profits.

Copies of this report may be had by applying to the Farm Advisor's Office, 52 North California Street, Ventura.

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TABLE I - MAIN PROFIT DETERMINING FACTORS IN INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Serial Number	Total Acres	Av. Yld. per A. No. 1 Beans	Av. Income per Cwt.	Income per A.	Labor and Field Power Costs per A.				Total Cash Over-head	Total Cash Costs	Total Cash Costs per Cwt.	Income Above Cash Costs	
					Seed Bed Prep.	Cul-tural	Harvest	All Materials				per Acre	per Cwt.
DRY LIMA (Standard)													
20	33	3636	\$12.31	\$447.61	\$11.94	\$23.68	\$40.43	\$100.99	\$20.93	\$197.97	\$5.45	\$249.64	\$ 6.86
17	34	3551	8.85	314.31	18.35	23.20	48.14	56.43	18.31	164.43	4.63	149.88	4.22
10	75	2056	9.04	185.74	7.10	16.94	21.29	50.03	20.47	115.83	5.64	69.91	3.40
4	185	1940	8.85	171.70	10.65	24.30	21.96	29.28	16.77	102.96	5.31	68.74	3.54
13	795	1088	8.65	94.13	12.68	16.84	13.15	21.54	13.06	77.27	7.10	16.86	1.55
5	13	1047	9.07	95.01	14.00	47.17	16.24	36.45	12.97	126.83	12.11	-31.82	-3.04
Av. All	1135	1438	9.02	129.71	12.15	18.80	17.00	28.21	14.53	90.69	6.31	39.02	2.71
SEED BEANS - LARGE - FORDHOOK													
11	81	2865	12.21	349.71	7.36	6.18	28.94	58.14	18.18	118.80	4.15	230.91	8.06
15	40	1686	13.56	228.53	6.30	22.65	21.88	24.13	14.10	89.06	5.28	139.47	8.28
2	156	1254	15.40	185.08	2.54	15.45	28.04	34.51	14.89	95.43	7.61	97.65	7.79
7	14	1529	11.14	170.36	4.62	11.00	26.32	19.83	24.48	86.25	4.64	84.11	5.50
12	145	1954	9.78	191.04	10.75	23.87	26.40	49.47	22.96	133.45	6.83	57.59	2.95
Av. All	436	1835	12.21	224.02	6.58	17.04	27.04	42.45	18.42	111.53	6.08	112.49	6.13
GREEN BEANS FREEZER - CONCENTRATED FORDHOOK													
3	90	4300	7.67	330.00	5.08	14.36	22.23	100.16	18.20	160.03	3.72	169.97	3.95
OTHERS													
6 1/	21	2295	12.57	288.46	29.67	6.83	27.22	35.55	13.20	112.48	4.90	175.98	7.67
19 1/	40	3163	8.43	266.72	21.55	10.10	20.56	57.02	6.60	115.07	3.64	151.65	4.79
1 2/	60	1900	10.00	194.53	6.16	10.50	21.73	55.17	10.00	103.56	5.45	90.97	4.79
16 3/	50	650	10.84	70.44	7.32	5.44	8.49	6.36	8.63	36.24	5.58	34.20	5.26

1/ Freezer and Seed.      2/ Standard - Seed.      3/ Garbanzo - Non-irrigated.

In the above table, the records are grouped according to kind of market outlet and are arranged in descending order of income above cash costs per acre. They are kept in the same order in following tables. Land and capital investment costs have not been included in these calculations. In order to get total costs they should be added.

TABLE II - ANALYSIS OF CERTAIN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Serial Number	Yield per A.	Soil Type	Irrigation				Pest Control		Fertilizers			Total Cost L. & M.
			Number Applic.	Total A. in. per A.	Inches Rain	Cost Water	Cost Labor	Soil Fumig. L. & M.	Other	Kind	Amt. per A.	
DRY BEANS (Standard)												
20	3636	Y.S.L.	3	45.6	7.0	\$55.63	\$11.03	\$21.07	-	-	-	-
17	3551	-	3	18.3	7.0	4.04	3.26	21.07	\$10.03	-	-	-
10	2056	Y.F.S.L.	3	12.3	7.1	4.00	3.75	12.89	-	16-20	300 lbs.	\$12.00
4	1940	Y.F.S.L.	4	35.0	-	5.22	6.94	1.22	-	Ag. Min.	22.7 "	.95
13	1088	Various	1	12.4	7.5	3.06	5.48	-	3.20	-	-	-
5	1047	-	1	12.1	-	7.01	11.54	4.49	-	Chicken	4300 "	12.79
Av. All	1438	-	-	-	-	5.08	5.77	-	-	-	-	-
SEED BEANS												
11	2865	Y.C.L.	1	14.0	7.0	2.78	2.01	15.27	.39	16-20 Ca.C.N.	333 lbs.) 166 " (	23.56
15	1686	C. adobe	2	14.9	7.0	8.50	5.85	-	-	-	-	-
2	1254	Y.F.S.L.	2	?	-	4.13	4.73	-	2.68	Bean Straw Super Phos.	1500 " ) 450 " (	11.18
7	1529	Y.L.	2	10.5	7.0	4.87	4.00	-	-	-	-	-
12	1954	Y.S.L.	2	10.0	7.0	15.00	10.00	12.30	-	Soil Sulphur	414 "	9.50
Av. All	1835	-	-	-	-	7.92	6.06	-	-	-	-	11.36
GREEN BEANS - FREEZER												
3	4300	Y.C.L.	3	8.6	7.0	6.04	2.12	\$41.38	-	Bean Straw Ca C.N.	2500 " ) 500 " (	32.45
OTHER												
6	2295	Y.S.L.	3	42.8	7.0	6.10	1.80	-	8.34	-	-	-
19	3163	-	3	10.8	-	10.38	3.10	10.87	1.25	16-20	223	11.25
1	1900	Y.S.L.	2	19.0	7.0	2.80	4.45	20.17	.50	Am. N.	200	11.98
16	650	Clay adobe	-	-	12.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The above table shows a break-down of the wide variations, inputs, and costs for certain management practices.

