

SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR POTATOES
FOR "CHIPPING" WITH A YIELD OF 280 CWT MARKETABLE, 330 CWT GROSS
SALINAS VALLEY, 1961

	Hours per Acre				Cost per Acre	Cost per cwt
	Man Labor	60 hp tractor	30 hp tractor	Truck, Pickup		
Cover crop, portion of cost					\$ 4.00	
Disk twice	0.6	0.6			2.85	
Chisel twice	1.0	1.0			4.75	
Furrow for pre-irrigation	0.3		0.3		.86	
Chisel twice and harrow	1.0	1.0			4.75	
Plant with fertilizer	3.9		1.3	1.3	9.56	
Pre-irrigate, 5 to 6 crop irrig.	12.0			1.0	17.00	
Cultivate 4 times	2.0		2.0		5.70	
Weeding and hoeing	7.0				7.00	
Misc. other cultural work	4.0		.5	1.0	8.55	
Chop tops, hill and roll	1.0		1.0		2.85	
Total pre-harv. labor, fld. pwr.	32.8	2.6	5.1	3.3	67.87	.24
Irrigation water, power to pump 2 acre feet, 125 ft. head					5.00	
Fertilizer, 700 lbs. of 16-20, \$30, 40 lb. N in water, \$4					34.00	
Seed 2500 lbs. including cutting at .55¢ cwt, \$5.50					137.50	
Aldrin, soil treatment contract					10.00	
Insecticides, 5 times @ \$9, contract applied					45.00	
Weed spray for winter weed control before digging, cont.					8.00	
Total material costs					239.50	.86
Total labor and material cost				Tenant	307.37	1.10
General expense, office, car etc., est. @ 5% of above				15.37	15.37	
County taxes, land \$12, Equipment \$1				1.00	13.00	
Repairs not included above in tractor and truck rates				3.00	3.00	
Insurance, compensation, soc. sec., etc.				2.00	2.00	
Rent				75.00	----	
Total cash overhead costs				96.37	33.37	.12
Total cash costs				403.74	340.74	1.22
Investment overhead in eqt. based on 400 crop acres on 300 acres of land	Dollars per Acre					
	*Av. Value	6% Int.	Depreciation			
Building for equipment	3.75	.22	.22	Tenant costs per Acre	Owner-operator costs per A. per cwt	
Irrigation wells, pump, pipeline	67.50	4.05	5.75			
Land	850.00	51.00	-			
Total real estate	921.25	55.27	5.97			
Tillage equipment	10.00	.60	2.00			
Potato planter for 100A. use	10.00	.60	1.00			
Tractors, truck, pickup	40.00	2.40	6.00			
Misc. port. pipe, shop-hand tools	3.00	.18	.60			
Total operating equipment	63.00	3.78	9.60			
Total investment & deprec.	984.25		15.57	9.60	15.57	.05
Total cash costs & deprec.				413.34	356.31	1.27
Interest on investment				3.78	59.05	.21
Total all costs up to harvest				417.12	415.36	1.48
Contract harvest - dig, haul, grade and load at .55¢ per cwt gross weight 330 cwt				181.50	181.50	.65
Total all costs - to buyer's truck				598.62	\$596.86	2.13

Labor costs per hour are figured at the following rates per hour: tractor driver \$1.75; irrigator \$1.25, hand labor \$1, 60 hp crawler diesel tractor \$3, 30 to 40 hp wheel tractor \$1.10, 2-ton truck \$2, pickup \$1.50. These equipment rates are cash costs only. *Average value for interest purposes for depreciable items is estimated at half the original cost.

POTATO GROWING IN MONTEREY COUNTY

By James R. Lugg, Farm Advisor, and Arthur Shultis, Farm Management Specialist

Potatoes have recently increased again as an important commercial crop in the Salinas Valley. Here are the recent estimates of acreage yield and value for Monterey County, from the Agricultural Commissioner's reports.

	<u>Acreage</u>		<u>Production</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
1958	3,300	Market	10,220 tons	\$34 per ton	\$ 347,480
		Processing	27,336	44	1,202,784
1959	3,150	Market	4,400	50	220,000
		Processing	41,580	45	1,871,000
1960	4,350	Market	2,500	70	175,000
		Processing	63,000	45	2,835,000

The majority of the crop in this county goes to processing plants in other areas of the state. The main varieties for this purpose are Kennebec and Sebago. The crop is planted in the spring, and harvested and marketed the following fall, winter, and early spring. Storing in the ground saves handling and storage costs.

Yield - Yields of marketable potatoes vary among individual growers. Average yields estimated for both market and processing above were 228 cwt in 1958, and 292 in 1959. Market varieties yield less than processing. Some outstanding growers have had marketable yields as high as 360 cwt per acre. Yields as low as 180 have also been reported. The sample schedule on the other side of this sheet is based on a yield of 280 cwt from a gross harvest of 330 cwt. Sometimes the culls may be sold by the grower for around \$4.00 per ton for livestock feed, but other times they are given to the harvest contractor.

Insects and Diseases - Tuber moth has been an extremely serious pest on previous potato crops. At one time, growing of potatoes was discontinued here, primarily because of the moth. In the past three years insecticides and application have, in some cases, been over \$100 an acre. Average value for pest control now runs around \$70. Early and late blight have been problems in some years. Treatments have been successful although knowing when to start treatment has been difficult.

Inputs and Costs on the other side of this sheet are based on interviews with typical commercial growers. They apply to processing potatoes. Market potatoes would be of other varieties with different yields and higher harvesting costs.

Yield per acre influences the cost per cwt of marketable potatoes. If cost per acre up to harvest were \$416 an acre for any yield, the cost per cwt sold would be about as shown below. This assumes the same culling per cent as the 15% on the other side.

Cost per Hundredweight at Varying Yields

Yield, marketable cwt per A.	160	200	240	280	320	360
Growing cost per hundred	2.60	2.08	1.73	1.48	1.30	1.15
Harvesting cost at .65 cwt gross	.65	.65	.65	.65	.65	.65
Total cost per cwt	3.25	2.73	2.38	2.13	1.95	1.80