CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND COUNTY
OF FRESNO, COOPERATING

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
1720 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

February 20, 1961

Dear Sugar Beet Grower;

Enclosed is a study of the cost of growing sugar beets in the Fresno County area. This is a sample cost and may or may not be typical of your operation. It will, however, provide a basis for figuring your own costs and may be helpful for budgeting purposes and analyzing the over-all efficiency of your operation.

Thinning costs are based on mechanical thinning and may vary from that given depending on the number of times the operation must be carried out and whether a hand thinning follows the mechanical.

Sincerely,

Armen V. Sarquis

Armen V. Sarquis
Farm Advisor

AVS:go

Encl. Sugar Beet Cost Study

COST OF SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION

Fresno County - 1960

Cost of production of a crop will vary from one farm to another depending upon size of operation, soil characteristics, water costs, extent of insect and weed control, etc.

This work sheet gives an example of costs to produce sugar beets that may or may not be typical of any one farm. It includes all those cultural operations and costs normally experienced to produce the crop in this area. Growers are encouraged to figure their own costs using the columns provided.

NOTES

1. Costs per acre will vary with size of operation. Those given are based on an 80 to 100 acre single-row bed planting on land owned by the grower.

2. Under a rental arrangement, cash costs would be increased by the rental cost and decreased by the amount of county taxes on the land, and depreciation and interest on investment on the irrigation system and the land.

3. Wage rates are assumed to include social security costs.

4. This study is based on mechanical thinning. Hand thinning will cost approximately $14 to $18 per acre.

5. Fertilization costs are based on two applications and a total of 150 pounds per acre of nitrogen. Rates used will vary with past cropping history.

6. Yield per acre is based on the following schedule:
   23 tons - hauled to beet dump
   22 tons - received by processor
   20 tons - grower yield of clean beets.

7. Hauling cost is based on 85¢/ton plus 3¢ per ton-mile for an average 10-mile haul to the beet dump.

8. Hauling credit is based on the practice of a rebate by the processor to the grower. It is computed on the basis of 15¢/ton clean beets plus 2½¢ per ton-mile for an average 10-mile haul to the dump.

9. Although a cost of picking up dropped beets is included, many growers will turn cattle or sheep into a field after harvest. The grazing value of these tops and unrecovered beets is not accounted for. This credit may range between $5.00 and $10.00 per acre where grazing is practiced.

10. This study assumes a November or December planting and harvest during August or September.

11. Total cost of production will vary with yield per acre due primarily to variation in harvest and hauling costs and amount of rebate. Included is a table to show this variation in cost.

12. Grower returns per ton of beets vary with sugar content of the beets, processor net returns per hundred weight of sugar, and USDA Commodity Stabilization Service payments under the Sugar Act.

Farm Advisors

Armen V. Sarquis - Edward A. Yeary

February 15, 1961

COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET

Sample Costs to Produce Sugar Beets in Fresno County - 1960

Based on a yield of 20 tons of clean beets per acre. Man labor at $1.05 per hour and tractor operator @ $1.30 per hour total costs.

PRE-HARVEST CASH AND LABOR COSTS	Sample Costs Per acre	Sample Costs Per ton	My Costs Per acre	My Costs Per ton
Disc 2 x @ 4 ac. per hour each				
½ hr. man & 70 h.p. tracklayer	1.98			
Plow 1 x, 1 ac. per hr.				
1 hr. man & tracklayer	3.95			
Chisel 1 x, 1 ac. per hr.				
1 hr. man & tracklayer	3.95			
Disc 1 x, @ 4 ac. per hr.				
¼ hr. man & tracklayer	.99			
Landplane 3 ac. per hour				
¼ hr. man & tracklayer	.99			
Fertilize with ammonium sulphate				
material - 300 lbs. - cost $54.00/ton	8.10			
application - broadcast - total cost	1.00			
List beds - 3 ac. per hour				
1/3 hr. man & 50 h.p. wheel tractor	.87			
Cultipak beds, 4 ac. per hour				
¼ hr. man & wheel tractor	.65			
Plant - 2 ac. per hour				
½ hr. per acre, 2 men & wheel tractor	1.83			
Seed 5 lbs. @ 55¢ processed & treated	2.75			
Irrigation - 1 pre-irrigation & 6 crop irrigations				
6 crop irrigations				
power - 4 ac. ft. @ $8.50	34.00			
labor - 10½ hrs. @ $1.05	11.03			
Thin - mechanical, 2 ac. per hour				
½ hr. man & wheel tractor	1.30			
Fertilize				
material - 90 lbs. N @ 6½¢	5.85			
application - contract	2.50			
Hand weed - 1 x				
5 hrs. per acre	5.25			
Cultipak - 1 x - 2 ac. per hour				
½ hr. man & wheel tractor	1.30			
Cultivate - 2 x (before & after thinning) @ 1 ac/hr.				
2 hrs. man & wheel tractor	5.20			
Cultivate - 2 x at 2 hrs. per acre				
1 hr. man & wheel tractor	2.60			
Misc. tractor work - ditches, borders & discing				
1¼ hr. man & tracklayer	4.95			
County taxes	4.50			
Repairs to equipment except tractor	3.50			
General cash expenses - office, auto, etc.				
5% of cash costs	5.29			
Total Pre-Harvest Cash and Labor Costs	114.33	5.72		

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per acre	Per ton	Per acre	Per ton
HARVESTING COSTS:				
Dig & load				
Contract @ $1.30/ton on 22 tons	28.60			
Hauling - $1.15/ton on 23 tons	26.45			
Pick up dropped beets - 1½ man hours	1.57			
Total Harvesting Costs	56.62	2.83		
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST AND HARVEST CASH COSTS	170.95	8.55		
DEPRECIATION				
Irrigation system and well	10.00			
Tracklayer - 4¼ hrs. @ $1.78	7.57			
Wheel tractor - 5 1/12 hrs. @ $1.08	5.49			
Farm equipment	4.00			
Total Depreciation	27.06	1.35		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 6%				
Irrigation equipment and well	6.00			
Tracklayer, 4¼ hrs. @ 80¢	3.40			
Wheel tractor 5 1/12 hrs. @ 32¢	1.63			
Farm equipment	1.30			
Land @ $500	30.00			
Total Interest	42.33	2.11		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION FOR 20 TONS PER ACRE	240.34	12.01		
HAULING CREDIT - Rebate	8.00			
NET PRODUCTION COST PER TON	232.34	11.62		

PRODUCTION COST PER TON AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield - tons/acre	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
Cash and labor cost - $	10.01	9.20	8.55	8.03	7.58	7.22	6.90	6.62
Total cost per ton - $	13.95	12.66	11.62	10.78	10.07	9.49	8.98	8.53

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