

WATERMELON PRODUCTION

Cost Analysis Work Sheet

Sample costs to produce watermelons in Fresno County on rented land - 1962. Based on a yield of 12 tons per acre. Man labor @ \$1.25 per hour and tractor operator \$1.40. 40 h.p. tracklayer cash costs \$1.98 per hour, depreciation \$1.24, interest 61¢. 30 h.p. wheel tractor cash costs \$1.07, depreciation 48¢, interest 22¢.

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>
<u>PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS</u>				
Plow, subsoil, disc 2 x, harrow 2 x 4 hrs. man & tracklayer	13.52			
Planting (machine) 3 men & wheel tractor ½ hr. per acre	2.49			
Seed 3 lbs. @ \$1.50 + 25¢ lb. sprouting	5.25			
Hoe, thin, weed and replant - 8 man hrs.	10.00			
Cultivations: 4 x @ ½ hr. per acre man & wheel tractor	4.94			
Fertilize: materials - 400 lbs. 16-20-0 application ½ hr. man & wheel tractor	17.20		1.24	
Ditch for irrigation - .3 hr. man & tracklayer	1.01			
Irrigate: 12 x - 12 man hrs. + 2 hrs. to build retaining dams	17.50			
Water: power for 2½ ac. ft. @ \$2.50	6.25			
Turning runners: 4 x - 2 man hrs.	2.50			
Dusting 1 x hand, 1 man hr. 2 x plane - 70 lbs. @ 5¢	4.75			
Dust - 90 lbs. @ 13¢	11.70			
Culling out - 2 man hrs.	2.50			
Misc. 2 man hrs., 1 tractor hr., \$1.00 materials	4.72			
County taxes on equipment only	.95			
Office, car, operating capital, etc.	5.00			
Repairs to equipment except tractor	1.50			
Rent - cash @ \$40	40.00			
Total Pre-harvest Cash and Labor Costs	153.02	12.75		
<u>HARVESTING COSTS</u>				
Picking - contract @ \$2.50 per ton	30.00			
Pitching - \$2.50, haul out \$1.50, loading \$1.50/ton	66.00			
Misc. straw, etc. + equipment use @ \$1.00/ton	12.00			
Total Harvesting Costs	108.00	9.00		
TOTAL CASH AND LABOR COSTS	261.02	21.75		
<u>DEPRECIATION</u>				
Tractors: 4.3 hrs. @ \$1.24; 4 hrs. @ 48¢	7.25			
Equipment: cost \$28.00, 10 yr. life	2.80			
Total Depreciation	10.05	.84		
<u>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 6%</u>				
Tractors: 4.3 hrs. @ 61¢ & 4 hrs. @ 22¢	3.50			
Equipment, on ½ cost \$14.00	.84			
Total Interest Costs	4.34	0.36		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	275.41	22.95		

Sample Costs Per Ton at Varying Yields

Yield - Tons Per Acre	10	12	14	16	18	20
Cash Costs Per Ton	24.30	21.75	19.93	18.56	17.50	16.65
Total Costs of Production Per Ton	25.74	22.95	20.96	19.46	18.30	17.37

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COST OF GROWING WATERMELONS

Cost of production will vary from one farm to another depending upon the many factors involved. Costs will also vary depending upon whether the crop is produced on owned or rented land.

For cultural practices for growing watermelons see "Growing Watermelons in Fresno County" available at the Farm and Home Advisor's Office, 1720 South Maple Avenue, Fresno.

March 21, 1962

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Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, University of California and County of Fresno Co-operating.