

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE WHEAT  
Lower Sacramento Valley - 1974

Based on 200 acres of wheat on a 1,000 acre ranch. Yield: 5,000 lbs. Labor rates including fringe benefits \$3.50 and \$2.60 per hour.

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and labor cost per acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & repairs	Kind and quantity	Cost	
dollars						
<b>Cultural Costs</b>						
Disc 2X	.3	1.15	2.30			3.45
Harrow	.1	.35	.55			.90
Fertilize	.2	.60	.55	100# N @ \$.25	25.00	26.15
Plant	.3	1.15	1.40	Seed 100# @ \$16.00	16.00	18.55
Herbicide				2,4-D	1.00	
				Plane	2.50	3.50
Ridge	.2	.70	.60			1.30
Ditch	.1	.35	.35			.70
Irrigate	1.0	2.60		Water 6" @ \$4 foot	2.00	4.60
Miscellaneous	.2	.70	.40		.65	1.75
Interest on crop loan					1.40	1.40
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		7.60	6.15		48.55	62.30
<b>Harvest Costs</b>						
Combine				2.5 ton @ \$5.00	12.50	
Haul				2.5 ton @ \$2.50	6.25	
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>						18.75
<b>Cash Overhead</b>						
Misc., office, etc.					5.45	
Taxes					.75	
Rent				33% of 50 cwt. @ \$6.90	114.00	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>						120.20
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>					184.50	201.25
Management 5% of 50 cwt. @ \$6.90 cwt.						17.25
<b>Annual Cost</b>						
<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>		<u>Interest 8%</u>		
Equipment	\$75.00	\$7.50		\$3.00		
Total						10.50
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						229.00
Cost per cwt. @ 50 cwt. yield						4.58

COST OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield per acre-pounds	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000
Cost of production per cwt.	7.38	5.63	4.58	3.89	3.38

## WHEAT CULTURAL BRIEFS

Soil Requirements: Wheat is widely grown under a variety of soil conditions. The more desirable soils are fertile silt loams, 2 or more feet in depth, not subject to standing water during the rainy season, well supplied with organic matter, and free from injurious salts.

Planting Dates: October-December are the usual planting months. Plantings may be made as late as February but the yield is usually reduced in the later plantings.

Harvest Dates: June. Combine when below 15% moisture.

Varieties: The variety will depend on the use to be made of the grain. Anza has become popular during the last two years. Check with your Farm Advisor for varieties to fit your needs. Most Sacramento Valley wheat is feed type rather than milling.

Seeding Rates: Non-irrigated 80-100 lbs., irrigated 80-120 lbs.

Fertilizer: Non-irrigated 20-50 lbs. nitrogen, irrigated 80-120 lbs. nitrogen. Phosphorus may be required on older soils that have been farmed for a long period.

Irrigation: One or two irrigations usually profitable, even in wet years, except in deep soils with high moisture holding capacity.

Weed Control: Control broadleaf weeds with 2,4-D as recommended. Grassy weeds controlled by proper cultural practices and herbicides. Consult the Weed Control Recommendations.

Insect Control: Usually not a problem. Aphids may need control in some years. Treat the seed before planting to control wireworms.

Diseases: Treat seed with a fungicide to control Bunt and stem rust. Use good cultural practices and disease free seed.