

SAMPLE COSTS
TO PRODUCE
SUGAR BEETS
IN THE LOWER
SACRAMENTO VALLEY
1974

Prepared by:

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE SUGAR BEETS
Lower Sacramento Valley - 1974

Based on 200 acres of sugar beets on a 1,000 acre ranch. Yield: 25 tons per acre, 5-17% sugar. Labor rates including fringe benefits \$3.50 and \$2.60 per hour.

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and labor cost per acre			Total
		Labor	Fuel & repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity Cost	
dollars					
<u>Cultural Costs</u>					
Disc 3X	.6	2.10	4.20		6.30
Landplane 2X	.3	1.05	2.05		3.10
Subsoil 2X	1.0	3.50	8.00		11.50
Land cultivator	.2	.90	1.65		2.55
Harrow & roll 2X	.3	1.05	1.05		2.10
List & fertilize	.2	.90	1.70	150# N @ \$.20	30.00
Plant, herbicide, fertilize	.4	1.40	2.90	Seed	6.00
				Herbicide	9.80
				4-10-10 30 gal.	23.55
Cut & fill ditches 3X	.2	.70	.70		1.40
Irrigate 9X	7.2	18.70		Water 4 ac. ft. @	
				\$2.50	10.00
Cultivate 2X	.5	1.75	2.20		3.95
Insect control 3X				Materials	17.00
				Plane	6.00
				Herbicide	4.00
Lay by herbicide	.3	1.05	.95		6.00
Thin & pull weeds contract		25.00			25.00
Misc. labor	1.5	5.25	3.25		8.50
Crop loan interest					7.60
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		63.35	28.65		113.95
<u>Harvest Costs</u>					
Top & dig				Contract @ \$1.55	38.75
Haul (20 mi.)				Contract @ \$1.00/ton	
				plus \$.04 mile	45.00
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS					83.75
<u>Cash Overhead</u>					
Misc., office, ets.					18.30
Taxes on equipment					1.55
Rent				20% of 25 tons @ \$35	175.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					194.85
TOTAL CASH COST		63.35	28.65		392.55
Management 5% of 25 tons @ \$35.00					43.75
<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>			
Equipment	\$155	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest 8%</u>		
Total		\$15.50	\$6.20		21.70
TOTAL COST PER ACRE					550.00
Cost per ton @ 25 ton yield					22.00

COST OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield - tons	15	20	25	30	35
Production cost per ton	\$33.72	\$24.48	\$22.00	\$20.35	\$19.17

SUGAR BEET CULTURAL BRIEFS

Soil Requirements: Good drainage and well leveled for good water distribution is more important than soil texture.

Planting Dates: February to June

Harvest Dates: Sugar beets require at least 5 months of good growing weather to produce a profitable crop. Fall harvest extends from August until stopped by wet weather which may be November or December. Spring harvest March to June.

Varieties: Arranged through your sugar processor.

Seeding Rate: 8-12 seeds per foot of row--2.0 to 5.0 pounds per acre.

Fertilizer: 0-240 pounds nitrogen. 50-100 lbs. P₂O₅ when required.

Irrigation: Never let the crop wilt or suffer from shortage of water. 3-5 acre feet required.

Rotations: Grown in rotation with a wide variety of field crops. Should have several years between beet crops.

Weed Control: Water grass and morning glory may need control measures. Herbicide used in most fields at planting or post emergence depending on date of planting. See your Farm Advisor for recommended materials and application rates.

Insect Control: Beet army worm, nematodes, aphids, and leafhoppers are major pests which may require control.

Diseases: Beet yellows, beet mosaic, root rot, powdery mildew, and leaf spot are possible diseases.

Marketing: Contracts with processors are required.

Normal Yields: 20-30 tons, sugar content 14-16%.

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