# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 

## PROJECTED COSTS TO ESTABLISH A BLUEBERRY ORCHARD AND PRODUCE BLUEBERRIES

## COASTAL REGIONS OF CALIFORNIA 2002 <br> Reprinted 2005



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[^0]UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSIONPROJECTED COSTS TO ESTABLISH A BLUEBERRY ORCHARDAND PRODUCE BLUEBERRIESCOSTAL REGION OF CALIFORNIA, 2002
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## INTRODUCTION

Blueberry production in California is expanding. There are about 1,300 acres with most of the production being in the southern region and Central Valley. . Though total acreage has been expanding, much of the production is new therefore actual production data is not fully yet available. However, we recognize the need for projected cost studies that will provide basis for growers to evaluate the prospects of their investment and future consideration. This projected study is intended as a guide for making production decisions, estimating potential returns, preparing budgets and evaluating production loans. A blank "Your Costs" column in Tables 2 and 3 is provided for entering and evaluating your farm costs.

The hypothetical farm operations (production practices and cost calculations) are described in the assumptions section. For additional information or explanations of the assumptions and calculations used in this study, please contact Eta Takele, the Farm Management advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension. This projected cost study will be available at the Farm Management Website of the University of California Cooperative Extension Program for southern California at: http://groups.ucanr.org/farmgt,

## ASSUMPTIONS: BASIS AND METHODS OF COST CALCULATIONS

Costs and returns projections in this study are based on data (cost studies) from other producing states such as Oregon and Florida as well as from similar production practices of other crops in the Coastal region of California. Costs for labor, materials, equipments and custom services are based on 2002 figures. Production practices information based on new research in California are available in the following websites.
http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/research/figure3.htm
http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/research/blueberryupdate.html
http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/pubs/brochures/blueberries.html
http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/research/fieldday.html
The use of trade names in this report does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the University of California nor is any criticism implied by omission of other similar products.

Land Preparation. Costs for this operation are estimated based on assumptions that the operations will be done using a custom operator to rip the ground in a similar style as a strawberry field. The cost of ripping the field is estimated to be $\$ 375$ per acre. All land preparation operations such as orchard layout and bed preparations are assumed to be done using rototiller. Blueberry production prefers acidy soil. Therefore it may be necessary to adjust the soil using sulphur and Mulch (Sawdust) . Table A depicts the amount of Sulphur and Mulch (Sawdust) we assumed to be applied.

# TABLE A. AMOUNT OF SULPHUR AND MULCH (SAWDUST) APPLIED 

| Year | Amount of Sulphur <br> (Ib/acre) | Mulch(Sawdust) <br> (Ib/acre) |  |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 |  | 1000 |  | 100 |
| 2 | 200 | 10 |  |  |
| 3 | 200 | 10 |  |  |
| 4 | 200 |  | 10 |  |
| 5 | 200 | 10 |  |  |
|  |  | 200 | 10 |  |
| Production | 200 |  | 10 |  |

Planting. In this study, we assumed a planting space of 3 feet x 10 feet with 1452 trees per acre. It is assumed that $2 \%$ of the trees may die and be replanted in the second year. Planting labor is estimated at about a minute per blueberry seedling. Trees costs are estimated at $\$ 2.25$ each. Cover crop is included at a cost of $\$ 13$ per acre.

Training and Pruning. We projected this operation to be done every year beginning the second year with light topping and hedging. Annual pruning cost is estimated at $\$ 290.40$ per acre. It is assumed that about a minute is required to perform pruning operation for a tree.

Fertilization., Urea and sulpheric acid fertilizers are considered to be applied at a rate of 35 gallons per acre starting year one. Application includes three times each year, using the irrigation system.

Fertilizer application includes nutrient determination of Nitrogen (N), Phosphrous (P), Potassium (K), Zinc ( Zn ) and Boron (B) using soil analysis every year beginning the first year and leaf tissue analysis every year beginning year three.. The annual cost of tissue analysis and soil analysis is estimated to be $\$ 5$ per acre. Also, for well water irrigation, an analysis should be done periodically to determine nitrate availability, salinity, chloride and sodium pH .

Irrigation. Growers in the Costal Region of California use both district water or have on site wells. Well water provides the majority of the growers' needs. Growers purchasing acreage for a new farm will likely have an established well on site or access to water mutual that shares wells. District water may be delivered, stored and pumped from a reservoir through a filtration system. Water costs are calculated based upon the use of both well and district sources. Water cost for this study is assumed to cost $\$ 204$ per acre-foot

Water use is estimated at 24 acre inches/ acre every year. No assumption is made about effective rainfall, evaporation, or runoff. Information on evapotranspiration and rainfall are available from various sources. In the Costal Region of California evapotranspiration information can be obtained from the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (http://www.foxcanyongma.org and from California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) at www.cimis.water.ca.gov/cimis. Annually the field is irrigated weekly for 40 weeks.

Pest Management. The following is included for pest management in our projection.

Weeds. Each year beginning the first year, cover crops are moved in alleys three times. Cover crops are used to control weeds.In addition, hand weeding is performed once each week starting the first year. One hour per acre is projected for hand weeding.

Diseases. Some diseases are common in the blueberry orchard. In this study, farmers treat and control fungus problem with the application of copper (Roveral). This treatment is undertaken once in a year throughout establishment and production period.

Bird control. Bird control is needed to control fruit loses. Nets are used for this purpose. In the first year, wires and posts are installed for supporting the nets when needed. Bird monitoring activities are assumed to begin the third year.

Pollination: Beehives for pollination are needed beginning year three. Costs of beehives as applied to other crops are quoted to be $\$ 70$ per acre.

Harvesting, Hauling and Marketing: Fruit picking is assumed to begin at year three,, Fruits are harvested into a bucket container weighing 6-8 oz. Buckets cost around \$65/650 units or \$0.11/bucket.. Picking and packing costs estimates are based on Oregon's cost study at \$0.45/Ib . Transportation to a local packing house, and unloading are estimated at $\$ 0.01 / \mathrm{Ib}$. Selling costs are estimated at $\$ 0.05 / \mathrm{lb}$.

Yield: Table B. provides yield estimates we used to project returns. The yield estimates are derived from UC experiments and from other states (Blueberry Economics, Oregon State University). We assumed fruit bearing age to be year three. However, we considered establishment or full development of the orchard to be sixth years. In this study, an average yield of $10 \mathrm{Ib} /$ tree is considered the typical yield for mature orchards.

## TABLE B. ESTIMATED ANNUAL YIELD FOR BLUEBERRY COSTAL REGION OF CALIFORNIA, 2002

| Year | Ibs/tree | Ibs/acre |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3 | 5 | 7260 |
| 4 | 7 | 10164 |
| 5 | 8 | 11616 |
| 6 | 9 | 13068 |
| Production | 10 | 14520 |

Crop Returns: Crop values vary depending on yield of the orchard and prices received by individual growers. Wholesale prices at the LA market range from $\$ 0.80 / \mathrm{lb}$ to $\$ 2.50 / \mathrm{lb}$ depending on season. We used a yield level of $14520 \mathrm{Ib} /$ acre and a price of $\$ 1.05 / \mathrm{lb}$ as a basis to approximate the typical crop value. The entire crop is assumed to be sold fresh. We also provided other scenarios of crop value by varying the yield and prices levels so that growers would be able to choose the best fit for their specific situation. Crop values during the establishment years are used to offset costs.

Labor Costs. Labor for both machine and manual labor is estimated at $\$ 12.00 / \mathrm{hr}$ for both the owner and hired labor..

Fuel, Lubricant and repair costs. Based on other cost studies (lemons, avocados) in the Coastal region, machinery costs for fuel, lubricant and repair are estimated at $\$ 14 /$ hour.

