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ESTABLISHING A STAND OF ALFALFA HAY - WESTSIDE STANISLAUS COUNTY

COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET

Man labor at \$4.00 per hour for equipment operators and \$3.60 for other labor including Social Security and Compensation Insurance. 80 H. P. track layer figured at \$6.60 cash cost per hour, \$3.64 depreciation and \$1.82 interest; 60 H.P. wheel diesel tractor at \$2.60 cash cost per hour, \$1.75 depreciation and \$.88 interest.

<u>CASH COSTS</u>	<u>Sample Costs</u> <u>Per Acre</u>
Disc 2 times: .3 hr. man and track layer	\$ 6.36
Chisel: 1.0 hr. man and track layer	10.60
Landplane: .3 hr. man and track layer	3.18
Put up and shape borders: .3 hr. man and wheel tractor	1.98
Grade or float: .3 hr. man and track layer	3.18
Springtooth 2 times: .3 hr. man and track layer	6.36
Ditches and boxes in: .1 hr. man and wheel tractor	.62
Broadcast seed: custom plane	2.50
Seed: 40 pounds @ \$1.65	66.00
Misc. labor and materials: irrigation gates, etc.	3.00
Repairs to equipment except tractors	3.00
Misc. expenses: office, pickup, operating capital, etc.	6.41
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$113.19
<u>DEPRECIATION</u>	
Wheel tractor: .5 hr. @ \$1.75	\$.88
Track layer: 2.2 hrs. @ \$3.64	8.01
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$ 8.89
<u>INTEREST</u>	
Wheel tractor: .5 hr. @ \$.88	\$.44
Track layer: 2.2 hrs @ \$1.82	4.00
TOTAL INTEREST	\$ 4.44
TOTAL COST TO ESTABLISH ALFALFA STAND	\$126.52

COMMENTS:

General - The cultural operations used in the preparation of alfalfa seedbeds vary with the soil type, crop history, weather and the personal preference of the grower. There is no single method that is always right and the good grower does what he thinks is needed to make a good seedbed. Individual costs can be accordingly higher or lower than those suggested here.

Fertilizer - Usually commercial fertilizers are not applied in the preplant or seedling stages except for occasional applications of superphosphate. Many Westside soils grow good alfalfa without being fertilized.

Seed - Seeding rates vary from 30 to 50 pounds per acre. The cost of seed varies considerably with supply and demand and with the variety selected.

Irrigation - Costs for setting up the irrigation system vary widely depending on the presence or absence of a pipeline, grade of the land and the type of irrigation system used--siphons or cement gates. These costs were not shown other than in the "Ditches and Boxes In" and "Misc. Labor and Materials" categories. In some cases, the cost might be considerably higher than shown here, especially if the field has to be irrigated to bring the stand up or while the plants are small.

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