

GRAIN SORGHUM IN COLUSA COUNTY  
Sample Costs and Cultural Hints

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Basis of Cost Data:

The sample costs in this publication are given to help farmers figure the costs of grain sorghum production on their own farm. They are not intended to serve as exact production costs for any farm. Forms which you can use to figure your production costs are available at the Farm and Home Advisor's Office.

<u>Equipment Input:</u>	<u>Approximate New Cost</u>
Crawler Tractor	\$10,500
Wheel Tractor	2,700
Truck, 1½ ton	3,000
Plow	1,500
Disc	1,560
Landplane	2,200
Spiketooth harrow	400
Ring Roller	900
Harrow cart	500
Planter	900
Fertilizer attachment	175
Cultivator Tools	600
Combine	6,500
Total equipment.....	<u>\$31,435</u>

University of California  
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1955

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE GRAIN SORGHUM  
OWNER OPERATED FARM

Based on producing 250 acres  
Yield - 35 sacks

Labor @ \$1.00 - \$1.20 per hour

Operation, Crew and Equipment	Hours per Acre	Cash Cost per Acre					Total Cash Cost	Int & Deprec. on Equip.	Total Cost Per Acre
		Labor	Tractor and Equip.	Contract	Materials				
					Kind and Amount	Value			
<b>Cultural Costs:</b>									
Plow: 60 H.P. Tractor, man	.30	.40	.69				1.09	1.44	2.53
Disc: 60 H.P. Tractor, man	.20	.25	.47				.72	1.00	1.72
Landplane: 60 H.P. Tractor, man	.30	.40	.67				1.07	1.55	2.62
Disc: 2 times, 60 H.P. Tractor, man	.40	.50	.94				1.44	2.00	3.44
Harrow and Roll, 60 H.P. Tractor, man	.10	.15	.30				.45	.80	1.25
Plant: 30 H.P. Tractor, 2 men	.30	.75	.35		Seed 8#	.56	1.66	.63	2.29
Cultivate: 30 H.P. Tractor, man	.40	.50	.42				.92	.53	1.45
Fertilize: 30 H.P. Tractor, 2 men	.50	1.10	.52		Nitrogen 80#	11.20	12.82	.52	13.34
Furrow: 30 H.P. Tractor, man	.30	.40	.32				.72	.49	1.21
Irrigate: 2 times	3.	3.00			Water	3.00	6.00		6.00
<b>Total cultural cost</b>		<b>7.45</b>	<b>4.68</b>			<b>14.76</b>	<b>26.89</b>	<b>8.96</b>	<b>35.85</b>
<b>Harvest Cost:</b>									
Combine: man, 14' combine	.5	.60	2.50				3.10	3.25	6.35
Haul: 1½ ton Truck, man	.5	.60	.73				1.33	1.50	2.83
Storage @ 2.83 per ton					5.04		5.04		5.04
<b>Total harvest cost</b>		<b>1.20</b>	<b>3.23</b>		<b>5.04</b>		<b>9.47</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>14.22</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>8.65</b>	<b>7.91</b>		<b>5.04</b>		<b>14.76</b>	<b>36.36</b>	<b>50.07</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Costs:</b>									
							3.00		
							2.00		
								15.00	
							5.00	15.00	20.00
							41.36	28.71	70.07
							1.18		
									2.00

## Cultural Hints:

- Soil Preparation:** The key to successful grain sorghum is a good seed bed with moisture near the surface.
- Planting Time:** Soil temperature should be over 62 degrees F. at planting depths. April 15 to June depending upon variety.
- Planting Depth:** Should be planted one inch into moisture, but not over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches total.
- Fertilization:** 60 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen depending on the soil, crop rotation and amount of irrigation to be given.
- Weed Control:** Shallow cultivations may be needed for grass control. 2,4-D may be used for broadleaf weeds.
- Irrigation:** Grain Sorghum must have a good moisture supply throughout the growing season to produce high yields. On rice land one or two irrigations should be enough. However, the more fertilizer used, the heavier the irrigation need to produce optimum results. Furrow irrigation is preferred.
- Varieties:** Plant a variety that will fit into your growing season. Double Dwarf 38 for a long season. Ryer 14 or Norghum Sorghum for double cropping or late planting.