

Sample costs to produce Green Beans in Fresno County are based on 650 boxes per acre. Each box weighs 30 lbs. Field labor is \$5.50 per hour cost to the grower reflecting 7.65% social security, 3.4% unemployment insurance and 11.3% workmen's compensation. The grower has invested in various specialized pieces of equipment to lay mulch, build tunnels and fumigate. Green beans in this case are planted 3' apart between rows and 4" apart in the row. This is one crop in an 80-acre farm where raisin grapes and other vegetables are produced.

<b><u>PRE HARVEST COSTS</u></b>	<b>Per Acre</b>	<b>Per Box</b>
Land Preparation		
(3 hrs. labor + tractor & implements)	\$50.25	
Laser Leveling & Custom	\$75.00	
Drip Tape	\$162.00	
Fertilization		
Preplant	\$68.60	
Application		
(1.5 hr. labor + .5 hrs. tractor)	\$23.00	
Seeds		
(40 lbs. at \$6.30 lb.)	\$252.00	
Planting		
(6 hrs. labor + 1.5 hr. tractor & planter)	\$42.00	
Irrigating		
(12 hrs. labor)	\$66.00	
PG & E		
(\$ 50.00/month x 3 months)	\$150.00	
Pest Control		
Material	\$50.00	
(2 hrs. labor + tractor)	\$23.00	
Cultivation		
(16 hrs. labor)	\$88.00	
Plant Removal		
Shredder Rental	\$11.25	
(1 tractor + labor)	\$11.50	
Rent	\$150.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$100.00	
Office Expenses @ 6% preharvest costs	\$79.35	
<b><u>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</u></b>	<b>\$1,401.95</b>	<b>\$2.16</b>
<b><u>HARVEST COSTS</u></b>		
Picking	\$1,000.00	\$1.54
Boxes	\$344.00	\$.53
Packing	\$200.00	\$.31
Transportation	\$160.00	\$.25
Cold Storage	\$80.00	\$.12
<b><u>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</u></b>	<b>\$1,784.00</b>	<b>\$2.74</b>
<b><u>TOTAL CASH COSTS</u></b>	<b>\$3,185.95</b>	<b>\$4.90</b>

<b><u>DEPRECIATION</u></b>	<b>Per Acre</b>	<b>Per Box</b>
Tractor 75 hp	\$43.00	
Kubota Tractor	\$50.00	
Tunnel Machine	\$35.00	
Equipment - wire hoops	\$41.00	
Shed (other)	\$3.00	
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$242.00</b>	<b>\$.37</b>

  

<b><u>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 8%</u></b>		
1/2 cost of \$30,000 for 80 acres	\$15.00	
Tractor & tunnel equipment & other wire	\$54.00	
Shed	\$2.00	
Drip Irrigation (filters, mains, etc.)	\$28.00	
<b>TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$99.00</b>	<b>\$.15</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>\$3,526.95</b>	<b>\$5.43</b>

**COST OF VARYING YIELDS**  
**30 lbs. Boxes/Acre**

Cost	400	600	800	1000	1200
Cash Costs	\$7.96	\$5.31	\$3.98	\$3.19	\$2.65
Total Cost of Production	\$8.82	\$5.88	\$4.41	\$3.53	\$2.94

**Note:** These costs were arrived at through a careful review of the activities a successful grower takes to produce Green Beans using tunnels and drip irrigation. The distance between beds and plants upon which this cost study is based are not universal, but rather reflect grower likes and farm equipment availability to perform fumigation and cultivation. The minimum distance between beds when using tunnels is 5 feet.

Likewise, all activities listed herein can only be judged as approximations, since no two growers are alike in the way they farm. However, the costs should be fairly close to these, should the same circumstances apply. Take into account when computing your expenses, that all labor has been charged against the cost of production, whether it was paid or not or came from family members. If you and your family provide the labor, then your cash expenses will be for inputs such as fertilizers, plastics, fuel, etc., and will therefore, reflect a much reduced level of expenditure on a per acre basis. However, take into account that to maximize production, weeds, diseases and other variables that may reduce yields, need to be controlled. This grower's cost of production reflects the activities he has followed for years to produce consistently high yields.