

SHEEP COST OF PRODUCTION STUDY, NOVEMBER 1974

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COASTAL AREA

The ranch is 1,800 acres of range land owned by the operator. Included are sufficient equipment storage, shearing sheds, corrals, and fences to handle a 1,000 ewe band plus replacements. Cost of the improvements are lower than current replacement costs. Livestock is valued at current market prices. Ewes and rams weigh 175 lbs., fat lambs 102 lbs., and feeders 85 lbs. Lambs are sold 90% fat and 10% feeders. Lamb crop is 100% at weaning with 20% of the females held for replacement. Mortality is 5% in the breeding herd. The ranch buys 15 tons of liquid supplement yearly for the sheep plus horse hay. Labor includes owner-operator, unpaid family help and part-time help of \$1,500 per year. Total investment for the owner-operator is \$320,000.

CASH COSTS	TOTAL RANCH	PER EWE	YOUR COST
Feed			
Alfalfa hay 5 ton @ \$75	\$ 375.00	\$.38	\$
Liquid feeds 15 ton @ \$110	1,650.00	1.65	
Range -- cost included below	-----	----	
General Expenses			
Vet and medicine	500.00	.50	
Dog expenses	400.00	.40	
Horse expenses	200.00	.20	
Shearing crew and supplies 1,212 head @ \$1.21	1,466.52	1.47	
Tag 1,165 head @ \$.22	256.30	.26	
Replacement rams 12 @ \$100	1,200.00	1.20	
Gasoline, oil, and equipment repairs	4,800.00	4.80	
Maintenance or roads, fences, corrals, and barns	1,800.00	1.80	
Insurance	500.00	.50	
Part-time labor	1,500.00	1.50	
Taxes 10.5% rate + livestock	7,343.44	7.34	
Misc. overhead and operating interest	1,319.48	1.32	
Less credit for cull ewes and rams	-1,837.50	-1.84	
Less credit for 9,601 lbs. wool @ \$.70 & \$.58	-6,720.70	-6.72	
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$ 14,752.54	\$ 14.75	
NON CASH COSTS			
Depreciation			
Barns, sheds, corrals, fences \$15,000 (30 yrs.)	500.00	.50	
Equipment \$29,500 (5-10 yrs. with salvage)	3,200.00	3.20	
Dogs and horses \$1,000 (5-10 yrs. with salvage)	40.00	.04	
TOTAL	\$ 3,740.00	\$ 3.74	
Interest on investment			
Land 1,800 acres @ \$130.50/acre @ 8%	\$ 18,792.00	18.79	
Structures and fences \$15,000 ½ cost @ 8%	600.00	.60	
Ewes 1,000 @ \$30 @ 8%	2,400.00	2.40	
Yearlings 190 @ \$40 @ 8%	608.00	.61	
Rams 50 @ \$40 @ 8%	160.00	.16	
Horses and dogs 5	64.00	.06	
Equipment: pickup, jeep, truck, bulldozer, scales, tools, and shearing	1,300.00	1.30	
TOTAL	\$ 23,924.00	\$ 23.92	
TOTAL NON CASH COSTS	\$ 27,664.00	\$ 27.66	
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$ 42,416.54	\$ 42.42	
CASH COST PER LB. OF LAMB SOLD PER EWE \$14.75 ÷ 78 LBS. =		\$.19	
TOTAL ALL COST PER LB. OF LAMB SOLD PER EWE \$42.42 ÷ 78 LBS. =		\$.54	

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY

by

Charles M. Lawrence, Farm Advisor and Phil Parsons, Extension Economist

Humboldt County was the historical leader in sheep production in the north coast region because the open range areas of the county were found ideal for wool and fat lamb production. Lambs have the ability to fatten on good forage alone.

This cost analysis gives sample costs of production when average management practices are followed. It is for use as a guide in analyzing production costs on an individual ranch. Costs are shown for total ranch and for one ewe yearly, allowing you to multiply by the number of sheep in your flock to get approximate yearly totals.

Family labor, including the operator, is not shown in the costs nor is an allowance shown for management. These costs show what must be paid yearly before the operator earns labor or management income.

A typical Humboldt County ranch in each area of present day sheep production is used as a guide for cost and management practices. All costs were provided by knowledgeable producers for each area. The cost per lb. of lamb sold figure was calculated from computing the number and weight of lambs available for sale each year divided by 1,000 ewes in the breeding flock. It is apparent that a high percent of heavy, fat lambs for sale will influence the break even point favorably.

Some of the costs shown are size oriented, not production oriented. That is --- they go on whether or not you get high or low sale income. For example: labor, maintenance, repairs, taxes, and others are related to the size of the ranch and ewe flock not the weaning weight or percent lamb survival. Production related costs are: purchased feed, range improvement, vet and medicine, cost of replacement rams and the like. Suggested areas for management attention are: increasing the number of lambs surviving by flushing for twinning and improving lambing practices, range improvement - carrying capacities, ewe records showing lambs produced, and wool weights on at least part of the total flock.