

**ACTUAL COST TO PRODUCE ALFALFA  
(After Potatoes)**

**Butte Valley, Siskiyou County  
1970**

Based on 100 acres of a 560 farm. Yield - 5 tons per acre in two cuttings  
Flood Irrigated

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and Labor cost per acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
dollars						
<b>Cultural Costs</b>						
Burn ditches	.12	.63	.10	Butane	.40	1.13
Ditch	.05	.14	.14			.28
Spray weevils - contract		2.00		Guthion	1.66	3.66
Fertilize - contract		.90		Single Super Phosphate 300#	6.90	7.80
Irrigate 5 times	1.05	2.93		Electrical cost 3 acre-feet	12.00	14.93
Pickup - 15 miles @ 20¢/mile			3.00			3.00
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>6.60</b>	<b>3.24</b>		<b>20.96</b>	<b>30.80</b>
<b>Harvest Costs</b>						
Swath 2 times	.48	1.34	2.16			3.50
Bale 2 times	.4	1.12	.66	Wire @ 1\$/ton	5.00	6.78
Haul & stack bales						
Harrowbed & stacker	.8	2.23	2.29			4.52
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>		<b>4.69</b>	<b>5.11</b>		<b>5.00</b>	<b>14.80</b>
<b>Cash Overhead</b>						
Misc., office, insurance, interest on operating capital @ 6% of cul- tural & harvest costs					2.74	
Taxes					10.63	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>					<b>13.37</b>	<b>13.37</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>		<b>11.29</b>	<b>8.35</b>		<b>39.33</b>	<b>58.97</b>
Management 5% of 5 tons @ \$25						6.25
<b>Investment</b>						
		<u>Per Acre</u>		<u>Annual Cost</u>		
Land		\$450.00		<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
Irrigation system		50.00		\$ 2.50	3.50	
Stand		40.00		8.00	1.40	
Equipment		52.52		11.05	1.80	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$592.52</b>		<b>\$21.55</b>	<b>\$38.20</b>	<b>59.75</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>124.97</b>
Cost per ton @ 5 ton yield						24.99

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### COSTS OF PRODUCING ALFALFA

This cost study is based on a 560 acre ranch raising 225 acres of alfalfa. Costs are prorated on this basis. Only 100 acres is flood irrigated.

Labor - Skilled at \$2.79 per hour including fringe benefits  
Skilled at \$2.52 per hour including fringe benefits

Taxes - Calculated at \$8.37 on 23% of assessed value.

Interest on investment - Calculated at 7%.

Stand consists of preparing land, fertilize, seed and irrigating up.  
Life of stand 5 years.

Irrigation System - Well and open ditches to field.

Investment Land-Irrigation - Land developed with irrigation at \$50 per acre.

In this study the values were separated to show value of raw land and irrigation system and well.