

SUMMER-PLANTED STRAWBERRY PRODUCTION COSTS

Ventura County 1974

These sample costs represent typical costs of commercial strawberry operations in Ventura County. They are presented as a guide and are not intended to represent average costs of production in this area.

The sample costs are based on the following assumptions:

1. The operation is a 40-acre planting on leased land suitable for strawberry production.
2. The operator manages the farm. No charge is made in this cost analysis for management.
3. Labor costs are based on a total wage rate including labor overhead of \$2.40 per hour for labor and \$2.75 per hour for equipment operators.
4. Commercial yield is in the range of 3800-4500 trays per acre. By weight, yields run 22-27 tons per acre. Approximately 3/4 of the crop is marketed as fresh fruit in trays of 12 pounds net and the rest is sold for freezing and by-products in trays of 14-16 pounds net.
5. Sample costs indicated in the table are preharvest and do not include costs of harvesting and packing or any other expense. Harvesting costs amount to about 85¢ per tray for fresh fruit and \$1.00 per tray for freezer fruit. Trays and baskets for fresh fruit cost about 39¢ per tray. The cost of grading, loading, and hauling to the cooler must be added to harvesting costs. A marketing order assessment of 3/4 of a cent per tray is made to finance an industry advertising and trade promotion program.

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Varieties: Fresno & Tioga SUMMER-PLANTED STRAWBERRIES PRELIMINARY SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS--1973-74 Ventura County

ST-SC-74

Cost Item, Operation & Equipment	Hours		Costs Per Acre		Total Cost	
	Per Acre	Hired Labor	Tractor & Equipment	Material - kind & amount - cost		
Remove old plastic and disposal	30	\$ 72			\$ 72	
Disc, plow, harrow, level, chisel, furrow	20	55	28		83	
Fumigate (contract)	3	7		Contract 270 lbs. 2MB + 1 CP 1 mil polyethylene	\$392 399	
Planting - hand work	70	168			168	
Planting - tractor and driver	3	8	7	23,000 plants @ 19/1000 (in- cluding cold storage and hauling) (varies from 19,000 - 26,000)	437 452	
Fertilize 3 to 6 times, preplant and postplant	10	28	21	Manure and chemical	195 244	
Irrigate:						
Moving sprinkler pipe	20	48	20		68	
Pumping (diesel booster pump)	32		96		96	
Irrigation system (rent)				Rented irrigation system	100	
Weed 3 times, remove runners 2 times, flowers 1 time, prune old leaves and disbud	225	540	4		544	
Polyethylene bed mulch: application and pull plants through polyethylene	100	254	5	210 lb. 1½ mil 34" perforated @ \$0.31	65 324	
Replant	7	16		1,200 plants @ \$19/1000	23 39	
Pest Control 10 times	20	55	25	Pesticides	184 264	
Miscellaneous cultural costs - water roads, moving equipment, operating pick-up trucks, trim fields, etc.					50	
Land rent					300	
Miscellaneous overhead - office, telephone, insurance, field sanitation, etc.					125	
TOTAL PREHARVEST CASH COSTS					\$3,483	
	Investment		Depreciation	Interest	Depreciation	238
Item (40 acres)	Total	Per Acre	Per Acre	Per Acre	Interest	60
2 Tractors & implements	\$25,000	\$ 625	\$ 63	\$ 19		
3 Trucks	14,000	350	70	11		
4 Wind machines	24,000	600	49	18		
8" Irrigation line	11,000	300	30	3		
Office, shed and small equipment	12,500	312.50	26	9		
TOTAL	\$87,500	\$2,187.50	\$ 238	\$ 60	TOTAL COSTS PER ACRE EXCEPT HARVEST	\$3,781