

# ALFALFA PRODUCTION IN ANTELOPE VALLEY

## SUPPLY AND DEMAND DETERMINE PRICES -

Little or no change can be expected in the near future in the demand for alfalfa hay. At the same time, it is certain that there will be an increase in acreage of alfalfa because of acreage restrictions in cotton and wheat. This increase in acreage will result in more hay being raised and consequently, will lower prices. How much does supply or demand have to change in order to affect alfalfa hay prices? A recent analysis by Professor Ivan M. Lee of the University of California shows that an increase of 100 thousand tons in the total supply of hay results in a decrease of 47¢ per ton in alfalfa prices.

Livestock numbers, prices received for livestock and livestock products, and pasture conditions are indicators of future demand for alfalfa hay. An increase of one point in the price index of livestock and livestock products is associated with an increase of 12.5¢ per ton in alfalfa prices. An increase of one per cent of normal in average October pasture conditions results in a decrease of 9¢ per ton in alfalfa prices.

By using these indicators of demand and supply as a guide, an alfalfa grower can get an idea what to expect in the immediate future for hay prices. Current quotations of pasture conditions, livestock prices, and hay supplies can be obtained from Federal-State Market News reports, trade papers and your Farm Advisor's office.

## ALTERNATE USES OF ALFALFA -

Each individual grower must analyze his situation to determine whether alternate uses of alfalfa will benefit him. Some of these alternate uses are for seed production, feeding the hay to beef cattle, silage, or chopping alfalfa for green feed. Further details regarding "Feeding Chopped Green Alfalfa to Beef Cattle" are available in another leaflet from this office.

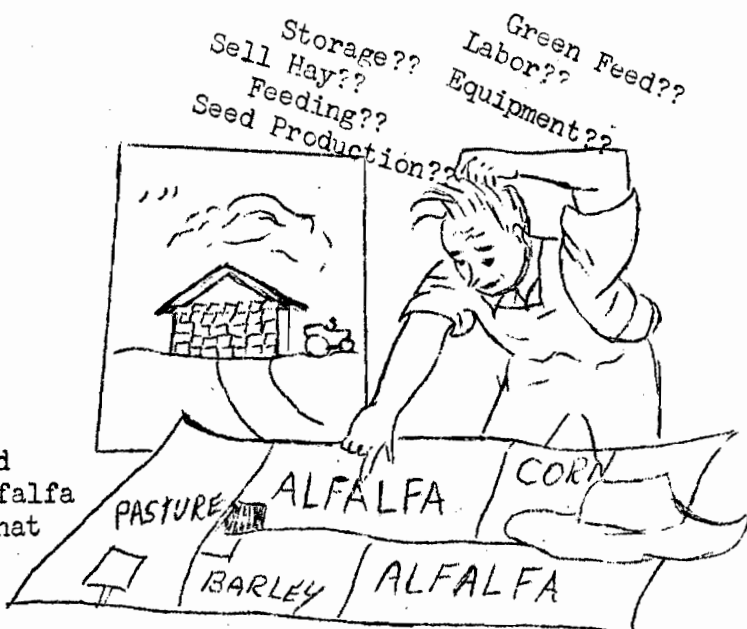
## ALTERNATE CROPS -

There are a number of possible alternate crops to alfalfa that should be considered. Most notable among these alternates are field corn, milo, and irrigated pasture. Details regarding these crops for Antelope Valley are also available from this office.

The figures given on the reverse side of this sheet will serve as a guide in estimating your costs of growing alfalfa hay. If a grower owns his ranch and equipment and does his own labor, the actual cash cost of growing alfalfa will be about \$11.00 per ton. Anything received above that will be income from investment, labor, and management.

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# COST OF GROWING ALFALFA IN ANTELOPE VALLEY --

## COST OF ESTABLISHING A STAND -- PER ACRE (Fall seeding)

Land Preparation - Labor and Field Power	AVERAGE COSTS	YOUR OWN COSTS
Flow or subsoil 1x	\$ 5.00	
Disc 2x	2.50	
Land plane or level 1x	1.00	
Erect borders	.50	
Float or water level	4.00	
Seeding (Drill)	2.50	
Irrigate 4x @ \$1.00	4.00	
Total Labor and Field Power	\$19.50	
<b>Materials</b>		
Irrigation water 12"	4.00	
Seed - 30 # @ 30¢	9.00	
Total Materials	\$13.00	
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	32.50	

## ANNUAL COSTS OF PRODUCTION -- 5 YR. LIFE - 6 TON YIELD PER ACRE

	AVERAGE COSTS	PER TON	YOUR OWN COSTS
<b>Cultural Costs</b>			
Irrigation 16 x, labor	\$16.00		
Borders, pipeline, etc.	2.00		
Water - 6 acre feet per acre	24.00		
Pest control 2x	6.50		
Total Labor and Materials	\$48.50	\$ 8.08	
<b>Harvesting</b>			
Mowing and raking 5x	10.00		
Baling - \$4.25 per ton	25.50		
Hauling and stacking \$1.25 per ton	7.50		
Baling wire	3.60		
	\$46.60	7.77	
<b>Cash Overhead</b>			
Taxes	4.00		
Insurance	1.25		
	\$ 5.25	.87	
<b>Depreciation</b>			
Alfalfa stand -- 5 years	6.50		
Other equipment (well, pipeline, etc.)	6.25		
	\$12.75	2.12	
Interest on Land -- 5% of \$500	\$25.00	4.18	
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b> - - - - -	-\$ 138.10	\$23.02	