

# Cooperative Extension

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

420 South Wilson Way  
Stockton, California 95205

### SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH FALL-PLANTED ALFALFA San Joaquin County - 1983

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Man labor @ \$4.00 per hour total and equipment operator @ \$5.20. Tractors: 125 hp crawler; cash costs \$15; 70 hp wheel tractor \$7.00.

Operation	Hours per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost per Acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials		
				Kind and Quantity	Cost	
<b>Cultural costs</b>						
Subsoil, 2x	2.00	\$10.40	\$15.00			\$ 25.40
Disc, 2x	0.30	1.56	4.50			6.06
Land finish, 4x	0.75	3.90	11.25			15.15
Border preparation, custom \$10/A				Custom border	\$10.00	10.00
Harrow checks, 2x	0.20	1.04	1.40			2.44
W.D. roller, 1x	0.10	.52	.70			1.22
Fertilize + preplant herbicide				Materials & appli. 1000# 5-15-10 \$160/T, \$2/A/appli.	\$82.00	82.00
				Herbicide	15.00	15.00
Weed control, post-emergence Plant				Custom applied	17.00	17.00
				25# seed @ \$2.50/lb	62.50	67.50
				+ plant by airplane	5.00	6.00
Cover seed	0.10	.52	.70			1.22
Ditches	0.10	.52	1.50			2.02
Repairs, except tractor			6.00			6.00
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$18.46</b>	<b>\$41.05</b>		<b>\$191.50</b>	<b>\$251.01</b>
<b>Cash overhead</b>						
Misc., office, etc.					\$15.00	\$ 15.00
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>					<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>						<b>\$266.01</b>
<b>Investment</b>						
		<b>Per Acre</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>			
			<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>Interest 12% of 50% Bal.</b>		
Equipment		\$100	\$10.00	\$ 6.00		
Tractors:						
125 hp crawler \$2.15 x \$4 dep/hr			8.60	7.74		
70 WD - \$4.00			.80	.48		
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$19.40</b>	<b>\$14.22</b>		<b>\$ 33.62</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>\$299.63</b>

Source: Mick Canevari and E. A. Yeary: Establishing a Stand of Alfalfa for Hay Production, San Joaquin County, University of California Cooperative Extension, 1983.

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California and County of San Joaquin Cooperating UC Cooperative Extension

**SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALFALFA**  
**San Joaquin County - 1983**

**Yield: 7 ton avg. Labor rates including fringe benefits, \$4.00 and \$5.20 per hour.**

Operation	Hours per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost per Acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
<b>Cultural costs</b>						
Irrigate, 7x (well & pump)	7.0	\$28.00		Water 4.0' @ \$15	\$ 60.00	\$ 88.00
Ditch	0.1	.52	\$1.50			2.02
Insect control, 3x				Contract	45.00	45.00
Fertilizers	0.5			Fall appli. @ 0-20-0	4.50 28.75	33.25
Winter weed control				Contract	30.00	30.00
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COST</b>		<b>\$28.52</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>		<b>\$168.25</b>	<b>\$198.27</b>
<b>Custom harvest costs</b>						
Swath 6x, raking, bale	20.0			Custom \$20/ton @ 7 tons	\$140.00	\$140.00
Bankout, \$4.00/ton				7 tons @ \$4.00	28.00	28.00
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COST</b>					<b>\$168.00</b>	<b>\$168.00</b>
<b>Cash overhead</b>						
Misc., office, etc.					\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Taxes on equipment					1.50	1.50
Rent			(25% of 7 tons @ \$120)		\$210.00	210.00
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>					<b>\$231.50</b>	<b>\$231.50</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>						<b>\$597.71</b>
<b>Management</b>			(5% of 7 tons @ \$120/ton)		<b>\$42.00</b>	
<b>Investment</b>						
	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>			
			<u>Interest 12% on 50% Balance</u>			
Equipment	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$ 6.00			
Crop stand	266.01	66.50	15.96			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$366.01</b>	<b>\$76.50</b>	<b>\$21.96</b>			<b>\$ 98.46</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>\$696.23</b>
<b>COST PER TON @ 7-TON YIELD</b>						<b>\$ 99.46</b>

**TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS**

Yield per Acre (tons)	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cost of production per ton	\$117.65	\$107.04	\$ 99.46	\$ 93.78	\$ 89.36	\$ 85.82

**Source: University of California Cooperative Extension, "Sample Costs to Produce Alfalfa in San Joaquin County - 1983." Mick Canevari, Farm Advisor.**