SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE DRY ONIONS BY DIRECT SEEDING IN KERN COUNTY

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1970

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Based on a yield of 18 tons per acre, sold in the windrow with the buyer paying harvesting costs. Man labor at $1.90 per hour total, and equipment operator $2.10, including Social Security and Workman’s Compensation Insurance. 80 h.p. crawler tractor per hour cash costs $3.20, depreciation $1.80 and interest 72¢. 50 h.p. wheel tractor $1.40, 74¢ and 30¢. Onions are planted in the early spring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Costs</th>
<th>My Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Acre</td>
<td>Per Ton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS**

- **Disc 2X: 1 hr. crawler tractor**
  - 5.30

- **Chisel 2X: 1 hr. crawler tractor**
  - 5.30

- **Landplane 2X: 1 hr. crawler tractor**
  - 5.30

- **List and fertilize**
  - 1 hr. wheel tractor: 3.50
  - 250 lbs. material at $69.00 ton: 8.63

- **Pre-irrigate - (sprinkler)**
  - 8" water at $14.00 ft., incl. booster: 9.33
  - Labor: 2.50

- **Shape beds: incorporate herbicide; plant**
  - 1½ hrs. 2 men and wheel tractor: 6.75
  - Seed: 3 lbs. at $4.50: 13.50
  - Herbicide: 11.00

- **Irrigate 2X, sprinkler**
  - 8" water at $14.00 incl. booster: 9.33
  - Labor: 1.75

- **Cultivate 2X, fertilizer 1X**
  - 1 hr. wheel tractor: 3.50
  - 120 lbs. N at 10¢: 12.00

- **Chemical weed control; custom**
  - 15.00

- **Irrigate 8 times, sprinkler**
  - 8 hrs. labor: 15.20
  - 2" water at $14.00: 28.00

- **Pest control: materials and application, custom**
  - 5.00

- **Hand weeding: 7 hrs.**
  - 13.50

- **Lift onions: ½ hr. wheel tractor**
  - 1.75

- **Windrow onions: 20 hrs. labor**
  - 38.00

- **Misc. labor, materials, 1 hr. wheel tractor**
  - 6.00

- **Repairs to equipment except tractors**
  - 10.00

- **Rent: 12 months basis**
  - 60.00

- **Supervision**
  - 10.00

- **Office, car, operating capital, bus. costs, etc.**
  - 18.10

**TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS**

318.04  
17.67

**HARVEST COSTS**

- Paid by buyer

**TOTAL CASH COSTS (tenant)**

318.04  
17.67

**DEPRECIATION**

- **80 h.p. crawler: 3 hrs. at $1.80**
  - 5.40

- **50 h.p. wheel tractor: 4-3/4 hrs. at 74¢**
  - 3.52

- **Other equipment: $90.00 for 10 years life**
  - 9.00

**TOTAL DEPRECIATION (tenant)**

17.92  
1.00

UC Cooperative Extension
## DRY ONIONS BY DIRECT SEEDING (con’t.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 7%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 h.p. crawler: 3 hrs. at 72¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 h.p. wheel tractor: 4-3/4 hrs at 30¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other equipment: ½ cost $45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT (tenant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION (tenant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SAMPLE COSTS PER TON AT VARYING YIELDS (Tenant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield: Tons Per Acre</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Costs Per Ton</td>
<td>26.50</td>
<td>22.72</td>
<td>19.88</td>
<td>17.67</td>
<td>15.90</td>
<td>14.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Costs Per Ton (tenant)</td>
<td>28.56</td>
<td>24.48</td>
<td>21.42</td>
<td>19.04</td>
<td>17.13</td>
<td>15.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SAMPLE TENANT’S COSTS PER TON AT THE INDICATED YIELDS WITH VARYING WATER COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield: tons per Acre</th>
<th>Total Costs Per Ton at the Indicated Water Cost Per Acre Foot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>25.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>21.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>16.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>15.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>13.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

University of California
Farm & Home Advisors Office
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