

CELERY

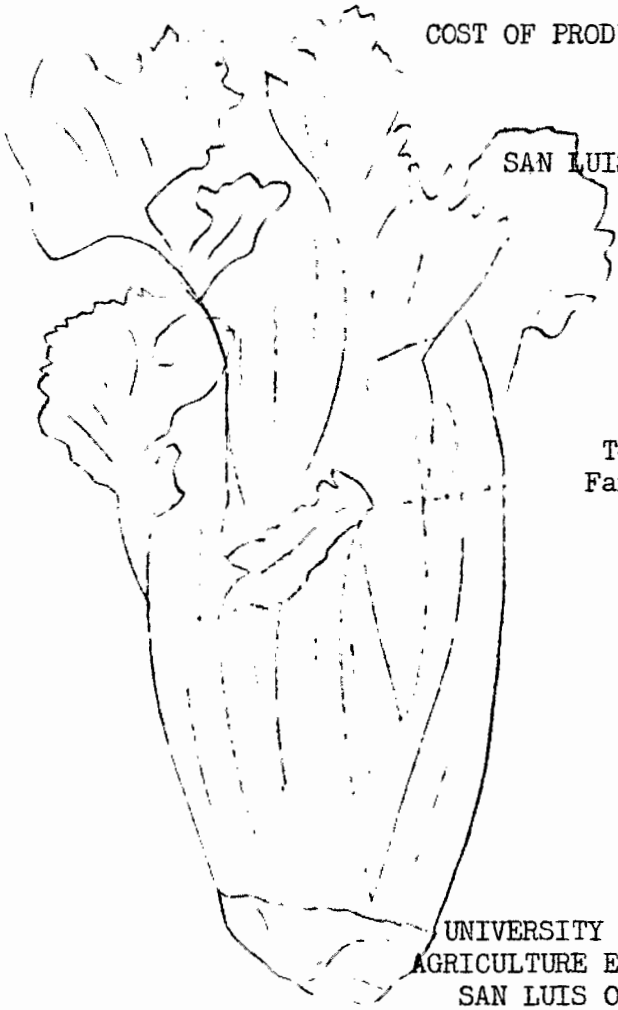
COST OF PRODUCTION STUDY

in

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

By

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INPUTS AND COSTS FOR SPRING CELERY PRODUCTION IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
WITH A YIELD OF 800 CRATES PER ACRE 1952

	Hours per Acre			Cost per acre	Cost per crate
	Man labor	Tractor	Truck		
Land preparation, Plow, Disk, Level	6	(T) 6		18.90	
Mark furrows and Smooth furrows	2	(W) 2		3.90	
Plant, including supervision etc. (figured on contract basis)	36		.3	45.30	
Irrigation, 1 pre-planting, 1 planting, 10 crop irrigations	36			30.60	
Fertilizing, 3 times	2	(W) 1.5	.5	3.90	
Crop cultivation, 8 times	6	(W) 6		11.70	
Hoe and weed twice	50			42.50	
Dust and spray, 6 times	3	(W) 3		5.85	
Total labor up to harvest	141			162.65	
Cut for harvest	1	(W) 1		1.95	
Trim and load (usually contract)	56			56.00	
Hauling wagons from field	3	(T) 3		8.85	
Hauling wagons to packing house	8		8	22.80	
Total harvest - field to packing house	68			89.60	
Plants, 30,000 @ \$10. per thousand				300.00	
Irrigation water, power to pump 36 acre inches @ 2.15 per acre ft.				6.45	
Fertilizer, 2500 pounds - dry commercial at \$80 (average)				100.00	
Ammonia in irrigation water 70 pounds per acre at 11.5¢ a pound				8.05	
Pest and disease control, 300 pounds @ \$13. per 100 pounds				39.00	
Total material costs				453.50	
General expense 5% above - office, phone, car, etc.				30.29	
Repairs to equipment other than tractors and trucks				2.00	
Compensation insurance on labor				4.00	
Rent - $\frac{1}{2}$ year at \$85 per acre per year				42.50	
Total cash overhead				78.79	
TOTAL CASH COSTS				784.54	
Depreciation on operators equipment other than tractors and trucks				2.40	
Interest on investment other than tractors and trucks				.60	
Total cost of production to packing house				787.54	
Packing crate and selling cost - packing house charge				960.00	
GRAND TOTAL ALL COSTS READY FOR MARKET				1747.54	2.18

(W) - wheel tractor

(T) - tracklayer tractor

PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ARTHUR SHULTIS - UNIV. of CALIF. AGRI. EXTENSION SPECIALIST, FARM MANAGEMENT

This is a study of the costs of various celery growers (both large and small) in the production of a spring grown celery crop.

The sample set of labor and materials are shown in detail so you may refigure your costs for any particular farming using the same methods. The costs are figured at the following rates per hour:

Man labor 85¢, 40-dbhp diesel track-layer tractor \$2.10, 20 dbhp wheel tractor \$1.10, and truck \$2.00.

In place of rent an owner would have county taxes on the land at about \$8.00 per acre, interest on investment in land at \$800 @ 5% or \$40.00 and interest and depreciation on the irrigation system of about \$4.50 per acre. Annual ownership cost would total \$52.50. With half chargeable to this one celery crop the owner's land overhead would be \$26.25 in place of the \$42.50 rent above.

Plants are figured at \$10 per thousand for hot house grown plants. Later in the season field grown plants cost from \$4 to \$6.50 per thousand and the costs should be adjusted to the source. A fall crop would use the cheaper locally grown plants and have about two more dustings so a fall crop can be figured from the above.