

**ACTUAL COST TO PRODUCE ALFALFA  
(After Potatoes)**

**Butte Valley, Siskiyou County  
1970**

Based on 100 acres of a 560 farm. Yield - 5 tons per acre in two cuttings  
Flood Irrigated

| Operation   | Hours<br>per<br>acre | Cash and Labor cost per acre |                   |                                |                 | Total         |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
|   |                      | Labor                        | Fuel &<br>Repairs | Materials<br>Kind and Quantity | Cost            |               |
| dollars   |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 |               |
| <b>Cultural Costs</b>   |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 |               |
| Burn ditches  | .12                  | .63                          | .10               | Butane                         | .40             | 1.13          |
| Ditch   | .05                  | .14                          | .14               |                                |                 | .28           |
| Spray weevils -<br>contract   |                      | 2.00                         |                   | Guthion                        | 1.66            | 3.66          |
| Fertilize - contract  |                      | .90                          |                   | Single Super Phosphate<br>300# | 6.90            | 7.80          |
| Irrigate 5 times  | 1.05                 | 2.93                         |                   | Electrical cost<br>3 acre-feet | 12.00           | 14.93         |
| Pickup - 15 miles<br>@ 20¢/mile   |                      |                              | 3.00              |                                |                 | 3.00          |
| <b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>   |                      | <b>6.60</b>                  | <b>3.24</b>       |                                | <b>20.96</b>    | <b>30.80</b>  |
| <b>Harvest Costs</b>  |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 |               |
| Swath 2 times   | .48                  | 1.34                         | 2.16              |                                |                 | 3.50          |
| Bale 2 times  | .4                   | 1.12                         | .66               | Wire @ 1\$/ton                 | 5.00            | 6.78          |
| Haul & stack bales  |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 |               |
| Harrowbed & stacker   | .8                   | 2.23                         | 2.29              |                                |                 | 4.52          |
| <b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>  |                      | <b>4.69</b>                  | <b>5.11</b>       |                                | <b>5.00</b>     | <b>14.80</b>  |
| <b>Cash Overhead</b>  |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 |               |
| Misc., office, insurance,<br>interest on operating<br>capital @ 6% of cul-<br>tural & harvest costs |                      |                              |                   |                                | 2.74            |               |
| Taxes   |                      |                              |                   |                                | 10.63           |               |
| <b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>  |                      |                              |                   |                                | <b>13.37</b>    | <b>13.37</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>  |                      | <b>11.29</b>                 | <b>8.35</b>       |                                | <b>39.33</b>    | <b>58.97</b>  |
| Management 5% of 5 tons @ \$25  |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 | 6.25          |
| <b>Investment</b>   |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 |               |
|   |                      | <b>Per Acre</b>              |                   | <b>Annual Cost</b>             |                 |               |
| Land  |                      | \$450.00                     |                   | <b>Depreciation</b>            | <b>Interest</b> |               |
| Irrigation system   |                      | 50.00                        |                   | \$ 2.50                        | 3.50            |               |
| Stand   |                      | 40.00                        |                   | 8.00                           | 1.40            |               |
| Equipment   |                      | 52.52                        |                   | 11.05                          | 1.80            |               |
| <b>Total</b>  |                      | <b>\$592.52</b>              |                   | <b>\$21.55</b>                 | <b>\$38.20</b>  | <b>59.75</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>  |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 | <b>124.97</b> |
| Cost per ton @ 5 ton yield  |                      |                              |                   |                                |                 | 24.99         |

Roger W. Benton  
Farm Advisor  
918 Fourth Street  
Yreka, California  
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### COSTS OF PRODUCING ALFALFA

This cost study is based on a 560 acre ranch raising 225 acres of alfalfa. Costs are prorated on this basis. Only 100 acres is flood irrigated.

Labor - Skilled at \$2.79 per hour including fringe benefits  
          Skilled at \$2.52 per hour including fringe benefits

Taxes - Calculated at \$8.37 on 23% of assessed value.

Interest on investment - Calculated at 7%.

Stand consists of preparing land, fertilize, seed and irrigating up.  
Life of stand 5 years.

Irrigation System - Well and open ditches to field.

Investment Land-Irrigation - Land developed with irrigation at \$50 per acre.

In this study the values were separated to show value of raw land and irrigation system and well.