

**ESTIMATED COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA HAY IN
MODOC COUNTY - 1986**

OPERATION-----	HRS/ACRE----	CASH & LABOR COST/ACRE---	TOTAL--	% OF YOUR TOTAL-COST
Cultural Costs:				
Irrigate - 10 times	4.5	Power = \$47.60 ¹ + Labor ²	\$ 64.03	13.2
Fertilize		500 lbs/AC gypsum-\$35/ton ³	8.75	1.8
Weed Control		Velpar ⁴ @ 1½ qts/acre	28.83	5.9
Rodent Control		Ground Squirrel bait applied	4.50	0.9
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS			\$106.11	21.8
Harvest Costs: (Owner/operator costs/hour)^{5/5}				
Swath - 3 times	0.8	\$ 52.59	\$ 41.83	8.6
Rake - 3 times	0.6	5.00	3.00	0.6
Bale - 3 times	0.9	74.55	67.09	13.8
Haul - 3 times	0.5	49.68	24.84	5.1
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS			\$136.76	28.1
Miscellaneous Cash Costs:				
Interest on Operation Capital - \$242.87 @ 12% for 6 months			\$ 14.57	3.0
Miscellaneous Overhead			25.00	5.1
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CASH COSTS			\$ 39.57	8.1
TOTAL CASH COSTS PER ACRE			\$282.44	58.0
Investment Costs:				
Land and improvements (per acre per year) ⁶			\$203.97	42.0
Principle and Interest for 20 years included in amount				
TOTAL NON-CASH COSTS			\$203.97	
TOTAL COST PER ACRE			\$486.41	100.0
COST PER TON @ 5-TON YIELD			\$ 97.28	
COST PER TON @ 6-TON YIELD			\$ 81.07	

¹REA Power & PP&L rates should be in the \$50-\$70/acre range in 1986.

²\$3.65/hour wage rate

³Price per ton applied

⁴Owning and operating costs are based on current farm machinery costs and assume a 5-year depreciation and 1,000 to 1,500 hours of use.

⁵Custom harvest rates for 1986 will range from \$25 to \$30 per ton.

⁶These estimates are based on actual cost data provided by growers and agribusinessmen in Modoc County.

Don Lancaster, Farm Advisor
May, 1986