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SAMPLE COST ANALYSIS OF PRODUCING APRICOTS IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

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Apricots in Alameda County

Apricots are the leading fruit crop in this county in value of product and in acreage. The most popular variety, Blenheim, is well adapted to the deep, friable, alluvial soils along the east side of San Francisco Bay. The climate favors the production of high-quality canning and drying fruit. Spring frost damage is rare. The humid spring atmosphere with spring rains sometimes cause Brown Rot infections frequent enough to necessitate fungicidal control.

The narrow strip of land close to the hills is without irrigation; therefore, yields seldom average more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ green tons per acre. Under irrigation the mature apricot orchard yields 6 to 10 tons of ripe fruit annually. Bearing acreage in the county has dropped from 4,800 acres in 1938 to 2,972 acres in 1950.

Outlook

In 1949 in California the apricots produced were only 165,000 tons or 25% less than the moderate 1948 crop. Utilization was about average having 48% dried, 36% canned, used fresh 13%, and 3% waste.

Any decline in consumer purchasing power will result in a greater decline in grower prices and profits, with continuing high costs of transportation, processing, and marketing. High production per acre at low costs and financial reserves are essential to security.

Costs

This analysis on the reverse side has been prepared from a recent survey of representative apricot growers. The cost figures are typical of well-managed, local orchards under the present conditions rather than average or actual. Its purpose is to aid producers in studying their own operations and management practices.

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SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR APRICOTS IN ALAMEDA COUNTY
with a Yield of 8 tons per Acre

Operation or Item	Man labor Tractor Truck			Total cost Per A.	Cost per ton	Your cost per A.	Your cost per ton
	Hours per acre						
Pruning 75 trees at 90¢	75			\$ 67.50			
Brush disposal	3	1	(or 1)	4.70			
Spraying 1 1/2 times	6	2	(2 rig)	10.00			
Cultivate and check or furrow	8	8		23.20			
Irrigate 2 times	12			10.80			
Misc.—borer control, plant cover crop, fertilize, dust, etc., as needed	6	1	1	9.40			
Total cultural labor	110	12	1	125.60	\$15.70		
Thinning	60			54.00	6.75		
Propping and removing props	3		1	4.70	.59		
Picking, including supervision at \$17 a ton	120			136.00	17.00		
Hauling boxes and fruit	7		5	16.30	2.04		
Total labor cost	300	12	7	336.60	42.08		
Irrigation water—power for pumping 12 acre inches per A.				7.50			
Cover crop, various kinds				4.00			
Fertilizer, com'l or manure				7.00			
Spray material				20.00			
Miscellaneous other materials				3.00			
Total material cost				41.50	5.19		
General expense, telephone, car, office expense				18.90			
County taxes, land, trees, and equipment				20.00			
Repairs to equipment, etc.				3.00			
Insurance—compensation \$4.00, fire on eqt. \$.75				4.75			
Total cash overhead				46.65	5.82		
Total cash costs				424.75	53.09		
Investment overhead based on a 25-acre farm		Orig. cost	Average value	5% int.	Depreciation		
		Dollars per acre					
Trees, bearing life 50 years	600	300	15.00	12.50			
Bldg. for equipment	20	10	.50	.75			
Irrig. well, pump, pipe line	200	100	5.00	10.00			
Spraying equipment, 1/2 interest	50	25	1.25	3.00			
Harvesting eqt. ladders, etc.	30	15	.75	4.00			
Land	800	800	40.00	-			
Total investment	1700	1250					
Total depreciation				30.25	30.25	3.78	
Total interest on investment			62.50		62.50	7.81	
Total all costs					517.50	64.68	

The above sample costs are not represented as average for the county but illustrate current costs in typical good commercial orchards obtaining an average annual yield of 8 tons of fresh fruit per acre. No drying costs or overhead on drying equipment are included. Labor costs above are figured at the following hourly rates: man labor \$0.90, tractor \$2.00, truck \$2.00, and spray rig \$0.40. Hourly rates for tractor and truck are assumed to cover total costs, including depreciation, insurance and other overhead, as well as repairs and fuel.

Use the above schedule as a guide for estimating or computing costs in a particular orchard with the yield, inputs, wage rates and prices applicable to that orchard at that time. Yields vary considerably and greatly affect the cost per ton. With above per acre costs a 4-ton yield would result in a cost per ton of \$110 but a 10-ton yield would result in a cost of \$56 a ton.