

RI-SV-60

1960

COLUSA COUNTY

# RICE COSTS

University of California  
Agricultural Extension Service  
Colusa, California

## - ABOUT THIS SHEET -

This cost data sheet is mainly for use as a guide in determining what the production costs are for a specific rice field. Its purpose is to help growers analyse their costs and practices as a means of determining possible changes which would increase efficiency in their production.

The input and cost data shown are based on Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Report No. 207, and what is considered good management practices in Colusa County rice fields. This is a revision of a cost data sheet prepared in 1954 and is necessary due to increased costs in labor and equipment.

Most of the data shown on this sheet is self-explanatory. However, the following additional explanation may be helpful:

### Tenant Operation:

Approximately 75% of the county's rice producers farm on rented land. The data sheet was set up on that basis rather than the owner-operator.

### Leases:

The typical lease in Colusa County is 1/3 of the crop to the landlord, and 2/3 to the tenant. The landlord supplies the water and 1/3 of anything necessary for the betterment of the crop, such as fertilizer, weed and insect control materials. The tenant applies the materials and delivers the total crop to the dryer. The landlord pays for the drying of his share.

## Size of Operation:

The minimum size of operation to give a satisfactory return is about 150 acres, not including fallow or other crops. This will vary depending on the productive capacity of the land, the price level, and the managerial ability of the operator.

However, the amount and size of equipment which is necessary for rice production will permit one man, with a minimum of hired labor, to handle 300 acres. This same equipment will also handle up to 450 acres by using more hired labor. It is to the operator's advantage to farm as large an acreage as possible in order to reduce the overhead per acre.

## Equipment and Investment:

(For 300 A. rice in rotation of 600 A.)

| <u>Machinery</u>                | <u>Approximate<br/>New Cost</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tractor - 70 H.P.               | \$18,000                        |
| Tractor - 40 H.P. - Hydraulic   | 11,500                          |
| Truck - 2 ton flatbed + bin     | 4,000                           |
| Pickup                          | 2,500                           |
| Plows                           | 2,000                           |
| Disk - 18'                      | 2,000                           |
| Harrow - 20'                    | 300                             |
| Float - 12' x 30'               | 500                             |
| Dozer - 8' - Tool Bar Type      | 1,300                           |
| Harvesters - 2-14' cuts         | 26,000                          |
| Bankout Wagon-Rubber with motor | 2,600                           |
| Tools + Misc. Equipment         | 4,300                           |
| Total.....                      | <u>\$75,000</u>                 |

This equipment is ample and suitable for use on any other crop now grown on Colusa County rice soils. Because of the high investment costs, the rice farmer must carefully plan his operations to utilize this equipment.

## Irrigation Costs:

In the majority of leases, the landowner pays the water costs or makes an adjustment in the share-rent. In the study you will note that the water costs are not charged to the tenant.

## Fertilization:

Fertilizer rates do vary. The 60 lbs. of Nitrogen shown on the cost data sheet is an average on first year rice. Fertilizers other than Nitrogen have not proven profitable in the county.

## Insect and Weed Control:

Insect and weed control practices vary considerably from year to year due to changes in conditions. The sample costs shown on this sheet are based on average conditions.

## Rotations:

In all well managed farm operations there should be a planned rotation system. The purpose of this rotation in rice farming is to rest the soil, allowing it to aerate or dry out. It is also considered essential in control of some aquatic weeds. The common rotations in Colusa County are three years rice out of five, or two years out of three. If rice is the only crop grown on the land, it might be advantageous to fallow about one year out of three. The cost of the idle or fallow year should be distributed into the productive years.

The costs on the preceding page assume that rice had not been grown on the land the preceding year, thus requiring the erection of levees and other cultural operations not required in the succeeding years.

