

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION  
Cost Analysis Worksheet - 1977

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Sample costs to produce Certified Alfalfa Seed on the west side of Fresno County. Based on a yield of 700 pounds of cleaned seed per acre. Man labor \$3.90 per hour total and equipment operator \$4.60. Eighty horsepower-tracklayer per hour cash costs \$7.10, depreciation \$3.22 and interest \$2.40. 80 h.p. wheel tractor \$3.45, \$2.00 and \$1.00.

|   | Sample Costs    |              | My Costs |           |
|---|-----------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
|   | Per Acre        | Per Pound    | Per Acre | Per Pound |
| <b>Pre-Harvest Cash Costs:</b>  |                 |              |          |           |
| Field clean up and straw disposal. Combine wind rows 1/8 hr. per acre man & wheel tractor - total | \$ 6.30         |              |          |           |
| Chisel 1X: 1/3 hr. per acre man & tracklayer  | 3.90            |              |          |           |
| Irrigate: Fall & winter irrigations 1 1/4 ac. ft.   | 17.50           |              |          |           |
| Spring irrigation 3/4 ac. ft.   | 10.50           |              |          |           |
| 2 summer irrigations 1 ac. ft. (water cost \$14.00)   | 14.00           |              |          |           |
| labor: 11 hrs. total  | 42.90           |              |          |           |
| Disc or harrow: Fall 2X; spring 1X, 1/2 hr. man & tracklayer                                      | 5.85            |              |          |           |
| Furrow out and cultivate 1/2 hr. man & wheel tractor  | 4.03            |              |          |           |
| Cultivate 2X: 1/2 hr. man & wheel tractor   | 4.03            |              |          |           |
| Chemical weed control; custom (including dodder)  | 18.00           |              |          |           |
| Clip back: flail chopper 1/2 hr. per acre man & wheel tractor                                     | 4.03            |              |          |           |
| Miscellaneous tractor work: 1/2 hr. man & tracklayer  | 5.85            |              |          |           |
| Insect control: materials applications 4X @ \$3.00  | 60.00           |              |          |           |
| Bee rental: 3 strong colonies at \$12.00  | 12.00           |              |          |           |
| Desiccate: 2X (material & application)  | 36.00           |              |          |           |
| Taxes: estimate   | 18.60           |              |          |           |
| Repairs to equipment except tractors  | 17.50           |              |          |           |
| Office and business expense   | 15.00           |              |          |           |
|   | 22.50           |              |          |           |
| <b>TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS</b>   | <b>\$318.49</b> | <b>45.5¢</b> |          |           |
| <b>Harvesting and Processing Costs:</b>   |                 |              |          |           |
| Harvest and haul: 700 lbs. clean seed at 3¢ with \$25.00 ac. minimum                              | \$ 25.00        |              |          |           |
| Cleaning and bagging: \$3.00 cwt. field run; 875 lbs. at \$3.00                                   | 26.25           |              |          |           |
| Rerun or "Magnetics": (ave. 40% of clean crop seed total) 280 lbs. at \$2.00 cwt.                 | 5.60            |              |          |           |
| Bags: 75¢ cwt. clean seed   | 5.25            |              |          |           |
| Fees: Certification Fee and Certified Seed Council, 30¢ cwt. clean seed, Research 20¢ cwt.        | 3.50            |              |          |           |
| Field inspection: 25¢ per acre  | .25             |              |          |           |
| <b>TOTAL HARVESTING AND PROCESSING COSTS</b>  | <b>\$ 65.85</b> | <b>9.4¢</b>  |          |           |
| <b>TOTAL CASH COSTS</b>   | <b>\$384.34</b> | <b>54.9¢</b> |          |           |

| ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION                                   | Sample Costs    |           | My Costs |           |
|---|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|   | Per Acre        | Per Pound | Per Acre | Per Pound |
| <b>Establish Stand</b>                                    |                 |           |          |           |
| Deep plow or chisel                                       | \$ 11.70        |           |          |           |
| Disc 3X   | 11.70           |           |          |           |
| Land plane 2X   | 5.85            |           |          |           |
| Float 1X  | 2.93            |           |          |           |
| List beds   | 3.90            |           |          |           |
| Cultipak  | 2.00            |           |          |           |
| Plant   | 3.98            |           |          |           |
| Seed: 3/4 lb. @ \$2.50                                    | 1.88            |           |          |           |
| Irrigate: Water   | 14.00           |           |          |           |
| Labor   | 7.80            |           |          |           |
| Weeding; and herbicide                                    | 25.00           |           |          |           |
| Miscellaneous overhead,<br>depreciation and interest      | 16.00           |           |          |           |
| Business costs  | 6.22            |           |          |           |
| Repairs   | 7.00            |           |          |           |
| Total   | <u>\$119.96</u> |           |          |           |
| Stand depreciation; 3 yr. life                            |                 | \$ 40.00  |          |           |
| Irrigation Equipment                                      |                 |           |          |           |
| \$250 cost, 10 years                                      |                 | 25.00     |          |           |
| Tractors: Crawler: 2.05 hrs. at \$3.22                    |                 | 6.60      |          |           |
| Wheel: 4 hrs. at \$2.00                                   |                 | 8.00      |          |           |
| Other equipment: \$100 cost, 10 yrs, 50% for seed alfalfa |                 | 5.00      |          |           |
| TOTAL DEPRECIATION  |                 | \$ 84.60  | 12.1¢    |           |
| <b>Interest on Investment at 8%:</b>                      |                 |           |          |           |
| Irrigation system: 1/2 cost \$125                         |                 | \$ 10.00  |          |           |
| Tractors: Crawler: 2.05 hrs. at \$2.40                    |                 | 4.92      |          |           |
| Wheel: 4 hrs. at \$1.00                                   |                 | 4.00      |          |           |
| Other equipment: 1/2 cost \$50                            |                 | 2.00      |          |           |
| Stand: 1/2 cost, \$59.98                                  |                 | 4.80      |          |           |
| Land: \$900   |                 | 72.00     |          |           |
| TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT                              |                 | \$ 97.72  | 14.0¢    |           |
| TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION                                  |                 | \$566.66  | 81.0¢    |           |

#### SAMPLE COSTS AT VARYING YIELDS

| Yield:<br>lbs. Per Acre | 400    | 500    | Average |        |        |        | Exceptional |        |        |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|
|                         |        |        | 600     | 700    | 800    | 900    | 1000        | 1200   | 1400   |
| Cash Costs              |        |        |         |        |        |        |             |        |        |
| Per Acre \$             | 366.94 | 372.74 | 378.54  | 384.34 | 391.64 | 397.94 | 406.74      | 424.34 | 441.94 |
| Per Pound ¢             | 91.7   | 74.5   | 63.1    | 54.9   | 49.0   | 44.2   | 40.7        | 35.4   | 31.6   |
| Total All Costs         |        |        |         |        |        |        |             |        |        |
| Per Acre \$             | 549.26 | 555.06 | 561.86  | 566.66 | 573.96 | 580.26 | 589.06      | 606.66 | 624.26 |
| Per Pound ¢             | 137.0  | 111.0  | 93.6    | 81.0   | 71.7   | 64.5   | 58.9        | 50.6   | 44.6   |