

AF-SV-50

Over 4,000 acres of Ranger and Buffalo alfalfa will be in production in Yolo County in 1950. Because of the interest in these crops on the part of farmers, the results of an input and cost survey are presented for the information of interested growers.

Costs are based upon the use of an International Harvester TD9 or comparable size tractor and suitable equipment for this type of tractor. Motive power and machinery costs include fuel, oil, depreciation, upkeep, taxes, repairs, etc.

INPUTS AND COSTS FOR FIRST YEAR OF STAND (Spring planted in rows)

Cost Per Acre

| Operation                          | Man Labor |        | Motive Power |         | Machinery Cost | Material   |          |          | Cost Irrigated | Cost Dry Land |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|---------|----------------|------------|----------|----------|----------------|---------------|
|                                    | Hours     | Value  | Hours        | Value   |                | Kind       | Amt.     | Value    |                |               |
| Plow                               | .8        | \$ .80 | .8           | \$ 1.88 | \$.24          |            |          | \$ 2.92  | \$ 2.92        |               |
| Disk 2 times                       | .7        | .70    | .7           | 1.65    | .20            |            |          | 2.55     | 2.55           |               |
| Level                              | .1        | 1.00   | 1.0          | 2.35    | .75            |            |          | 4.10     |                |               |
| Check                              | .2        | 2.00   | 1.5          | 3.52    | .20            |            |          | 5.72     |                |               |
| Irrigate                           | 2.5       | 2.50   |              |         |                | Water      | 6 inches | 1.75     | 4.25           |               |
| Harrow 2 times                     | .5        | .70    | .7           | 1.65    | .04            |            |          | 2.39     | 2.39           |               |
| Plant                              | .5        | .50    | .5           | 1.18    | .08            | Seed       | 1 lb.    | 1.00     | 2.76           |               |
| Weed Spray                         | .35       | .35    | .35          | .77     | .08            | Selec.     | 6 qts.   | 4.50     | 5.70           |               |
| Cultivate 2 times                  | .8        | .80    | .8           | 1.88    | .20            |            |          | 2.88     | 2.88           |               |
| Hoe                                | 15.       | 15.00  |              |         |                |            |          | 15.00    | 15.00          |               |
| Irrigation                         | 2.5       | 2.50   |              |         |                | Water      | 6 inches | 1.75     | 4.25           |               |
| Cut, Bale, Remove Hay              | .9        | .90    | .9           | .99     | 4.65           |            |          | 6.54     |                |               |
| Dust                               | .2        | .20    | .2           | .22     | .03            | 5% DDT     | 30 lbs.  | 2.78     | 3.23           |               |
| Harvesting                         | 5.0       | 5.00   | 3.0          | 3.30    | 3.20           |            |          | 11.50    | 11.50          |               |
| Miscellaneous Expenses             |           |        |              |         |                |            |          |          |                |               |
| Taxes                              |           |        |              |         |                |            |          | 3.00     | 3.00           |               |
| Interest and depreciation of stand |           |        |              |         |                |            |          | 2.30     | 2.30           |               |
| Bee - 2 hives                      |           |        |              |         |                |            |          | 4.00     | 4.00           |               |
| Sacks, inspection, cleaning, etc.  |           |        |              |         |                |            |          | 5.30     | 5.30           |               |
|                                    |           |        |              |         |                | TOTAL COST |          | \$ 88.39 | \$ 63.53       |               |

INPUTS AND COST FOR ESTABLISHED STAND

Established Stand (row planting)

| Operation                          | Man Labor |         | Motive Power |        | Machinery Cost | Material  |         |         | Cost Irrigated | Cost Non-irrigated |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|--------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------------|--------------------|
|                                    | Hours     | Value   | Hours        | Value  |                | Kind      | Amt.    | Value   |                |                    |
| Irrigate 2 times                   | 5.0       | \$ 5.00 |              |        |                | Water     | 1 ft.   | \$ 3.50 | \$ 8.50        |                    |
| Weed spray 2 times                 | .7        | .70     | .7           | \$ .77 | \$ .08         | Oil       | 70 gal. | 8.40    | 15.95          | \$15.95            |
|                                    |           |         |              |        |                | Fortifier | 2 qts.  | 6.00    |                |                    |
| Hay Removal                        | .9        | .90     | .9           | .99    | 4.65           |           |         |         | 6.54           | 6.54               |
| Hoe                                | 10.0      | 10.00   |              |        |                |           |         |         | 10.00          | 10.00              |
| Dust                               | .2        | .20     | .2           | .22    | 1.03           | 5% DDT    | 30 lbs. | 2.78    | 3.23           | 3.23               |
| Harvesting                         | 5.0       | 5.00    | 3.0          | 3.30   | 3.20           |           |         |         | 11.50          | 11.50              |
| Miscellaneous                      |           |         |              |        |                |           |         |         |                |                    |
| Taxes                              |           |         |              |        |                |           |         |         | 4.00           | 4.00               |
| Interest and depreciation on stand |           |         |              |        |                |           |         |         | 5.60           | 5.60               |
| Bees - 3 hives                     |           |         |              |        |                |           |         |         | 6.00           | 6.00               |
| Sacks, inspection, cleaning, etc.  |           |         |              |        |                |           |         |         | 5.30           | 5.30               |
| TOTAL COST                         |           |         |              |        |                |           |         |         | \$76.62        | \$ 68.12           |

Estimates indicate a large potential market for Ranger and Buffalo alfalfa seed in the United States. Present plantings fall short of meeting this demand. Climatic conditions in California are especially adapted to the production of this crop. However, changes in crop patterns indicate heavier plantings in California in the next few years. As the supply increases, the prices will necessarily decline. The crop should remain profitable for producers with satisfactory yields and efficient production.

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The costs illustrated above are based on row plantings. However, solid drilled stands when planted under irrigated conditions offer advantages of ease in weed control after the first year and the possibility of hay production if seed prices should fall too low. To obtain maximum production of certified seed, the grower should maintain a weed free field, control injurious insects, provide an adequate supply of pollinators, and plan his operations to produce seed at the optimum time under his local conditions.

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