Cash Overhead Costs: Cash overhead costs consisting of interest on operating capital, property taxes and insurance, office expenses, investment repairs are based on other tree crop cost studies done for the Coastal region of California.

Interest on Operating Capital. This is the cost of borrowing or the opportunity cost for the money used in the business of producing blueberry. A nominal interest is the rate charged by financial institutions for operating loans.

Property Taxes. Counties charge a base property tax rate of $1 \%$ on the assessed value of the property. In some counties special, assessment districts exist and charge additional taxes on properties including equipment, buildings, and improvements. For this study, annual property taxes are calculated at $1.0 \%$ of the value of land. For depreciable assets, annual property taxes are calculated at the base county rate of $1.0 \%$ of the average value of the property. Average value equals value or cost of the investment plus salvage value divided by two. Property taxes are then divided by the number of acres of the farm or enterprise to obtain the per acre costs.

Insurance. Insurance for farm investments varies depending on the assets used for the farm and the amount of coverage. Property insurance provides coverage for property loss and is charged annually at $0.70 \%$ of the average value of the assets over their useful life.

Office Expenses. Office expenses are estimated at $\$ 180$ per acre. Office expenses include rent, supplies, telephone, bookkeeping, accounting, legal fees, shop and utilities and miscellaneous administrative expenses.

Investment Repairs. Annual investment repairs and maintenance costs including buildings, irrigation system, fuel tanks and pumps and tools are estimated at $\$ 84$ per acre.

Management/Supervisor Salaries. Management charges are not included in this study. We suggest that growers divide the returns after all costs between management and profit as they see fit.

Non-Cash Overhead Costs: Non-cash overhead costs also referred as ownership or fixed costs including depreciation and interest on capital investments are based on other tree cost studies done for the Coastal region. These costs for farm equipment, farm buildings, irrigation system, farm tools and fuel pumps are calculated using the capital recovery system (a combined cost of interest on investment and depreciation).

Equipment and Investment. Ownership costs for the various machineries, equipments and investments are assumed at a value of $60 \%$ of the new cost in order to account for the mix of old and new equipment in the farm.

Irrigation System. The Irrigation system investment includes the costs of building a reservoir (built on the site to store water from the water district) as well as the costs of pumps, filtration
station, fertilizer injector system and the labor to install the components. The filtration/injector station is installed at planting. The irrigation system is set up for drip irrigation method and has a life of 30 years.

Building. The farm is assumed to have a metal building and sheds built on cement slab. It includes a packing shed area.

Farm tools. This category includes pruning and picking clips, lug boxes and other miscellaneous farm tools used in the production of blueberry.

Land rent. Land does not depreciate, therefore, only the rental value is calculated to reflect the opportunity cost of using the land for production of blueberry instead of other alternative uses. The opportunity cost of land is calculated at the $6.5 \%$ (the long-run rate of return of agricultural assets to current income) of its value. The land value ranges are given from $\$ 18,000$ to $\$ 30,000$ per acre, by the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (http://www.asfmra.org). Land in this particular study is valued at an average price of $\$ 27,500$ per acre.

Tree Establishment Costs. The cumulative net costs (gross returns less costs) incurred to establish/develop the trees into the production period are referred as the establishment cost. This value is amortized over the number of years of expected useful life of the orchard to determine an annual charge for depreciation of trees and the opportunity cost of the investment.

## SUMMARY

This study provides a projection of costs of establishment and production for blueberries in the Coastal region of southern California. An actual study will be conducted when sufficient data will be available on establishment and production of this crop.

Our projected cost for the six years of establishment period of a blueberry orchard in the Costal region of California is $\$ 17,729$ /acre (Table 1). The costs include $\$ 11,369 /$ acre during the first year, $\$ 4,440 /$ acre during the second year, $\$ 1,746 /$ acre during the third year, $\$ 646 /$ acre during the fourth year and $\$ 79$ /acre during the fifth year. During the six year, there is a net return of 551/acre, which means a negative net cost for that year of establishment.

The annual production cost is $\$ 13,917 /$ acre or $\$ 0.96 / \mathrm{Ib}$ of blueberry (Table 1 ). The proportion of production costs by category is shown in the pie graph (Figure 1). The breakdown includes $12.3 \%$ accounted for by cultural costs such as pruning, weed control, fertilization, irrigation and bird control, $64 \%$ by harvesting (picking, hauling,, marketing and inspection, 5\% by cash overhead costs including liability insurance, root analysis, lab tissue analysis, office expenses, property taxes, property insurance and investment repairs. Non-cash overhead or annual ownership costs of land rent, equipments, buildings, tools, and irrigation system accounts for 18.7 \%.

FIGURE 1. PROPORTION OF PRODUCTION COSTS FOR BLUEBERRY IN COSTAL REGION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, 2002


## PROFIT ANALYSIS

We analyzed profitability using break-even costs per pounds as well as using gross and economic margins.

Break-even costs allow growers to compare expected market prices with a unit cost of production. Unit costs of production are calculated as the cost of production per acre divided by yield per acre. Gross margin (or returns above cash costs) is what growers often refer to as profit if there is no debt on the farming operation. It approximates the return to management and investment. If you deduct depreciation, it also approximates the taxable income of the investment. Gross margin is calculated as gross returns (price times yield) minus cash costs of production.

Economic profit (or returns above all total cost including management) is a measure of how attractive the enterprise is for potential investors. Economic profit can be zero or positive. A zero economic profit should not be alarming if all costs including the owners' labor and management fees are included in the production cost. In this study we didn't include management charges. The return after all costs are deducted can be allocated to management and profit determined by the grower.

Crop yield and prices received by growers vary from individual to individual. In order to give growers choices from which they can choose their possible scenario, we calculated break-even costs at several yields starting from 6 pounds per tree to 14 pounds per tree. We also calculated gross and economic margins at various prices and yield levels (Table 2).

TABLE C. BLUEBERRY SUMMARY OF COSTS

| Year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Prod. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yield/tree |  |  | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Yield/acre |  |  | 7,260 | 10,164 | 11,616 | 13,068 | 14,520 |
| Price/lb 1.05 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gross returns/acre |  |  | 7,623 | 10,672 | 12,197 | 13,721 | 15,246 |
| Cultural | 9,282 | 1,660 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 |
| Harvest |  |  | 4,483 | 6,268 | 7,161 | 8,054 | 8,946 |
| Cash overhead | 849 | 1,543 | 1,943 | 2,107 | 2,171 | 2,174 | 669 |
| Non-cash overhead | 1,238 | 1,238 | 1,238 | 1,238 | 1,238 | 1,238 | 2,596 |
| Total costs | 11,369 | 4,440 | 9,369 | 11,318 | 12,275 | 13,171 | 13,917 |
| Returns to management | -11,369 | -4,440 | -1,746 | -646 | -79 | 551 | 1,329 |
| Accumulated establishment cost | 11,369 | 15,809 | 17,555 | 18,201 | 18,280 | 17,729 |  |

Cultural: material, labor, machinery (fuel, lube and repair) for planting, fertilization, pest, \& disease control
Harvest: picking, packing, \& containers
Cash overhead: interest on investment, property taxes, insurance, \& office expenses Non-cash overhead: land rent, investment, \& machinery fixed costs

TABLE D.BLUEBERRY PROFITABILITY ANALYSIS

| Yield: lbs/tree | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{7}$ | $\mathbf{8}$ | $\mathbf{9}$ | $\mathbf{1 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 3}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yield: lbs/acre | 8,712 | 10,164 | 11,616 | 13,068 | 14,520 | 15,972 | 17,424 | 18,876 |

