

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
PLACER AND NEVADA COUNTIES

# SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

358 Elm Avenue,  
Auburn, California 95603  
Telephone 885-4551

Memorial Building,  
Grass Valley, California 95945  
Telephone 273-4563

## ANNUAL CLOVERS

### INTRODUCTION:

This sample cost of production (see back page) is based on a 200 acre farm. One hundred acres is in improved dryland pasture consisting of annual clovers. For the purpose of this study, the average life of improved dryland pastures is considered to be 10 years.

Annual clovers have been established on an estimated 30,000 acres of range land in Placer and Nevada Counties. Gains of 150 to 300 pounds of beef per acre can be consistently produced on annual-legume improved ranges. Maximum profit per acre results from careful attention to adequate soil fertility, seeding adapted varieties, and good grazing management.

### ESTABLISHING ANNUAL CLOVERS:

1. Select an area that can be disked.
2. Apply 400 to 500 pounds of single superphosphate per acre.
3. Prepare a seedbed by a light shallow disking, not over 4 inches in depth.
4. Seed 10 to 15 pounds of pellet-inoculated seed per acre in mid-October and roll or harrow LIGHTLY to cover the seed.
5. Graze the stand lightly the first spring to keep grass from crowding out the clover. Livestock should be put on the field as soon as it can be grazed without too much "punching."
6. Remove the livestock during April and May the first year to allow the clover to set a good seed crop.
7. Graze again during the summer or fall to remove most of the clover and grass residue and trample the seed into the ground.

### GRAZING THE ESTABLISHED STAND:

Graze anytime during the fall, winter, or spring with enough livestock to keep the grass growth down. Adjust the cattle numbers to let the clovers bloom and set seed. This usually occurs during March and April in dry years and April and May in a normal year.

### SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION:

Yields of annual clovers can be greatly increased with early fall and late spring irrigation. The application of three to four acre inches of water in early September will provide good grazing by mid-October. Late spring irrigations will extend green forage production. (No costs for pre-irrigation are included in this study).

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UC Cooperative Extension

ANNUAL CLOVERS

COSTS PER ACRE

Yearly Cultural Costs

	<u>Costs</u>
Fertilize - (Contract applied) 300 lbs. Single super-phosphate/A	\$ 9.00
Taxes \$300 ÷ 4 = 75.00 assessed value x 8.50 rate	6.38
	<u>\$ 15.38</u>

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>	<u>Interest 7%</u>
Land	\$300.00		\$21.00
Fences (25 years)	20.00	\$.80	.70
Stand Establishment (10 yr)			
Disc 1 X	2.50	.25	.09
Fertilizer - 400#			
0-20-0 applied p/a	12.00	1.20	.42
15# Pelleted Seed	8.20	.82	.29
Broadcast seed	1.50	.15	.05
Harrow or ringroll	1.00	.10	.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$345.20</b>	<b>\$3.32</b>	<b>\$22.59</b>

Total Cost Per Acre Per Year **\$41.29**

Cost per lb. gain @ 200 lbs. meat/acre 21¢/lb.

Prepared by:  
William E. Mason Farm Advisor  
Philip S. Parsons Extension Economist