# California Avocado Society 1942 Yearbook 26: 86-96

# **Avocado Production Cost and Efficiency Analysis For 1941**

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Sixth Annual Summary With Six Year Average San Diego County, California

An Analysis of Yield, Income and Costs on 15 Avocado Orchards Covering 46.48 Acres

Compiled by The Agricultural Extension Service University of California and U.S.D.A. Cooperating with The Avocado Department San Diego County Farm Bureau.

## INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth annual summary of the San Diego County Avocado Enterprise Efficiency and Cost of Production Study conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service and the Avocado Department of the San Diego County Farm Bureau. The purpose of the study is to secure information on yield, income, costs and management practices and present them so that each cooperator can compare various items of cost and quantities of materials used with that of other growers. In this way he can compare the results of his management practices with those of others. He can also measure the results of changes in practices from year to year in his own grove. It is hoped that such studies will result in increased efficiency and higher net profits.

This study covers production costs and returns for the period October 1, 1940, to September 30, 1941. Records of 15 groves covering 46.93 acres are included. The groves average 3.3 acres. Since all groves in the study are not in full bearing, they are arranged in groups according to age of trees, 5-9, and 10 and over. Table 1 presents a general summary of each of the six annual studies and an average for the six-year period. Each record is given a serial number and arranged in order to highest net profit per acre and is kept in the same order in all tables so that it can be easily followed through the report.

Growers that are not now in the study but who would like to cooperate should get in touch with the Farm Advisor's Office, Room 404 U. S. Customs and Court House, in San Diego.

Jean C. Miller

Farm Advisor, San Diego County

Summarized and Analyzed by Wallace Sullivan, Extension Specialist in Farm Management, University of California. Berkeley.

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN STUDY**

Yield in pounds per acre times average price per pound for fruit produced equals Total Income per acre. Income per acre less costs per acre equals net income or profit per acre. Costs, unfortunately, are not always computed in the same way or considered to cover the same things. Some individuals consider their own labor, depreciation on facilities, or interest on their investment. Such a figure is not shown in this report since to obtain significant operation costs, the value of the operator's actual labor had to be included along with hired labor. In this study labor costs, which are considered as cash costs, include the value of the operator's actual labor, the cost of value of horse, truck, and tractor work, and the cost of contract work. The nearest earning figure for the grower who wishes to compare his net cash income would be the Income Above Cash Costs including as cash costs, labor, material, and cash overhead costs. It may be computed by subtracting labor, material, and cash overhead costs from income, or by adding depreciation to capital and management income.

The best net earning figure, from the individual grower's standpoint, is the Capital and Management Income. It is the amount by which income exceeds all costs except interest on investment. It is the difference between total income and "Cash Costs and Depreciation." It is the amount available to reimburse management and to pay for invested capital. It is the amount the grower receives over and above wages for actual work included in labor costs, provided he must pay no interest on borrowed capital. Interest on actual indebtedness is not compiled or recognized in this study, interest on the entire investment being assumed to cover interest on borrowed money and the grower's net investment or equity. No managerial salary for the grower is included as a cost, although it is considered in dividing capital and management income.

In obtaining cost of production from an economic standpoint, interest on the investment is widely recognized as an element of cost. To obtain such a total cost, the interest shown is added to cash and depreciation costs.

Management Income or Net Profit is the amount by which income exceeds all costs of production, including interest on investment as a cost. It is the amount available to reimburse the operator for his management. If his management and luck have been good, he will be rewarded by such an income, but where income is too small to cover costs, a loss or deficit will occur, which in this report is indicated by a minus sign (-) preceding the amount.

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	6 year average
Number records in study	8	9	20	15	15	13	80*
Total acres	29.8	33.75	70.05	47.53	46.53	39.53	267.19*
Av. no. acres per record	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.3
Average age of trees Av. number trees per acre Average yield per acre	$\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ 113 \\ 3085 \end{array}$	$7 \\ 109 \\ 2793$		9 89 8056	$10 \\ 96 \\ 3639$	$12 \\ 100 \\ 8289$	9 100 4731
Average price per cwt	\$ 9.59	\$ 7.12	\$ 8.14	\$ 4.72	\$ 7.30	\$ 5.66	\$ 6.33
Total income per acre	261.18	214.31	205.54	380.08	265.81	468.94	299.31
Cultural labor per acre Harvest labor per acre	$\begin{array}{c} 54.33\\ 15.92 \end{array}$	$35.91 \\ 11.59$	$     \begin{array}{r}       60.31 \\       12.08     \end{array}   $	$\begin{array}{c} 51.67\\ 34.63 \end{array}$	$   \begin{array}{r}     45.98 \\     15.59   \end{array} $	$\frac{40.23}{28.52}$	$\frac{48.07}{19.72}$
Total labor costs per acre	70.25	47.50	72.39	86.20	61.57	68.75	67.79
Material costs per acre Cash overhead costs per acre.	$76.22 \\ 16.13$	$\begin{array}{c} 57.28\\ 16.15 \end{array}$	$rac{66.37}{20.77}$	${61.97 \atop 25.38}$	$\frac{69.24}{23.47}$	59.09 23.76	$\begin{array}{c} 65.03\\ 20.94 \end{array}$
Total cash costs per acre	162.60	120.93	159.53	173.65	154.28	151.60	153.76
Total deprec. costs per acre	6.08	9.37	10.07	11.27	13.01	11.66	10.24
Total cash and deprec. costs.	168.68	130.30	169.60	184.92	167.29	163.26	164.00
Int. on investment per acre	78.28	82.05	79.13	83.70	83.41	82.84	81.57
Total all costs per acre	246.96	212.35	248.73	268.62	250.70	246.10	245.57
Capital and Mgt. income per acre.	92.50	84.01	35.94	195.16	98.52	305.68	135.31
Net profit per acre	14.22	1.96	-43.19	111.46	15.11	222.84	53.74

TABLE 1—General Summary Showing San Diego records for 1936-1941 with Six-year average.

\*Total.

Table 1 presents a general summary of the avocado cost of production studies made in San Diego County during the six-year period, 1936-1941, and an average of all records for that period. The records in this study are from orchards with trees five years of age and over. The average age of all trees during this period was 9 years. Many of the trees in these orchards have been topworked or replaced so that they have not had a fair chance to demonstrate their full productive capacity. This study, therefore, does not represent the full productive capacity of mature groves. The average yield per acre during this period has varied from a high of 8,289 pounds to a low of 2,525 pounds, with an average for the six-year period of 4,731. The average price received per hundredweight has varied from \$4.72 in 1939 to \$9.59 in 1936, with an average of \$6.33 for the six-year period. Total costs per acre as averaged for the six-year period are \$245.57, while the total income has averaged \$299.31, making an average net profit per acre of \$53.74. Without considering interest on investment as a cost, the capital and management income per acre has averaged \$153.31.

		Age	Yield.	Average	Total	Total	Material	Cash	Depre-	Interest	Total	Capital	Net
		and	pounds	return	income	labor	cost	overhead	ciation	on	all	and mgt.	profit or
Serial		variety	per	per	per	costs	per	per	per	invest-	costs	income	mgt. inc.
Number	Acres	trees	acre	ewt.	acre	per acre	acre	acre	acre	ment	per acre	per acre	per acre
Groves	Groves 10 years old and over.												
11	9.5	EN 10	16427	5 24	877-20	73 80	41 37	19 95	15.60	91 21	241 93	726 48	635 27
11	2.0	F.N. 10	14749	5.02	872 10	58.82	97 00	23 04	19.02	89 47	287.35	674.21	584 74
14	4.0	F 13	8935	6.61	590.38	58.36	40.54	20.13	11.58	72.02	202.63	459.77	387.75
1 1	3.25	F 12	10246	5.74	588.15	42.82	82.70	19.20	10.27	82.37	237.36	433.16	350.79
â	5.5	F 10	9133	5.16	471.53	42.46	38.51	24.90	19.48	85.60	210.95	346.18	260.58
28	1.33	F 12	11465	5.29	606.23	146.92	116.83	54.10	7.56	93.87	419.28	280.82	186.95
57	3.5	F.N. 11	7599	4.68	355.93	60.15	24.31	15.36	8.89	83.41	192.12	247.22	163.81
22	. 5	F 11	7020	5.35	375.92	43.00	69.18	20.60	21.96	64.71	219.45	221.18	156.47
23	3 35	F.N. All	3440	5.76	198.26	55.15	45.22	15.23	4.82	89.04	209.46	77.84	- 11.20
27	1.6	F 10	5507	5.26	289.94	71.55	108.78	37.16	13.41	85.44	316.34	59.04	- 26.40
2	1.5	F 10	2279	5.26	119.96	16.74	46.01	23.14	6.49	89.13	181.51	27.58	- 61.55
12	4.0	F 11	3958	5.91	233.80	129.37	78.65	33.44	5.50	89.12	336,08	-13.16	-102.28
24	2.5	F 15	2194	5.93	130.20	122.35	54.50	24.84	5.33	57.61	264.63	-76.82	-134.43
Av													
13 rec.	39.53*	12	8289	5.66	468.94	68.75	59.09	23.76	11.66	82.84	246.10	305.68	222.84
*Tot	al.												
Your	ng groves	under 9 ye	ars old.										
0	-	E 4	0002	5.07	179-13	32.89	46-39	9.27	4 47	53 95	146 97	79-11	25 16
3	а. Э.б	F 4 F 6	1600	6.87	110 00	38 40	52.07	21 02	12.69	74.14	198.32	-14.18	- 88.32
	2.0	F 0	1000	0.01	110.00	00,10	52.01	21.02	12.00		100102	12.10	00105

## TABLE 2

### TABLE 2-Main Profit-Determining Factors in Individual Orchards

TABLE 2—Main Front-Determining factors in individual orchards This table presents the main profit-determining factors in individual orchards in the 1941 study. Two young orchards are listed below and are not included in the average. Each record is given a serial number and they are arrayed in order of descending net profit per acre. They are kept in this same order in all subsequent tables. Eight of the 13 orchards in the older tree group showed a very good net profit per acre while 5 showed a net loss. The average yield per acre was exceptionally high, 8289 pounds. Grove No. 11 averaged 16,437 pounds per acre which is the highest of any record in the six-year period. Four records, 11, 5, 1 and 28, averaged over 10,000 pounds of fruit per acre. Average net profits per acre ranged from a loss of \$134.43 to a profit of \$635.27 with an average of \$222.84. These major cost items are analyzed in greater detail in subsequent tables.

## TABLE 3-Yield, Income, and Costs per Hundredweight and per Flat

Table 3 presents an analysis of yield, income and costs per hundredweight. The general grouping of costs in this Table 5 presents an analysis of yield, income and costs per fundiced weight. The general grouping of costs in this table is the same as in Table 2. It will be noted that the price per hundredweight received by growers ranged from \$4.68 to a high of \$6.87, with an average of all records of \$5.66. The total cost per hundredweight varied from a low of \$1.46 to a high of \$12.40, with an average of all records of \$2.97 per hundredweight. Net profit ranged from \$4.34 to a loss of \$6.12, an average net profit of \$2.69 per hundredweight. The most important factor in reducing costs per hundredweight is yield per acre.