TABLE III - OTHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Serial Number	Number of Operations				Cost of Hoeing per A.	Cost of Thresh. per Cwt.	Cost Clean- ing per Cwt.	Cost Rake & Windrow per A.	Variety of Beans	Pounds of Seed per A.	Cost of Seed per A.
	Seed Bed Prep.	Culti- vation	Irri- gation	Hoeing							
DRY BEANS (Standard)											
20	6	3	3	1	\$7.84	\$.53	\$.42	\$2.15	Lewis	94	\$16.91
17	11	2	3	2	15.44	.80	.42	1.18	Ventura	100	18.00
10	5	2	3	2-3	8.62	.47	.37	1.33	"	125	17.03
4	6	4	4	3	13.51	.53	.42	1.22	"	122	21.89
13	7	2	1	1	7.35	.52	.37	2.34	"	103	14.17
5	5	1	1	2-3	24.86	.64	.42	4.15	Lewis	92	15.69
Av. All	7	2 1/2	2 1/2	1-3	8.89	.54	.39	-		106	15.83
SEED BEANS											
11	7	2	1	0	-	.52	.36	1.98	Ven. Cf.	70	11.20
15	4	3	2	2	12.15	.47	.37	3.65	Xmas. (Burpee)	123	15.63
2	6	2	2	2	2.68	1.10	.78	2.08	Fordhook	87	13.08
7	4	2	2	1	4.37	1.00	.42	1.13	"	80	11.14
12	4	2	2	2	10.12	.50	.63	2.00	(Burpee Imp.) Ventura	90	11.70
Av. All	5	2	2	1-2	-	.67	.57	2.15	-	88	12.44
GREEN BEANS - FREEZER											
3	6	4	3	1	2.60	.50		.73	Conc. Frdhk.	110	21.94
OTHER											
6	6	1	3	1	1.50	.68	.28	2.19	Conc. Frdhk.	90	17.86
19	5	2	3	1	1.00	.55	.39	-	" "	122	24.50
1	6	1	2	1	2.40	.53	.44	.57	Ventura	105	18.90
16	5	0	0	1	4.03	.53	.21	1.57	Garbanzo	46	4.90

TABLE IV - GENERAL SUMMARY FIVE YEARS' RECORDS OF VENTURA COUNTY BEAN COST STUDIES

	1933*	1934	1937	1938	1949	My Record
Number of Records	9	9	12	27	16	
Total Acres Harvested	598	2517	1743	2376	1832	
Average Acreage per Farm	66.4	279.7	145.2	88.0	114.5	
Yield Grade 1 per Acre in Pounds	1210.0	1259.4	1748.9	1668.0	1438.0	
Yield Culls per Acre in Pounds	115.0	56.6	74.0	84.0	-	
Yield Straw per Acre in Tons	.8	.8	.9	.9	-	
Income per Acre Grade 1 Beans	\$ 61.70	\$ 67.31	\$ 78.96	\$ 74.81	-	
Income per Acre Culls	.48	.24	1.05	.34	-	
Income per Acre Straw	2.93	3.76	5.22	2.70	-	
<b>Total Income per Acre</b>	<b>65.11</b>	<b>71.31</b>	<b>85.23</b>	<b>77.85</b>	<b>129.71</b>	
Pre-Harvest Labor Cost per Acre	9.72	10.03	16.11	12.24	30.95	
Harvest Labor Cost per Acre	9.30	11.31	8.41	7.60	17.00	
Total Material Cost per Acre	8.14	7.51	13.66	9.61	28.21	
Total Cash Overhead Cost per Acre	9.82	15.37	9.13	8.51	14.53	
Int. & Deprec. on Imp. & Equip. per A.	6.22	6.33	2.48	1.41	-	
Interest or Rent on Land per Acre	33.23	26.82	27.49	27.86	-	
<b>Total all Costs per Acre</b>	<b>76.43</b>	<b>77.37</b>	<b>77.28</b>	<b>67.24</b>	<b>90.69</b>	
<b>Net Profit or Loss per Acre</b>	<b>-11.32</b>	<b>-6.06</b>	<b>7.95</b>	<b>10.61</b>	<b>-</b>	
Pre-Harvest Cost per Cwt.	.73	.80	.92	.73	-	
Harvest Cost per Cwt.	.70	.89	.48	.46	-	
Total Material Cost per Cwt.	.61	.60	.78	.58	-	
Total Cash Overhead Cost per Cwt.	.71	1.22	.52	.51	-	
Int. & Depr. on Imp. & Equip. per Cwt.	.47	.50	.14	.16	-	
Interest or Rent on Land per Cwt.	2.51	2.13	1.58	1.59	-	
<b>Total All Costs per Cwt.</b>	<b>5.73</b>	<b>6.14</b>	<b>4.42</b>	<b>4.03</b>	<b>6.31</b>	
<b>Total Income per Cwt.</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>5.66</b>	<b>4.87</b>	<b>4.67**</b>	<b>9.02</b>	
<b>Net Profit or Loss per Cwt.</b>	<b>-.82</b>	<b>-.48</b>	<b>.45</b>	<b>.64</b>		

\* - In 1933 the costs and returns per hundredweight were based on field-run beans.

\*\* - Income from unsold recleaned beans estimated at \$4.50 per hundredweight.