

SMALL WHITE BEAN COSTS IN MONTEREY COUNTY

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In the Salinas Valley small white beans are grown on approximately 25,000 to 30,000 acres each year. The area's production accounts for 90-95% of the state's total production. The small white is utilized as a canned or baked bean, and sold as a dry package commodity. The crop provides an excellent rotation for the vegetable producers of the Salinas Valley.

Small white beans are grown as a summer crop after a winter crop such as spinach or peas, or as a single crop sometimes after a green manure crop such as barley. Whether the beans are to carry a full year's land charges or rent or share it with a winter crop makes considerable difference in cost. The costs are shown in full detail on the other side, with beans as a single crop. Below is a summary of costs as a double crop with half the land charges or rent deducted. The cost of a cover crop of barley grown ahead of beans as a single crop is estimated at \$5.00 per acre for preparation, planting and seed. This is not shown as a charge to the single crop beans, since it benefits all crops in the rotation. However, a part of it would be charged where appropriate.

Summary of Cost on Basis of Double Crop

	Tenant's Cost	Owner Operator
All costs per acre from other side, single crop basis	193.27	195.84
Deduct half of \$60 cash rent	30.00	
Deduct half of taxes \$10 and int. on land \$42		26.00
Total cost per acre, basis of double crop	163.27	169.84
Cost per cwt.	7.42	7.72

If the tenant in lieu of cash rent gives a share of 7/24 his costs per acre would be \$133.27, which is \$8.55 per hundred weight on his share of 1558 lbs. With a full year's \$60 an acre rent his cost is \$8.78 per cwt.

Profit from growing small white beans varies widely from farm to farm, and year to year, with differences in yield and price. Here is a sample schedule based on the basic growing costs on the other side.

Summary of Costs and Profit with Varying Yields and Prices
Owner Operator Basis with Half-Year Land Costs

Yield, pounds per acre	1800	2000	2200	2500	3000
Growing, and overhead costs	149.85	149.85	149.85	149.85	149.85
Harvesting costs with 5% general exp.	17.73	18.63	19.99	23.42	24.68
Total cost per acre	167.58	168.48	169.84	173.27	174.53
Total cost per cwt.	9.30	8.42	7.72	6.94	5.82
Net income or profit per acre with beans at \$7 per cwt.	-41.58	-28.48	-15.84	1.73	35.47
\$8	-23.58	- 8.48	6.16	26.73	65.47
\$9	- 5.58	11.52	28.16	51.73	95.47
\$10	12.42	31.52	50.16	76.73	125.47

Sample Inputs and Costs for Small White Beans as a Single Crop for the Salinas Valley with a Yield of 2200 lbs. of Cleaned Beans

	Man 60 hp 30 hp			Truck or Pickup	Cost per Acre	Cost per cwt.
	Labor	Tractor	Tractor			
	Hours per acre					
Land preparation, 8 operations	2.4	2.0	0.3	0.1	9.28	
Preplant irrigation	3.0				3.75	
Planting, 2 men and planter	1.0		0.4	0.1	1.89	
Cultivate, 4 times	2.0		2.0		5.20	
Irrigation, 4 or 5 times	12.0			0.1	15.15	
Hoe & weed, 2 times	15.0			0.1	15.15	
Misc. other cultural work	2.0		0.5	0.1	3.55	
Total cultural labor	37.4	2.0	3.2	0.5	53.21	2.42
Cutting & raking vines	1.0		1.0		2.60	.12
Hand work on windrows	3.0				3.00	.14
Combining, own machine	0.8	.4	(0.4 comb.)		4.24	.19
Hauling in bulk to warehouse	0.4			0.4	1.40	.06
Cleaning, custom at \$6.50 a ton, field weight 2400#					7.80	.35
Total harvesting cost					19.04	.86
Total labor and field power cost					72.25	3.28
Irrigation water power to pump 2½ acre feet at \$4.00 power					10.00	
Seed, 50 lbs. per acre at \$12 cwt.					6.00	
Insecticide and zinc spray, application and materials					4.75	
Misc. other materials, weed spray, etc.					1.00	
Sacks, 22 @ .18					3.96	.18
Total material costs					25.71	1.17
Total labor and material cost				Tenant	97.96	4.45
General expense, estimated at 5% of above costs				4.90	4.90	
County taxes, equipment \$1.50, land & improv. \$10				1.50	11.50	
Repairs to equipment other than included above				2.75	2.75	
Compensation, S.S. and other insurance				2.30	2.40	
Storage \$3.75 a ton usually paid by buyer, \$4.13 per acre				--	--	
Rent - full year - as a single crop				60.00	--	
Total cash overhead cost				71.45	21.55	.98
Total cash costs				169.41	119.51	5.43
Investment overhead	Total	Av.	6%	Deprec-		
300 A land, 400 crop A and 200 A bean eqt.	Original Cost	Value	Int.	iation		
		Dollars per acre				
Building for equipment	\$ 4200	5.25	.32	.35	Tenant costs per acre	Owner Operator costs per A
Irrigation system	54000	67.50	4.05	5.75		
Land 300 A	210000	700.00	42.00	--		
Subtotal real estate	\$306000	772.75	46.37	6.10		
Tillage equipment	9000	11.25	.68	2.25		
Bean planter, cutter, rake	2200	5.50	.33	.60		
Portable irrigation pipe	7520	9.40	.56	1.88		
Tractors, truck & pickup	34800	43.50	2.61	8.70		
Bean thresher	14500	37.20	2.23	3.63		
Misc. shop & small eqt.	900	1.50	.09	.30		
Total operating eqt.	\$ 68920	108.35	6.50	17.36		
Total invest. & deprec.	\$374920	881.10	52.87	23.46		
Total cash & depreciation costs				186.77	142.97	6.50
Total interest on investment				6.50	52.87	2.40
Total all costs				193.27	195.84	8.90

The above costs are based on the following rates per hour: tractor driver \$1.50, irrigator \$1.25, hoeing \$1.00, combine man \$2.00, 60 hp tractor \$2.60, 30 hp tractor \$1.10, thresher operating \$4.50. These are cash costs only with the depreciation and interest shown on an acre basis. Note 3rd from last column in lower half of the table shows tenant's costs per acre.