

Adel Reed

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW RICE IN FRESNO COUNTY

Based on a Yield of 3500 Lbs. Per Acre
Labor @ \$.90; Heavy tractor @ \$4.00 per hour

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>
	<u>Acre</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Acre</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>
<u>PRE-HARVEST LABOR & MATERIAL COSTS:</u>				
Land preparation; plow, disk, harrow, plane & border work - 2 hr. man & tractor			\$ 9.80	
Seeding; (plane, soak, haul at 1 1/2 lb.)			1.88	
Seed; 150 lbs. at 8¢			12.00	
Fertilize; (by plane at 1¢ lb.)			2.00	
Fertilizer; 40 lbs. N @ 13¢			5.20	
Irrigate; set boxes & drain; 4 man hrs.			3.60	
Water; pumped or ditch - 7 ac. ft. @ 4.50 total			31.50	
Misc. labor & material; weeds, posts, boxes, etc.			5.00	
<u>Total Pre-harvest Labor & Material Cost</u>			70.98	2.03
<u>HARVESTING COSTS:</u>				
Combine; contract @ 50¢ cwt. (wet basis)			19.00	
Bank out, haul & misc. @ 15¢ (wet basis)			5.70	
Drying; contract @ 30¢ cwt. (wet basis)			11.50	
<u>Total Harvesting Cost</u>			36.10	1.03
<u>CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:</u>				
General expense; (5% of above costs)			5.43	
County taxes			2.50	
Repairs (except tractors) ins., misc.			5.00	
<u>Total Cash Overhead Cost</u>			12.93	.37
<u>TOTAL CASH, LABOR & FIELD POWER COSTS</u>			120.01	3.43
<u>DEPRECIATION COSTS:</u>				
Irrigation facilities - (included in water cost)				
Tillage & equipment except tractors & contract work - \$15 cost			1.50	
<u>Total Depreciation Cost</u>			1.50	.04
<u>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%:</u>				
Equipment; on 1/2 original cost			.38	
Land at \$400			20.00	
<u>Total Interest on Investment</u>			20.38	.59
<u>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</u>			141.89	4.06

Above costs do not allow for any extensive pest control operations.

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RICE

Soil: Rice is adapted to heavy soils. The impervious sub-soil of clay and adobe clay are well suited to rice culture. Such soils require less water to produce a crop; and after draining in the fall they usually crust quickly at the surface to facilitate early harvesting. Relative level land is desirable so that the size of checks can be large, thereby increasing the efficiency of large equipment.

Seeding: Seeding on the water should follow immediately after flooding. The usual practice is to seed by airplane with pre-soaked seed. The seed should be soaked between 36 and 48 hours.

Rice is seeded during April and May. Common practice is to seed as soon after April 1, as weather and soil conditions permit. The usual seeding rate is 150 lbs. per acre land seeding; by airplane 135 lbs. should be ample.

Fertilization: Except in isolated areas, nitrogen is the only element that gives favorable response. Rice growing on submerged land takes nitrogen in the form of ammonia, therefore, nitrogen should be applied in the ammonia form. On the average 50 to 60 units per acre of nitrogen is all that is required. Fertilizer can be applied any time from seeding up to 65 days after seeding.

Irrigation: Ample irrigation water is essential. Four to 10 acre-feet is generally required to produce a good rice crop. Water should be held continuously at a uniform depth of 5 to 7 inches during the growing season. Draining at the proper time before harvest is very important. A good rule of thumb is that a crop of average yield will be ready for harvest 45 days after first heading. With this it is possible to estimate when to drain and have the land dry for harvesting.

Harvesting: Direct combining and artificial drying is the most common method of harvesting. Combining at the proper stage of maturity is important if rice of high milling quality is to be obtained. Moisture percentage should run between 20 and 27 percent. Rice dryers vary in size from small units for individual operators to large units for commercial drying and cooperatives. Best results are obtained by not reducing the moisture content more than 3 percent in any one drying operation. Rice should be dried to 14 percent moisture for safe bulk storage.

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