

# SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

From Your Farm and Home Advisors' Office

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PLACER COUNTY

## IRRIGATED PASTURE

Irrigated pasture is grown in the foothills and valley area of western Placer County. Over 22,000 acres of irrigated pasture were grown in 1966.

SOILS: Irrigated pasture is grown on almost all of the soil series in the valley and foothills, and it is one of the few irrigated crops that can be grown on the shallower soils in the area.

VARIETIES: The most widely adapted varieties are Ladino clover, Salina Strawberry clover, Broadleaf Birdsfoot trefoil, Narrowleaf Birdsfoot trefoil, orchard grass, perennial ryegrass and Alta Fescue.

PLANTING: Most plantings are made in September, October and November. Successful plantings are also made in April and May.

WATER: Irrigated pasture requires 3 to 4 acre feet of water per acre during the season. The irrigation water is applied 13 to 20 times during the growing season in the area. Three acre inches of water applied every 7 to 10 days is a good rule of thumb.

FERTILIZATION: 80 lbs.  $P_2O_5$ /Acre (35 P/acre) is recommended as an annual application of phosphorous. Sulfur is necessary to obtain maximum production and a material such as single super phosphate containing phosphorous and sulfur should be used. Nitrogen fertilization increases grass production in irrigated pastures but sustained nitrogen fertilization will reduce the amount of legumes in the pasture composition.

HARVESTING: Most irrigated pasture is grazed from April or May to October. During the spring many growers have ample feed and a portion of the irrigated pasture acreage is cut for hay.

This Sample Cost of Production is based on 80 acres of irrigated pasture producing 12 AUM of feed per season with 20 acres cut for hay in the spring.

Labor is figured at \$1.90 per hour including Social Security and Workman's Compensation.

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE IRRIGATED PASTURE  
Western Placer County 1967

Production Data: 12 AUM Production  
80 acres flood irrigated pasture

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Cash and labor cost per acre		
				Kind and Quantity	Materials Cost	Total
<b>Cultural costs</b>						
Irrigate 18X	9.0	17.10	-	Water 4 ac. ft. @ 4.50 plus 2.50 per acre water tax	18.00	35.10
Ditch Maintenance	0.1	0.20	0.55	Herbicides	0.50	1.25
Clipping	0.5	0.95	0.55			1.50
Fertilize				contract application 400 lbs. 0-20-0	9.40	9.40
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS:</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>18.25</b>	<b>1.10</b>		<b>27.90</b>	<b>49.75</b>

<b>Harvest costs</b>						
Mow & Rake (contract)				½ acreage @ 3.50		0.87
Bale (contract)				1½ ton/acre @ 4.50 per ton		1.50
Haul (contract)				20 bales @ 0.10 per bale		.68
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS:</b>						<b>3.05</b>

<b>Cash overhead</b>						
Misc., office, etc.						2.63
Taxes				\$300 ÷ 4 = 75.00 assess value X 7.00 tax rate		5.25
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD:</b>						<b>7.88</b>

**TOTAL CASH COST:** 60.68

**MANAGEMENT COST:** 3.00

INVESTMENT	Per Acre	Annual Cost	
		Depreciation	Interest
Land	150.00	-	9.00
Land Leveling	100.00	-	6.00
Irrigation system	100.00	5.00	3.00
Fences	25.00	1.00	0.75
Equipment	40.00	4.00	1.20
Stand establishment	28.00	4.00	0.83
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>443.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>20.78</b>

**TOTAL COST PER ACRE** 98.46  
**Cost per AUM** @12 AUM yield \$8.20 per AUM

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