

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Cost Analysis Worksheet - 1985

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Sample costs produce Certified Alfalfa Seed on the West Side of Fresno County. Based on a yield of 750 pounds of cleaned seed per acre. Field labor \$6.00 per hour total and equipment operator \$7.00. Heavy tracklayer per hour cash costs \$25.00, depreciation \$6.40 and interest \$5.82. Wheel tractor \$16.40, \$3.34 and \$2.50.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Lb.	Per Acre	Per Lb.
PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS:				
Field clean up and straw disposal	\$			
1/2 hr. per acre driver & wheel tractor - total	11.70			
Irrigate: Fall & winter irrigation 1 acre foot	25.00			
Spring irrigation 3/4 ac. ft.	18.75			
3 summer irrigations 1 acre foot	31.25			
(water cost \$25.00)				
labor: 11 hrs. total	66.00			
Disc or harrow: spring 1X				
1/4 hr. labor and wheel tractor	5.85			
Furrow out and cultivate 1/2 hr. man & wheel tractor	11.70			
Cultivate 2X; 1/2 hr. man & wheel tractor	11.70			
Chemical weed control; custom (including dodder)	30.00			
Clip back: flail chopper 1/2 hr. per acre man and wheel tractor	11.70			
Miscellaneous tractor work: 1/2 hr. man & tracklayer	16.00			
Insect Control: Materials	70.00			
Applications 4X @ \$4.00	16.00			
Bee rental: 3 strong colonies at \$20.00	60.00			
Desiccate: 2X (material & application)	26.00			
Land Rent (includes taxes)	150.00			
Repairs to equipment except tractors	22.00			
Interest on operation capital 13%	31.44			
Office and business expense (3% of cash costs)	21.13			
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	636.22	.85		
HARVESTING AND PROCESSING COSTS:				
Harvest and haul: 750 lbs. clean seed at 4¢ with \$40.00 ac. minimum	40.00			
Cleaning: \$6.00 cwt. field run; 885 lbs. at \$6.00	53.10			
Rerun or "Magnetics": (ave. 50% of clean crop seed total) 375 lbs. at \$3.50 cwt.	13.13			
Bags: 1.20¢ cwt clean seed	9.00			
Fees: Certification Fee and Certified Seed Council, 60¢ cwt. clean seed, research 10¢ cwt.	5.25			
Field inspection: 25¢ per acre	.25			
TOTAL HARVESTING AND PROCESSING COSTS	120.73	.16		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	756.95	1.01		

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Lb.	Per Acre	Per Lb.
ESTABLISH STAND				
Deep plow or chisel (1 hr. with tracklayer)	32.00			
Disc 3X (1 hr. with wheel tractor)	23.40			
Land Plane (1/2 hr.)	11.70			
Float 1X (1/4 hr.)	5.85			
List Beds (1/2 hr.)	11.70			
Cultipak (1/8 hr.)	2.93			
Plant (1/4 hr.)	5.85			
Seed: 3/4 lb. @ \$4.00	3.00			
Irrigate: Water	8.33			
Labor	3.00			
Herbicide	18.00			
Miscellaneous overhead, Depreciation and interest	38.00			
Business costs	5.40			
Repairs	16.00			
TOTAL	185.16			
Stand depreciation; 3 yr. life	61.72			
Irrigation Equipment \$300 cost, 16 years	18.75			
Tractors: Crawler, 1/2 hr. at \$6.40	3.20			
Wheel: 2 1/4 hrs. at \$3.34	7.52			
Other equipment: \$120 cost, 10 years, 50% for seed alfalfa	6.00			
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	97.19	.13		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 12%:				
Irrigation equipment 1/2 cost \$150	18.00			
Tractors: Crawler: 1/2 hr. at \$5.82	2.91			
Wheel: 2 1/4 hrs. at \$2.50	5.63			
Other equipment: 1/2 cost \$60 (50% for alfalfa seed)	3.60			
Stand: 1/2 cost \$92.58	11.11			
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	41.25	.05		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	895.39	1.19		

SAMPLE COSTS AT VARYING YIELDS

Water Cost \$25/ac. ft.

Yield: lbs. Per Acre	600	750	900	1100
Cash Cost				
Per Acre \$	740.85	756.95	773.04	798.50
Per Lb. ¢	1.23	1.01	.86	.73
Total All Costs				
Per Acre \$	879.29	895.39	911.48	936.94
Per lb. ¢	1.47	1.19	1.01	.85

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