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WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW IRRIGATED PASTURE IN MADERA COUNTY

Costs of growing any crop will vary considerably on different ranches. The table below contains approximate costs of producing irrigated pasture in Madera County. These costs are not based on conditions for any one ranch. This table is designed as a guide in helping you to determine the cost of producing irrigated pasture on your ranch and in aiding you to appraise and plan your own crop program.

This cost analysis is based on irrigated pasture grown on land of somewhat lower quality than that best adapted for alfalfa and row crops. Much of this land may contain hardpan or alkali. It is also based on a moderate sized acreage with the use of both well and ditch water.

Where conditions vary from those given, you can adjust your cost figures accordingly. On the basis of a 1 1/4 animal unit month per acre production (equivalent to 5.6 tons of alfalfa hay production) this analysis shows a cost of \$6.65 per animal unit month. (This is equivalent to a cost of \$16.63 hay.) This production is considerably higher than usually obtained from bad alkali or hardpan soils or from poorly managed pastures. If the production were only 8 animal unit months, it would cost \$11.64 per A.U.M. (This would be equivalent to \$29.10 hay.) Per acre costs, on the other hand, would vary only slightly with this wide range of production.

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	Per	Per	Per	Per
	Acre	Animal Unit Month(1)	Acre	Animal Unit Month
LABOR COSTS: (2)				
Mow, fertilize, drag, fence work, etc. 3 man hrs. and 2 tractor hrs. for season	\$ 6.15			
Irrigation labor - 5 man hours	6.25			
Total Labor and Field Power Cost	\$12.40	\$.89		
MATERIAL COSTS:				
Irrigation water: 5 acre feet - tax and power	\$16.00			
Fertilizer and miscellaneous - annual average	15.00			
Total Material Cost	\$31.00	\$2.21		
CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:				
General Expense: Office, phone, car, etc.	\$ 2.00			
County Taxes	5.00			
Repairs and miscellaneous overhead	2.00			
Total Cash Overhead Cost	\$ 9.00	\$.64		
TOTAL CASH, LABOR AND FIELD POWER COST	\$52.40	\$3.74		
DEPRECIATION:				
Stand: \$30 net cost - 10 yrs. life	\$ 3.00			
Irrigation Facilities - \$100 cost - 20 yrs life	5.00			
Fences: \$30 cost - 15 yrs. life	2.00			
Other Equipment: \$15 cost - 10 yrs. life	1.50			
Total Depreciation Cost	\$11.50	\$.82		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 6%:				
On stand, irrigation facilities, fences and other equipment at 1/2 original cost \$87.50 @ 6%	\$ 5.25			
On land at \$400 at 6%	24.00			
Total Interest on Investment	\$29.25	\$2.09		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$93.15	\$6.65		

(1) Based on 1 1/4 Animal Unit Months of pasturage.

(2) Man labor at \$1.25 per hour and light tractor at \$1.20 per hour.