

SAMPLE COSTS FOR SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION - 1963
SANTA CLARA COUNTY - WITH A YIELD OF 20 Tons Per Acre
William S. Seyman, Farm Advisor

SG-BA-63

Operation	C O S T P E R A C R E			Approximate Cost per Ton
	Hours Per Acre	Labor	Machinery	
Land Preparation	3.6	5.95	14.10	20.05
List	0.4	.65	1.00	1.65
Plant	0.6	1.00	1.50	2.50
Thin	15.0	16.50		16.50
Hoe	10.0	11.00		11.00
Cultivate 4x and fertilize	3.0	4.95	7.50	12.45
Irrigate 5x	12.5			15.60
Dust or Spray (contract @ \$7.50)				7.50
Misc. other cultural costs	3.0	4.00	2.85	6.85
Total cultural labor and equipment				94.10
Lift, top, load and haul (contract)				50.00
Total harvest				50.00
Irrigation - power to pump 24 acre inches @ \$8.00 per acre foot				16.00
Seed - 6 lbs. @ 90¢				5.40
Fertilizer - 80 to 160 lbs. N + 80 to 120 lbs. P ₂ O ₅				32.00
Misc. materials				2.00
Total material				55.40
Misc. overhead				16.00
Property taxes				20.00
Total Misc. overhead				36.00
Total cash cost				235.50
Investments for 160 acre farm	Original Cost Annual Cost			
		Per Acre	Interest at 6%	Depre- ciation
Land	192,000	1200	72.00	
Irrigation system	20,000	125	3.75	6.25
Buildings	5,000	30	.90	1.50
Equipment	44,850	280	8.40	28.00
Total	261,850	1635	85.05	35.75
Total interest and depreciation				120.80
Management - 5% of 20 tons @ \$12.00 per ton				12.00
Total cost per acre - owner basis				368.30
Cost per ton				18.42
Costs on rental basis				
Cultural labor and equipment - same as above				94.10
Harvest				50.00
Material				55.40
Misc. overhead				36.00
Rent				90.00
Interest and depreciation on equipment from above				36.40
Management same as above				12.00
Total cost per acre				373.90
Cost per ton				18.69

Labor cost per hour including social security and compensation insurance

Skilled	= 1.65	Per hour tractor rates	
Irrigators	= 1.25	TD 60 or equivalent	= \$3.50
Hoe and thin	= 1.10	W 30 or equivalent	= \$2.25

SAMPLE INPUTS and COSTS for SUGAR BEETS - SANTA CLARA COUNTY
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About This Cost Study

The cost figures on the opposite side of this sheet do not necessarily represent an average cost for all Santa Clara County growers. Average costs may be increased or decreased from one year to another by weather conditions which can greatly influence disease, weed and pest problems. Thus, unfavorable weather conditions would not only reduce yields but would also increase costs as a result of added measures taken to lessen potential yield losses.

- In sugar beet production the cost per ton of beets is not a true measure of efficiency because the crop is bought on the basis of % of sugar contained X yield or tonnage. Thus, the real efficiency factor could or should be expressed as "cost per lb. or ton of sugar" produced. Additionally, since there is a slight premium on beets having higher sugar content, a grower who is producing for example, 3.5 tons of sugar per acre from a 20 ton per acre crop, is more efficient than a grower producing 3.5 tons of sugar per acre from a 25 ton crop. The lesser tonnage of beets brings more return because it is cheaper to process and also because it costs less to harvest and haul.
- Management costs, which are sometimes calculated at 10% of gross income are in this study listed at 5% of an assumed gross. However, a portion of "Misc. overhead" could also be considered as a reflection of management costs.

Local History and Adaptation

Santa Clara County has a long history of sugar beet production. Because of high land values and urban development, acreage in the northern portions of the county has declined. Acreage over the past few years for the entire county has held fairly steady at about 4000 acres per year.

Root knot and sugar beet nematode have been two of the most serious long term problems.

Sugar Beet References

Information on cultural practices, weed, disease and pest control, harvesting, marketing, etc can be obtained from the following references available at your local Agricultural Extension Service Office. The following are among some of the available publications:

THE SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA
ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING THE SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY
MORE PROFIT FROM SUGAR BEETS
CHEMICAL WEED CONTROL IN SUGAR BEETS
VIRUS DISEASES OF CALIFORNIA SUGAR BEETS
FERTILIZERS FOR SUGAR BEETS ON SOME CALIFORNIA SOILS
CONTROL OF THE SUGAR BEET NEMATODE
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE FIELD CROP PEST CONTROL GUIDE
(published annually)
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE WEED CONTROL GUIDE
(published annually)
UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION