**Costs and Returns per acre from establishing alfalfa in spring, 2006**

**Weber County**

### Receipts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity per acre</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Price/cost per unit</th>
<th>Value/cost per acre</th>
<th>Base Value</th>
<th>Your Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa hay</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>tons</td>
<td>$95.00</td>
<td>$427.50</td>
<td>$427.50</td>
<td>$427.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Operating costs

#### Land preparation

- Plow: 1 acre, $5.88
- Discing: 1 acre, $3.73
- Land plane: 1 acre, $3.34
- Roller harrow: 1 acre, $3.64
- Planting: 1 acre, $2.96
- Seed: 15 pounds, $2.52

#### Fertilization

- Nitrogen (34-0-0): 31 pounds, $5.53
- Phosphate (11-52-0): 87 pounds, $15.53
- Potassium (0-0-60): 83 pounds, $12.45

#### Custom application

- 1 acre, $7.82

#### Herbicides/pesticides

- Eptam: 3.00 pint, $14.10
- Custom application: 1 acre, $7.82

#### Irrigation (flood)

- Labor: 1.67 hours, $16.67
- Water assessment: 1 share, $25.00
- Repairs/maintenance: 1 acre, $2.30
- Pumping: 40 acre inch, $0.00

#### Harvesting

- Swathing: 3 acre, $12.10
- Turning/raking: 3 acre, $4.18
- Baling: 4.50 tons, $21.56
- Hauling/stacking: 4.50 tons, $16.34
- Crop insurance (75% Yield, 100% Price): 1 acre, $5.63
- Interest on operating capital: 7.61%, $7.72

**Subtotal**

- $232.10

#### Ownership costs (excludes cost of land)

- Farm insurance: 1 acre, $2.00
- Machinery ownership costs: 1 acre, $219.95
- Irrigation equipment costs: 1 acre, $8.25

**Total costs**

- $462.30

**Net returns to owner for unpaid labor, management, equity and risk**

- Above operating costs: $195.40
- Above total listed costs: -$34.80

### Breakeven Table - Alfalfa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield (Ton/Ac)</th>
<th>Selling Price ($/ton)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>$35.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>$73.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>$112.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>$150.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>$188.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>$226.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>$265.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assumptions**

1. Planted in early April and harvested in July and September.
2. Interest computed on land preparation and planting costs for 10 months and fertilization/herbicides/irrigation costs for 6 months.
3. Machinery operating costs include: fuel, oil, repairs and labor.
4. Machinery ownership costs are allocated based on equipment used for each crop.
5. Machinery ownership costs include depreciation, interest, insurance, and housing.

Budget prepared by: E. Bruce Godfrey, Cody Bingham and James Barnhill
2. Interest computed on land preparation and planting costs for 10 months and fertilization/herbicides/irrigation costs for 6 months.