Part A. Cost per acre and per pound at varying yield

| Operating costs/acre: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cultural Costs | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 |
| Harvest labor \& material | 5,356 | 6,249 | 7,142 | 8,035 | 8,927 | 9,820 | 10,713 | 11,605 | 12,498 |
| Harvest machine \& mach.lab. | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| TOTAL OPERATING COSTS/ACRE | 7,081 | 7,974 | 8,867 | 9,760 | 10,652 | 11,545 | 12,438 | 13,330 | 14,223 |
| TOTAL OPERATING COSTS/POUI | 0.81 | 0.78 | 0.76 | 0.75 | 0.73 | 0.72 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.70 |
| CASH OVERHEAD COSTS/ACRE | 669 | 669 | 669 | 669 | 669 | 669 | 669 | 669 | 669 |
| TOTAL CASH COSTS/ACRE | 7,750 | 8,643 | 9,536 | 10,428 | 11,321 | 12,214 | 13,107 | 13,999 | 14,892 |
| TOTAL CASH COSTS/POUND (GROSS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MARGIN BREAKEVEN) | 0.89 | 0.85 | 0.82 | 0.80 | 0.78 | 0.76 | 0.75 | 0.74 | 0.73 |
| NON-CASH OVERHEAD COSTS/A | 2,596 | 2,596 | 2,596 | 2,596 | 2,596 | 2,596 | 2,596 | 2,596 | 2,596 |
| TOTAL COSTS/ACRE | 10,346 | 11,238 | 12,131 | 13,024 | 13,917 | 14,809 | 15,702 | 16,595 | 17,488 |
| TOTAL COSTS/POUND (RETURNS TO |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MANAGEMENT BREAKEVEN) | 1.19 | 1.11 | 1.04 | 1.00 | 0.96 | 0.93 | 0.90 | 0.88 | 0.86 |

Part B. Returns per acre above operating costs

| Price (\$/pound): | 759 | 1,174 | 1,588 | 2,002 | 2,416 | 2,830 | 3,244 | 3,658 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.90 | 1,195 | 1,682 | 2,168 | 2,655 | 3,142 | 3,628 | 4,115 | 4,602 |
| 0.95 | 1,631 | 2,190 | 2,749 | 3,308 | 3,868 | 4,427 | 4,986 | 5,546 |
| 1.00 | 2,066 | 2,698 | 3,330 | 3,962 | 4,594 | 5,226 | 5,858 | 6,489 |
| 1.05 | 2,502 | 3,206 | 3,911 | 4,615 | 5,320 | 6,024 | 6,729 | 7,433 |
| 1.10 | 2,937 | 3,715 | 4,492 | 5,269 | 6,046 | 6,823 | 7,600 | 8,377 |
| 1.15 | 3,373 | 4,223 | 5,072 | 5,922 | 6,772 | 7,621 | 8,471 | 9,321 |
| 1.20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Part D. Returns above all costs (returns to management analysis)

## Price (\$/pound):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.90 | $-2,505$ | $-2,091$ | $-1,677$ | $-1,263$ | -849 | -435 | -20 | 394 | 808 |
| 0.95 | $-2,069$ | $-1,583$ | $-1,096$ | -609 | -123 | 364 | 851 | 1,337 | 1,824 |
| 1.00 | $-1,634$ | $-1,074$ | -515 | 44 | 603 | 1,163 | 1,722 | 2,281 | 2,840 |
| 1.05 | $-1,198$ | -566 | 66 | 698 | 1,329 | 1,961 | 2,593 | 3,225 | 3,857 |
| 1.10 | -762 | -58 | 646 | 1,351 | 2,055 | 2,760 | 3,464 | 4,169 | 4,873 |
| 1.15 | -327 | 450 | 1,227 | 2,004 | 2,781 | 3,558 | 4,336 | 5,113 | 5,890 |
| 1.20 | 109 | 958 | 1,808 | 2,658 | 3,507 | 4,357 | 5,207 | 6,056 | 6,906 |


