

PRODUCTION FACTS

SWEET CORN

Sweet corn is a major vegetable crop in Contra Costa County although in acreage and dollars value it falls behind lettuce, asparagus, and tomatoes. During the ten-year period for 1962 through 1971 the average acreage was 837 with an average annual gross return of \$384,400.

The sweet corn in Contra Costa County is an early summer crop being planted from late March through June. The earlier plantings are necessary if a lettuce crop is to follow as is often the case.

Cultural Operations

The cultural operations involved in the production of sweet corn include: land preparation, planting and fertilization, thinning, side-dress fertilization, pest control and irrigation. Land preparation includes: plowing, discing, floating, fertilizing, and pre-irrigation.

Almost all cultural operations are mechanized. Much hand thinning has been eliminated because most sweet corn growers are now planting to a stand.

Pest control may be accomplished by use of ground equipment but is not favored in Contra Costa County. Individual ear treatment is used on much of the acreage, with good control of the ever-present corn ear worm.

A large part of the crop is machine harvested. The sample costs that are presented here reflect this fact.

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE SWEET CORN IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, 1972

YIELD: 250 Crates/Acre

	Man Labor Per Acre		Cash Costs Per Acre		Total per Acre
	Hours	Cost	Equip-ment	Materials and Other Costs	
PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS					
Land Preparation					
Subsoil - 1X	.75	1.88	2.48		4.36
Plow - 1 X	.50	1.25	2.03		3.28
Disk - 3 X	1.00	2.50	4.00		6.50
Landplane - 1 X	.25	.63	.99		1.62
List	.40	1.00	.90		1.90
Pre-irrigate - 1 X	1.50	3.00		3" @ 8.00 = 2.00	5.00
Cultivate - 2 X	.60	1.50	1.14		2.64
Plant & Fertilize	.50	1.25	1.25	Seed 15# @ .60¢ lb. = 9.00 400# 10-10-5=10.00	21.50
Cultivate - 3 X	.90	2.25	1.71		3.96
Thin & Weed	10.00	20.00			20.00
Furrow & Fertilize	.75	1.88	1.69	100# N. 7¢ = 7.00	10.57
Irrigate 6 X Add Fert. 1 X	10.00	20.00		27" @ 8.00/ A. Ft.=18.00	38.00
Insect Control - 4.0 X	Contract	40.00		50# N. @ 7¢ = 3.50 130 lbx. @ 11¢ =14.30	3.50
Disk Residue - 2 X	.6	1.50	2.40		54.30
					3.90
PRE-HARVEST COSTS	27.75	98.64	18.59	63.80	181.03
HARVESTING:					
Picking (Machine)	1.0	2.50	6.58		9.08
Hauling to Shed	1.5	3.75	3.00 (2-Ton Truck)		6.75
Grading, Packing, Selling (Contract \$1.25 F.O.B. packing house per crate)				312.50	312.50
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS	2.5	6.25	9.58	312.50	328.33
TOTAL CULTURAL & HARVEST COSTS					509.36
Cash Overhead (Office, Insurance, Interest on operating money, Etc.)					
County Taxes on Equipment					30.56
Cash Rent 125 x 75% Double Crop					2.00
Total Cash Overhead					93.75
TOTAL CASH COSTS					126.31
					635.67
		<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
		<u>Per Acre</u>		<u>(7%)</u>	
500 A Basis					
Buildings		125.00			
Irrigation Facilities			6.25	4.38	
Tractors & Other Equipment		125.00	12.50	4.38	
Sweet Corn Picker		53.00	10.60	1.86	
TOTAL		303.00	29.35	10.62	
Total Depreciation					29.35
Total Interest on Investment					10.62
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION PER ACRE					675.64
TOTAL COST PER CRATE on a 250 crate/A Basis					2.70
LABOR -- Skilled - \$2.50 per/hr. (Includes Social Security, Workman's Unskilled - \$2.00 per/hr. Compensation and other fringe benefits)					

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