

Alameda
1967

CUCUMBERS

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE
PICKLING CUCUMBERS--ALAMEDA AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES
12 Ton Per Acre Yield--Hand Harvest

Operation	Hours per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost per Acre				Cost per Ton
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity Cost	Total	
Cultural Costs						
Land Preparation	4.0	\$ 8.00	\$11.35		\$ 19.35	
List	0.3	.60	.45		1.05	
Pre-irrigate	2.5	4.10	1.00	Power-1/3 Ac.Ft.@ \$6 = \$2.00	7.10	
Plant & Roll	0.3	.60	.65	Seed-4 lb.@ 1.35 = 5.40	6.65	
Cultivate 4X	2.0	4.00	3.60		7.60	
Thin & Weed	14.0	23.10			23.10	
List & Fertilize (contract)				Fertilizer-600# @ \$4= 24.00	24.00	
Irrigate 10X	20.0	33.00		Power-2 1/2 Ac.Ft.@ \$6 = 15.00	48.00	
Dust 3X (contract)				Dust-120# @ .05 + applic. \$7.50 = 13.50	13.50	
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		73.40	17.05	59.90	150.35	12.53
Harvest Costs						
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS				55% of gross return @ \$65/Ton	429.00	35.75
Cash Overhead						
Misc., Office, etc.				5% of above costs	28.97	
Taxes-equipment					2.00	
Rent					90.00	
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					120.97	10.08
TOTAL CASH COSTS					700.32	58.36
Management-5% of 12 Ton @ \$65					39.00	
INVESTMENT COSTS						
200 Acres- Row Crops		<u>Per Acre</u>		<u>ANNUAL COST</u>		
				<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
Irrigation System	66.50			6.65	2.00	
Buildings	10.00			.33	.30	
Equipment	399.50			32.80	12.02	
TOTAL	476.00			39.78	14.32	54.10
TOTAL COSTS PER ACRE & PER TON					\$793.42	\$66.12

Labor*	<u>Per Hour Rates</u>	<u>Tractor-Cash Costs</u>
Skilled Labor - 2.00		C.D. 60 - \$2.00
Regular Labor - 1.65		C.D. 40 - \$1.25
*Including Fringe Costs		W.D. 50 - \$1.25
		W.D. 40 - \$1.00

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SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR PICKLING CUCUMBERS

General Comments

The cost figures in this study are based on approximate price and wage rates as of 1967. Local variations in cultural practices, water costs, land rent and cropping intensity, which can affect the total cost, do exist. The study does not attempt to, necessarily, represent a true average of these variables.

For the sake of simplicity, the study is based on a "land rental" basis. Taxes on land and interest and depreciation costs on permanent installations (well (s), etc.) are assumed to be an integral part of the land "rent" cost.

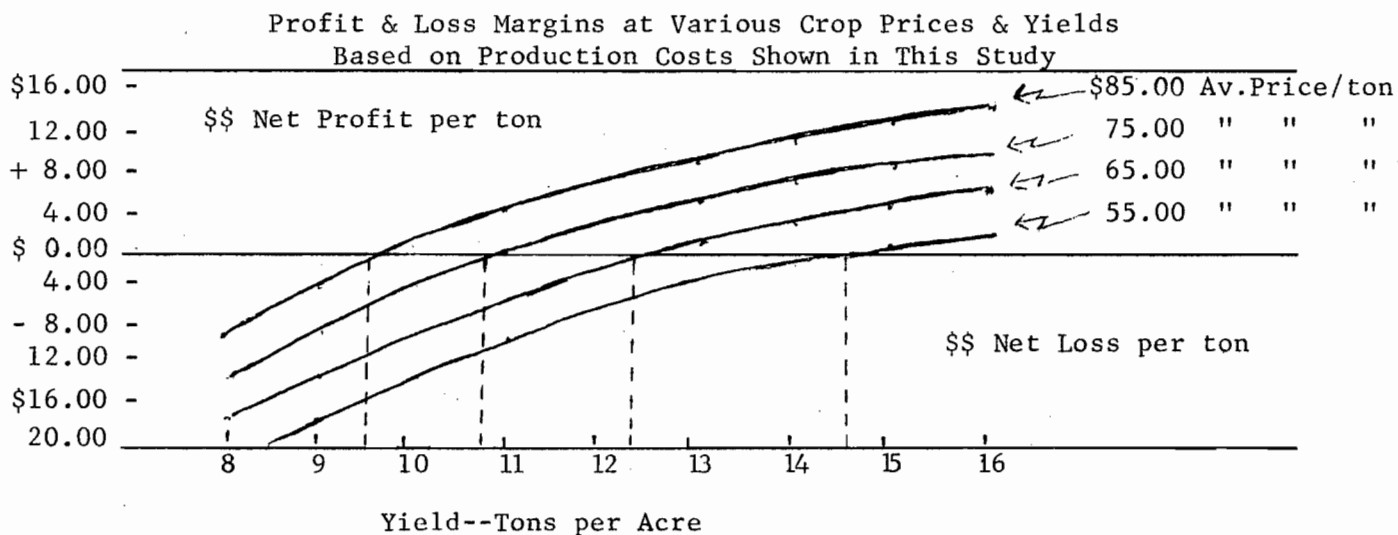
Harvest

Pickling cucumbers are normally bought by processors on a contract grade-weight basis. Grades are based on size and shape. Premium prices are paid for the normally-shaped, smaller grades. The "average" price per ton will vary according to the proportion of cucumbers that fall into each of the various grades and the contract prices for these grades.

Because the hand harvesting costs represent such a high proportion of the total production costs, the contract prices offered for the various grades are extremely important in determining the profitability of growing the crop.

Equally important, however, are the picking procedures that determine what proportion of total fruit harvested can be composed of the higher-priced, small-fruited grades without greatly reducing total yields.

The following graph illustrates the relationships of these factors to profitability. Keep in mind that the "average price per ton" is a composite one, arrived at by averaging the total receipts for each grade of fruit delivered.



Cucumber References -- Available at the local Agricultural Extension Service Office:

CUCUMBER PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA (Manual #24 -- \$0.25)

PEST CONTROL GUIDE (Cucumbers)

WEED CONTROL GUIDE (All Crops)