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Bean Production

Estimated Cost Per Acre For Southcentral Idaho

Marshall J. LeBaron

Extension Crop Management Specialist and Superintendent
University of Idaho Research and Extension Center, Kimberly

The annual cost of production for a crop is important for the farmer operator, landlord or tenant and allied business enterprises. The average costs per acre of beans, calculated on February 1976 prices, are listed in the worksheet on the following page. In Idaho these costs vary with the producing area, the grower and his machinery, method of irrigation used, variety of bean produced and insurance coverage and interest. Land preparation costs are based upon commercial prices for the operations where a fee schedule is available.

Chemical application costs vary most as a result of the amount and kind of material applied.

In the snap bean industry, seed is usually traded on a bag-for-bag basis and processing charges are added. Dry bean seed is generally sold to a seedsman, then processed, tagged as certified and sold at market value to the current grower.

Irrigation costs vary widely throughout the area where beans are produced. Costs for established farms with gravity irrigation systems are quite low, many under \$20 per acre. At the other extreme are the newly developed lands with pumping (energy) costs approaching \$45 per acre plus sprinkler moving costs of \$15 (\$2.50 x 5 to 7 moves).

Cut-rake or windrowing costs vary but commercial charges are the basis for the figure given here.

Threshing charges are usually based on a per cwt yield. However, some commercial threshermen charge by the acre (\$28 for snap, \$25 for dry).

Miscellaneous costs would include insurance for buildings and liability, service vehicles such as the farm pickup truck, hauling the crop to market and interest on overall operating money used in crop production.

Machinery ownership costs are usually considered in the charge for the specific operation for which the machine is used.

The cost analysis total is based, where applicable, on bean seed yields of 20 cwt/acre for snaps and 25 cwt/acre for dry types. These figures are probably quite high and apply only to the better producing areas. Many persons feel that a more realistic yield figure would be 15 cwt/acre for snaps and 20 cwt/acre for dry beans for Idaho. The figure used for yield affects threshing and hauling charges most specifically.



BEAN PRODUCTION — Estimated Costs Per Acre for Southern Idaho

	(Your cost)	Snap	(Your cost)	Dry Field	(Your cost)
Land Preparation		\$51.50		\$51.50	
Plow	\$ 8.00				
Roller harrow	10.00				
Disc	4.00				
Bedding	4.50				
Planting	7.00				
Harrow (2/x)	4.00				
Cultivation (2/x)	10.00				
Fall tillage (disc or chisel)	4.00				
Chemical Application		\$44.50		\$44.50	
Weed chemical	19.00				
Fertilizer (P+zn)	24.00				
Disc (added cost)	1.50				
Seed		\$50.00		\$30.00	
Snap	50.00				
Dry field	30.00				
Irrigation (avg. all methods)		\$30.00		\$25.00	
Snap					
Dry					
Harvest		\$41.00		\$42.00	
Cut-rake (windrow)	12.00				
Thresh—snap 1.25/cwt	25.00				
—dry field 1.00/cwt	25.00				
Haul (20¢/cwt)—snap	4.00				
—dry field	5.00				
Miscellaneous		\$34.80		\$35.00	
Mid-season pest control	10.00				
Insurance	3.00				
Memberships	1.00				
Storage (4¢/cwt)—snap	.80				
—dry field	1.00				
Pickup	12.00				
Interest	8.00				
Land Ownership Costs		\$118.00		\$118.00	
Water assessment	5.00				
Real estate tax	8.00				
Interest on investment (1500. @ 7%)	105.00				
TOTAL COST PER ACRE		\$369.80		\$346.00	

COST PER CWT AT:					
15 cwt/acre		\$24.65		\$23.07	
20 cwt/acre		18.49		17.30	
25 cwt/acre		14.79		13.84	

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