

SAMPLE COST OF PRODUCTION

CROP: ESTABLISH ALFALFA HAY (1st year)

<u>CULTURAL FUEL/COSTS</u>	<u>COST/A</u>	<u>LABOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION</u>	<u>YOUR COST/A</u>
Disc 2x	1.08	1.66		_____
Plow	1.00	1.25		_____
Disc 1x	0.54	0.83		_____
Level Plane 2x	0.50	1.00		_____
Herbicide inc./Float ringroll	1.08	1.66		_____
Shape borders	0.30	1.00		_____
Harrow/Ringroll	0.70	1.00		_____
Float/Ringroll 2x	1.62	2.49		_____
Plant/air				_____
Ringroll	<u>0.54</u>	<u>0.83</u>		_____
TOTAL:	7.36	11.72*		_____

IRRIGATION

Sprinkler up 3x	13.12	23.04		_____
Pumping (elect,diesel)				_____
Reclamation	<u>15.00</u>			_____
TOTAL:	28.12	23.04		_____

PESTICIDE/FERTILIZER

Balan (herbicide)	16.67			_____
P205 150# 0-25-0	13.65		5.50	_____
Seed 125 #	<u>56.25</u>		<u>5.50</u>	_____
TOTAL:	86.57		11.00	_____

LABOR

Cultural	11.72			_____
Irrigation	23.04			_____
Employee Benefits (30%)	11.09			_____
Overtime	<u>2.21</u>			_____
TOTAL:	48.06			_____

TOTAL STAND ESTABLISHMENT COST: \$181.11
Amortized/ 5 years = \$ 36.22/yr.

*included in labor budget

SAMPLE COST TO PRODUCE ESTABLISHED ALFALFA (yrs 2-5)

Stand Estab. Cost
 Amortized over 5 yrs. = \$36.22

CROP..... ALFALFA	GROSS INCOME PER ACRE.....	\$560.00
YIELD/ACRE IN TONS... 7	TOTAL CASH COST/ACRE.....	\$588.62
MARKET VALUE/TON..... \$80.00	NET LOSS/ACRE.....	\$-28.62

<u>IRRIGATION</u>	<u>COST/A</u>	<u>APPLICATION</u>	<u>YOUR COST/A</u>
Irrigation 5x (diesel, elect)	21.87		_____
Ditch Maint.	2.50		_____
Reclamation	<u>15.00</u>		_____
TOTAL:	39.37		_____

PESTICIDES/FERTILIZER

Furadan 1 pt	7.56	5.50	_____
Treflan 10g 20#	20.00	5.50	_____
Velpar	<u>20.14</u>	<u>5.50</u>	_____
TOTAL:	47.70	16.50	_____

HARVEST

Custom (\$24/t)@ 7t	168.00		_____
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LABOR

Shop mechanic	10.00		_____
Irrigation	<u>38.40</u>		_____
TOTAL:	48.40		_____

CASH OVERHEADCOST/AYOUR
COST/A

Share Rent (15%) 7 ton @ \$80	84.00	
Management Sal/Benefits	21.73	_____
Repairs Maint.	54.25	_____
Employee Benefits (30%)	14.52	_____
Insurance	5.00	_____
Office Mgmt. exp.	10.86	_____
sects., accountant, etc.		_____
Taxes equip.	<u>2.57</u>	_____

TOTAL: 192.93

DEBT SERVICE

Interest loan at 15%	35.00	
Interest equip.	<u>4.50</u>	_____

TOTAL: 39.50

GROSS INCOME:

\$80.00 x 7 ton/A: 560.00

TOTAL CASH COSTS: 588.62

NET LOSS: - 28.62

NON-CASH COSTS:

Interest on buildings	10.67	
Building depreciation	4.44	
Equipment depreciation	<u>37.50</u>	

TOTAL: 52.61

SOIL REQUIREMENTS - Deep, well-drained soils. Avoid hardpans and claypans or soils with a high or fluctuating water table. (Some success has been observed on marginal silts where alfalfa is planted on raised 60 inch beds.)

PLANTING DATES - Fall planting in September to early October is preferred. Spring plantings between February and April will produce good stands; however, weed control can be more difficult and expensive.

HARVEST DATES - 6-7 cuttings per season. First cutting is usually in April. Cut at 1/10 bloom or when crown regrowth is 12 inches tall.

VARIETIES - Semi-dormant varieties have been the best producers in this region. Public and private varieties resistant to the spotted alfalfa aphid and tolerance to the pea aphid, leaf spot, downy mildew and phytophthora root rot are suggested. On heavy, poorly drained soils phytophthora root rot becomes very important.

SEEDING RATES - On good seedbeds 20 to 25 lbs/ac broadcast and ringrolled. 15 to 20 lbs/ac drilled. Inoculate seed before planting, or plant pelleted, inoculated seeds.

FERTILIZER - Starter fertilizer at planting time providing 10 to 20 lbs N, 30 to 35 lbs P and 30 to 35 lbs. K/acre. Soil and tissue analysis can be used to determine fertilizer needs of established stands and soil tests can be used to determine preplant fertilizer needs.

IRRIGATION - One to two irrigations per cutting depending on soil type.

ROTATION - Usually in rotation with row crops. Three to four years alfalfa then 4 to 6 years of annual crops.

YIELDS - Six to nine tons per acre; average 7 tons/ac/y for a four year stand life.

INSECT PROBLEMS - Alfalfa weevil (Feb.-Mar.), armyworm, alfalfa caterpillar, pea aphid, root knot nematodes. Spotted alfalfa aphid on non-resistant varieties.

DISEASE PROBLEMS - Phytophthora root rot, mildew, and leaf spot.

WEED PROBLEMS - Grasses and some broadleaf weeds. Common groundsel and fiddleneck are poisonous to livestock and should be controlled. 2,4-DB, for post-emergence broadleaf weeds. IPC, Kerb post-emergence for seedling stands and grassey weeds. Sencor, Karmex, + weed oil for established stands, both broadleaf and grassey weeds. Treflan 10g, 20 lbs/A, should be applied in January for control of yellow and green foxtail. See your local PCA or UC Farm Advisor for current or other recommendations.