| Projected Establishment and Production Costs and Returns for Blueberries Coastal Regions of California 2002 <br> Plant Spacing of 3 'x10' or 1,452 plants/acre; Labor Wages at $\$ 12 / \mathrm{hr}$ 6 establishment and 30 full production years |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Operation | Unit | $\begin{gathered} \text { \$/ } \\ \text { Unit } \end{gathered}$ | Year 1 |  | Year 2 |  | Year 3 |  | Year 4 |  | Year 5 |  | Year 6 |  | Production Year |  |
|  |  |  | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre |
| Fresh blueberries (lb/tree) |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5 |  | 7 |  | 8 |  | 9 |  | 10 |  |
| GROSS RETURNS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yield (lb/ac) \& Returns (\$/ac) <br> Prices: Blueberries, (FL \$1.079/lb; <br> (CA \$0.80/lb~\$2.50/lb at wholesal <br> Processed blueberries <br> Total Gross Returns | \|lb <br> ; NC \$1 <br> le) <br> Ib | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 1.05 \\ 1 / \mathrm{lb}) \\ 0 \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  | 7,260 <br> 0 <br> 7,260 | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 7,623 \\ \\ 0 \\ 7,623 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 10,164 <br> 10,164 | 10,672 <br> 10,672 | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 11,616 \\ 0 \\ 11,616 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $12,197$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline 13,068 \\ \\ 0 \\ 13,068 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $13,721$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 14,520 \\ & 14,520 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $15,246$ $15,246$ |
| VARIABLE COSTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Field Preparation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rip field (custom) - based on strawb | ac | 375 | 1 | 375 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Orchard layout (bed form) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Machine labor | hr | 12 | 0.55 | 6.6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Machine (fuel, lube, \& repair) | hr | 14 | 0.5 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Irrigation system set up (drip) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manual labor | hr | 12 | 9 | 108 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Machine labor | hr | 12 | 0.55 | 6.6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Machine (fuel, lube, \& repair) | hr | 14 | 0.5 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Soil Preparation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sulphur | Ib | 0.1 | 1,000 | 100 | 200 | 20 | 200 | 20 | 200 | 20 | 200 | 20 | 200 | 20 | 200 | 20 |
| Sawdust (mulch) application |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Material | tons | 3 | 100 | 300 | 10 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 10 | 30 | 10 | 30 |
| Manual labor | hr | 12 | 4.5 | 54 | 4.5 | 54 | 4.5 | 54 | 4.5 | 54 | 4.5 | 54 | 4.5 | 54 | 4.5 | 54 |
| Rototill |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Machine labor | hr | 12 | 0.55 | 6.60 | 0.55 | 6.60 | 0.55 | 6.60 | 0.55 | 6.60 | 0.55 | 6.60 | 0.55 | 6.60 | 0.55 | 6.60 |
| Machine (fuel, lube, \& repair) | hr | 14 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 |
| Soil test | ac | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| Planting |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spacing | $3 ' \times 10 '$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plants | plant | 2.25 | 1,452 | 3,267 | 27 | 60.75 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manual labor (1 min/plant) | hr | 12 | 24.2 | 290.40 | 0.45 | 5.40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Machine labor | hr | 12 | 0.55 | 6.60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Machine (fuel, lube, \& repair) | hr | 14 | 0.5 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Establishment and production Costs for Blueberry, UCCE, Costal Region of California, 2002