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Yield - 4000 lbs. - 1/3 to Landlord

Labor @ \$1.50 - \$2.25

| Operation                          | Hours Per Acre  | Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre |                      |  | Total           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------|
|                                    |                 | Labor                        | Fuel and Repairs     | Material + Contract                      |                 |
| Cultural                           |                 |                              |                      |  |                 |
| Plow                               | .6              | \$ .85                       | \$1.55               |  | \$2.40          |
| Disk - 3X                          | .9              | 1.35                         | 2.25                 |  | 3.60            |
| Harrow - 2X                        | .2              | .40                          | .60                  |  | 1.00            |
| Landplane - 2X                     | .6              | .90                          | 1.45                 | Rent Landplane @ \$15/day \$ .75         | 3.10            |
| Survey                             |                 | .50                          |                      |  | .50             |
| Check                              | .2              | .30                          | .50                  | Rent checker & 1 tractor @ \$13/hr. 2.60 | 3.40            |
| Blading & Buttoning up             | .2              | .30                          | .40                  |  | .70             |
| Fertilize (plane)                  |                 |                              |                      | 2/3 of 60# N. @.12 + application 7.80    | 7.80            |
| Flood & Irrigate                   |                 | 6.00                         |                      | or 4% of crop                            | 6.00            |
| Seed                               |                 |                              |                      | 150# @ \$12 - plane \$1.50 13.50         | 13.50           |
| Spray - 2X                         |                 |                              |                      | 2/3 of materials-\$3.50 Plane\$2.50 6.00 | 6.00            |
| Misc. cultural costs               |                 | 1.00                         | 1.00                 |  | 2.00            |
| <b>Total Cultural</b>              |                 | <b>\$11.60</b>               | <b>\$7.75</b>        | <b>\$30.65</b>                           | <b>\$50.00</b>  |
| Harvest                            |                 |                              |                      |  |                 |
| Combine                            | .6              | \$2.70                       | \$14.50              |  | \$17.50         |
| Bankout                            | .6              | 1.00                         | 1.50                 |  | 2.50            |
| Hauling                            | .6              | 1.00                         | .50                  |  | 1.50            |
| Drying                             |                 |                              |                      | 2/3 of 4400 lbs. @\$ .30 8.80            | 8.80            |
| <b>Total Harvest</b>               |                 | <b>\$4.70</b>                | <b>\$16.50</b>       | <b>\$8.80</b>                            | <b>\$30.00</b>  |
| <b>Total Cash &amp; Labor Cost</b> |                 | <b>\$16.30</b>               | <b>\$24.25</b>       | <b>\$39.45</b>                           | <b>\$80.00</b>  |
| <b>Annual Cost/A.</b>              |                 |                              |                      |  |                 |
| <u>Investment for 600 A.</u>       | <u>Per Acre</u> | <u>Depreciation</u>          | <u>Interest @ 6%</u> | <u>Misc. Management Costs</u>            |                 |
| Tractor & Equipment                | \$59.33         | \$5.93                       | \$1.78               | Taxes                                    | 1.50            |
| Trucks                             | 10.83           | 1.08                         | .33                  | Other                                    | 4.25            |
| Harvest & Equipment                | 47.67           | 4.77                         | 1.43                 |  | \$6.75          |
| Other Equipment                    | 7.17            | .72                          | .22                  |  |                 |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>\$125.00</b> | <b>\$12.50</b>               | <b>\$3.75</b>        |  | <b>\$16.25</b>  |
| <b>Cost to Tenant</b>              |                 |                              |                      |  | <b>\$102.00</b> |
| Rent - 1/3 of 4000 lbs. @ \$.04    |                 |                              |                      |  | <b>\$53.00</b>  |
| <b>Total Cost of Crop per A.</b>   |                 |                              |                      |  | <b>\$155.00</b> |

**COLUSA COUNTY  
DATA ON ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRICE**

|      | Acres  | Yield/Acre | Price/Cwt. |
|------|--------|------------|------------|
| 1945 | 48,674 | 2,465      | 3.25       |
| 1946 | 55,000 | 2,545      | 3.81       |
| 1947 | 52,000 | 2,585      | 6.64       |
| 1948 | 49,500 | 2,460      | 4.66       |
| 1949 | 63,040 | 3,000      | 3.30       |
| 1950 | 47,693 | 3,100      | 4.45       |
| 1951 | 71,327 | 2,600      | 4.75       |
| 1952 | 73,012 | 3,140      | 6.03       |
| 1953 | 82,465 | 2,780      | 5.06       |
| 1954 | 94,508 | 2,143      | 4.50       |
| 1955 | 65,539 | 3,222      | 4.00       |
| 1956 | 57,264 | 4,104      | 4.20       |
| 1957 | 48,119 | 4,112      | 4.50       |
| 1958 | 50,340 | 4,434      | 4.25       |
| 1959 | 58,769 | 4,284      | 4.25       |

**Source: Colusa County Agricultural Commissioner  
and U.S.D.A. Bureau of Agricultural  
Economics.**

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