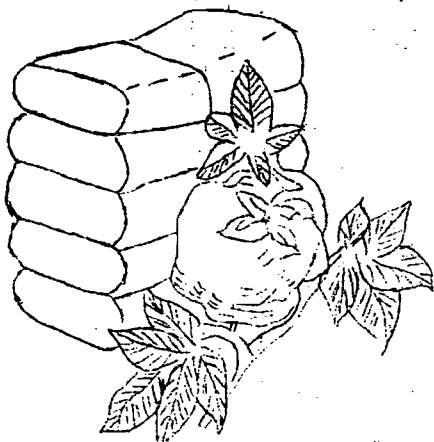


cotton  
sample costs  
and  
production



Cooperative Extension  
University of California  
Imperial County  
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 4

COTTON--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1982-1983

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment, and fringe benefits.)

Yield--2.5 bales or 1250 pounds lint per acre. Days to harvest 170 to 200+ days.

| OPERATION  | Custom Rate                      | MATERIALS       |        | HAND LABOR* |         | SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|
|  |                                  | Type            | Cost   | Hours       | Dollars |                       |
| <b>LAND PREPARATION</b>                            |                                  |                 |        |             |         |                       |
| Subsoil  | 24.00                            |                 |        |             |         | \$ 24.00              |
| Disc 2x  | 8.00                             |                 |        |             |         | 16.00                 |
| Float  | 7.50                             |                 |        |             |         | 7.50                  |
| Laser plane  | 15.00                            |                 |        |             |         | 15.00                 |
| Border-cross check                                 | 12.00                            |                 |        |             |         | 12.00                 |
| List   | 9.50                             |                 |        |             |         | 9.50                  |
| Fertilize  | 17.00                            | 300# 11-48-0    | 39.00  |             |         | 71.00                 |
|  |                                  | 60# N           | 15.00  |             |         |                       |
| Irrigate   |                                  | Water .5 ac/ft  | 3.75   | 1           | 5.50*   | 9.25                  |
| Lilliston  | 9.50                             |                 |        |             |         | 9.50                  |
| <b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>                      |                                  |                 |        |             |         | <b>\$ 173.75</b>      |
| <b>GROWING PERIOD</b>                              |                                  |                 |        |             |         |                       |
| Plant-Herbicide                                    | 12.00                            | Seed 20# @ 45¢  | 9.00   |             |         | \$ 30.50              |
|  |                                  | Herbicide       | 9.50   |             |         |                       |
| Cultivate 3x                                       | 11.00                            |                 |        |             |         | 33.00                 |
| Fertilize 2x                                       | 9.00                             | 200# N          | 40.00  |             |         | 58.00                 |
| Hand Thin  |                                  |                 |        | 5.7         | 31.35   | 31.35                 |
| Layby Herbicide                                    | 5.50                             | Herbicide       | 6.00   |             |         | 11.50                 |
| Irrigate 10x                                       |                                  | Water 5.5 ac/ft | 41.25  | 8           | 44.00*  | 85.25                 |
| Insect Control 12x                                 | 4.25                             | Insecticide     | 125.00 |             |         | 176.00                |
| Defoliate 3x                                       | 5.00                             |                 | 24.00  |             |         | 39.00                 |
| Chop stalks  | 9.00                             |                 |        |             |         | 9.00                  |
| Disc 1x  | 17.00                            |                 |        |             |         | 17.00                 |
| <b>GROWING PERIOD</b>                              |                                  |                 |        |             |         | <b>\$ 490.60</b>      |
| <b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b> |                                  |                 |        |             |         | <b>\$ 664.35</b>      |
| Land Rent (net acres)                              |                                  |                 |        |             |         | 175.00                |
| Cash Overhead--12% preharvest cost and land rent   |                                  |                 |        |             |         | 100.72                |
| <b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>                      |                                  |                 |        |             |         | <b>\$ 940.07</b>      |
| <b>HARVEST COSTS</b>                               |                                  |                 |        |             |         |                       |
| Machine picking                                    | 50.00/bale (45.00/ac minimum***) |                 |        |             |         | \$ 125.00             |
| Hauling  | 8.00/bale                        |                 |        |             |         | 20.00                 |
| Ginning**  | 2.75/cwt of seed cotton          |                 |        |             |         |                       |
| <b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>                             |                                  |                 |        |             |         | <b>\$ 1085.07</b>     |

Cost per pound @ 1250 Lint \$0.87

- \* Also includes additional shovel, grader work and tube setting.
- \*\*Ginning cost has usually been offset by seed sales.
- \*\*\*Second pick \$45.00 per acre.

| YEAR | ACRES  | YIELD/ACRE (IN LBS) | VALUE/LB |
|------|--------|---------------------|----------|
| 1977 | 143000 | 604                 | \$ 0.60  |
| 1978 | 67000  | 1280                | 0.64     |
| 1979 | 96000  | 1325                | 0.72     |
| 1980 | 83000  | 1400                | 0.85     |
| 1981 | 88000  | 1100                | 0.70     |

**LAND PREPARATION:** Cotton is grown in raised beds 38 to 42 inches apart. The crop is generally planted in a semi-mulch and irrigated up.

Cotton can be grown on all soil types in Imperial County.

**PLANTING DATES AND RATES:** Cotton yields are normally higher if planted in March and/or early April. Yields decrease when cotton is planted later than early April. A soil temperature of at least 60°F at a depth of 8 inches is desirable. Spacings within the row of 3 to 12 inches result in approximately the same yields.

**VARIETIES:** Delta Pine 61, Delta Pine 70 and Stoneville 825 have been successfully grown.

## FERTILIZATION

Two hundred and fifty to 300 pounds of nitrogen per acre will produce a good crop on solid planted cotton. The applications should be made before planting, at thinning, and in June and July. Although tests have shown no yield increase due to phosphate application, it is a common practice.

## IRRIGATION

Do not allow the plants to remain wilted for extended periods of time. The number of irrigations depend upon the season and the desired end--a crop (maximum number of irrigations) or a short season (fewer irrigations).

## WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are now in common use both as preemergence and layby treatments. Consult your Farm Advisors' office for registered adapted chemicals.

## INSECT CONTROL

The pink bollworm, the cotton leaf perforator, tobacco budworm, cotton bollworm are widespread and pose a serious

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threat to cotton production. Other early season insects such as spider mites, cutworms, lygus bugs and whitefly may occasionally require treatment. The presence of these insect pests results in increased costs for pest control since multiple applications are necessary to keep them in check. The insecticide costs included in this circular could be higher, depending upon the presence of these and other pests. Consult Farm Advisors' office for latest information.

## DISEASE CONTROL

Seedling diseases can reduce cotton stands to the point where replanting may be necessary. The seedling disease problem frequently is more severe where cotton follows sugar beets or alfalfa.

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## INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS Price Per Pound Lint

|      | \$ 0.65 | 0.70 | 0.75 | 0.80 | 0.85 |
|------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| 1100 | -353    | -298 | -243 | -188 | -133 |
| 1250 | -273    | -210 | -148 | -85  | -23  |
| 1400 | -192    | -122 | -52  | +18  | +88  |
| 1550 | -112    | -35  | +43  | +120 | +198 |

Per Acre  
Yield Lint

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To simplify our information, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products or equipment. No endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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