| Blueberries establishment and production costs and returns cont. (page 3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Operation | $\begin{gathered} \$ / \\ \text { Unit } \end{gathered}$ | Year 1 |  | Year 2 |  | Year 3 |  | Year 4 |  | Year 5 |  | Year 6 |  | Production Year |  |
|  |  | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre | Quant. <br> /Acre | \$/Acre |
| Harvest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fresh: Pick \& Pack (hand)--Oregor Ib (Florida $\$ 0.52 / \mathrm{lb}$ ) | 0.45 |  |  |  |  | 7,260 | 3,267 | 10,164 | 4,573.80 | 11,616 | 5,227.20 | 13,068 | 5,880.60 | 14,520 | 6,534.00 |
| $\begin{array}{l\|l} \begin{array}{l} \text { Buckets/clamshell cups } \\ (1 / 2 \text { pt } 6-80 z ~ @ ~ \\ \text { or } \\ \text { or } 1 \text { pt or } 10-14050 \text { unit; } \end{array} & \text { Ib } \\ \$ 48 / 600 \text { unit) } \end{array}$ | 0.11 |  |  |  |  | 7,260 | 776.82 | 10,164 | 1,087.55 | 11,616 | 1,242.91 | 13,068 | 1,398.28 | 14,520 | 1,553.64 |
| Load \& haul \|lb | 0.01 |  |  |  |  | 7,260 | 56.82 | 10,164 | 79.54 | 11,616 | 90.91 | 13,068 | 102.27 | 14,520 | 113.63 |
| Sell fresh (?) Ib | 0.05 |  |  |  |  | 7,260 | 363 | 10,164 | 508.20 | 11,616 | 580.80 | 13,068 | 653.40 | 14,520 | 726 |
| Machine labor ${ }^{\text {hr }}$ | 12 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 12 |
| Machine (fuel, lube, \& repair) hr | 14 |  |  |  |  | 0.5 |  | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 |
| Total Harvest Costs |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4,483 |  | 6,268 |  | 7,161 |  | 8,054 |  | 8,946 |
| CASH OVERHEAD COSTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interest on investment @ 8.5\% ${ }^{\text {ac }}$ |  |  |  |  | 966 |  | 1344 |  | 1492 |  | 1547 |  | 1554 |  |  |
| Property taxes \& insurance ac |  |  | 181 |  | 227 |  | 241 |  | 256 |  | 265 |  | 261 |  | 308 |
| Investment repairs ac |  |  | 75 |  | 78 |  | 84 |  | 84 |  | 84 |  | 84 |  | 84 |
| Office expense ac |  |  | 180 |  | 180 |  | 180 |  | 180 |  | 180 |  | 180 |  | 180 |
| Interest on operating capital |  |  | 413.03 |  | 91.18 |  | 93.97 |  | 94.60 |  | 94.99 |  | 94.82 |  | 96.81 |
| Total Cash Overhead Costs |  |  | 849 |  | 1,543 |  | 1,943 |  | 2,107 |  | 2,171 |  | 2,174 |  | 669 |
| NON-CASH COSTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Land rent ac |  |  | 1,072.5 |  | 1,072.5 |  | 1,072.5 |  | 1,072.5 |  | 1,072.5 |  | 1,072.5 |  | 1,072.5 |
| Depr. \& int. on mach., equip., build ac |  |  | 78 |  | 78 |  | 78 |  | 78 |  | 78 |  | 78 |  | 78 |
| Depr. \& int. irrig. system ac |  |  | 67 |  | 67 |  | 67 |  | 67 |  | 67 |  | 67 |  | 67 |
| Miscellaneous (tools etc.) ac |  |  | 20 |  | 20 |  | 20 |  | 20 |  | 20 |  | 20 |  | 20 |
| Amortized establishment (30 years ac |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,358 |
| Total Non-Cash Overhead Costs |  |  | 1,238 |  | 1,238 |  | 1,238 |  | 1,238 |  | 1,238 |  | 1,238 |  | 2,596 |
| TOTAL ALL COSTS |  |  | 11,369 |  | 4,440 |  | 9,369 |  | 11,318 |  | 12,275 |  | 13,171 |  | 13,917 |
| Returns to Management |  |  | -11,369 |  | -4,440 |  | -1,746 |  | -646 |  | -79 |  | 551 |  | 1,329 |
| Accumulated Establishment Cost |  |  | 11,369 |  | 15,809 |  | 17,555 |  | 18,201 |  | 18,280 |  | 17,729 |  |  |

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Acknowledgements for providing information and helping with the projection

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