Serial Number	Yield, pounds per acre	Average price per cwt.	Yield, 13 lb. flats per acre	Average price per flat	Cult. labor costs per cwt.	Harvest labor costs per cwt.	Material cost per cwt.	Cash overhead cost cwt.	Depre- ciation cost per cwt.	Int. cost per cwt.	Total all cost at cwt.	Capital. and mgt income at cwt.	Net pro- fit or mgt.inc. per cwt.
$     \begin{array}{r}       11 \\       5 \\       14 \\       1 \\       9 \\       28 \\       57 \\       22 \\       \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c} 16437\\ 14742\\ 8935\\ 10246\\ 9133\\ 11465\\ 7599\\ 7020\\ \end{array}$	5.34 5.92 6.61 5.74 5.16 5.29 4.68 5.35	$\begin{array}{r} 1264 \\ 1134 \\ 687 \\ 788 \\ 703 \\ 882 \\ 585 \\ 540 \end{array}$	. 69     .77     .86     .75     .67     .69     .61     .70     .	$\begin{array}{r} .21\\ .18\\ .21\\ .19\\ .19\\ .91\\ .46\\ .13\end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{r} .24\\.22\\.44\\.23\\.28\\.37\\.33\\.48\end{array} $	$     \begin{array}{r}       .25 \\       .66 \\       .45 \\       .81 \\       .42 \\       1.02 \\       .32 \\       .99 \\       \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} .12\\.16\\.23\\.19\\.27\\.47\\.20\\.29\end{array} $	$\begin{array}{r} .09\\ .13\\ .13\\ .10\\ .21\\ .07\\ .12\\ .31\end{array}$	$     \begin{array}{r}       .55\\       .60\\       .81\\       .80\\       .94\\       .82\\       1.10\\       .92     \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c} 1.46\\ 1.95\\ 2.27\\ 2.32\\ 2.31\\ 3.66\\ 2.53\\ 3.12 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 4.43\\ 4.57\\ 5.15\\ 4.22\\ 3.79\\ 2.45\\ 3.25\\ 3.15 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 3.88\\ 3.97\\ 4.34\\ 3.42\\ 2.85\\ 1.63\\ 2.15\\ 2.23 \end{array}$
$23 \\ 27 \\ 2 \\ 12 \\ 24$	$3440 \\ 5517 \\ 2279 \\ 3958 \\ 2194$	5.76 5.26 5.26 5.91 5.93	$265 \\ 424 \\ 175 \\ 101 \\ 169$	.75 .68 .68 .77 .77	$.65 \\ 1.00 \\ .26 \\ 2.81 \\ 4.43$	.95 .50 .48 .46 1.14	$1.31 \\ 1.97 \\ 2.01 \\ 1.99 \\ 2.43$	.45 .67 1.02 .84 1.13	.14 .24 .28 .14 .24	$2.59 \\ 1.55 \\ 3.91 \\ 2.25 \\ 2.63$	$\begin{array}{c} 6.09 \\ 5.73 \\ 7.96 \\ 8.49 \\ 12.05 \end{array}$	2.26 1.08 1.21 33 -3.49	$ \begin{array}{c} - & .33 \\ - & .47 \\ -2.70 \\ -2.58 \\ -6.12 \end{array} $
Av. 13 rec.	8289	5.66	638	.74	. 49	. 34	.71	. 29	. 14	1.00	2.97	3.69	2.69
3	2883	5.97	222	.78	. 68	.46	1.61	. 32	. 15	1.87	5.09	2.74	.87
29	1600	6.87	208	. 53	1.74	. 66	3.25	1.32	.79	4.64	12.40	88	-5.52

### TABLE 3

### TABLE 4—Capital Investment and Overhead Costs per Acre

Table 4 presents an analysis of capital investment and overhead costs per acre. The average investment in land for the records in the study is \$563.31 per acre; in trees, 1000.00; irrigation system \$79.45; and equipment, \$8.42, making a total of \$1656.89. Interest on investment is calculated at 5%. No depreciation is figured on trees. Depre-ciation on equipment and improvements is based on the estimated length of useful life. General expense is 5% of the total labor and material costs and is entered as a charge to cover interest on operating capital and other small unreported items of expense.

	Ca	apital Inves	tment per A	cre	Capital	Overhead		C	ash Overh	ead Costs	
Serial Number	Land	Trees	Irrigation System	Equipment	Total Investment	Interest on Investment	Depre- ciation	General Expense	Taxes	Miscel- laneous	Total Costs
$\begin{array}{c} 11. \\ 5. \\ 14. \\ 1. \\ 9. \\ 28. \\ 57. \\ 22. \\ 23. \\ 27. \\ 2. \\ 12. \\ 24. \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 750.00\\ 600.00\\ 300.00\\ 600.00\\ 600.00\\ 600.00\\ 600.00\\ 150.00\\ 725.00\\ 600.00\\ 750.00\\ 755.00\\ 100.00\\ \end{array}$	1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00 1000.00	$\begin{array}{c} 28.70 \\ 150.00 \\ 133.81 \\ 35.00 \\ 103.36 \\ 71.84 \\ 62.71 \\ 143.22 \\ 44.95 \\ 50.00 \\ 30.00 \\ 45.00 \\ 50.00 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.45\\ 39.37\\ 1.23\\ 5.69\\ 5.64\\ 5.53\\ .92\\ 9.82\\ 8.75\\ 2.50\\ 2.50\\ 2.25\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1824.15\\ 1789.37\\ 1440.39\\ 1647.23\\ 1712.05\\ 1877.44\\ 1668.24\\ 1294.14\\ 1780.82\\ 1708.75\\ 1782.50\\ 1782.50\\ 1152.25\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 91.21\\ 89.47\\ 72.02\\ 82.37\\ 85.60\\ 93.87\\ 83.41\\ 64.71\\ 89.04\\ 85.44\\ 89.13\\ 89.12\\ 57.61\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 15.60\\ 19.02\\ 11.58\\ 10.27\\ 19.48\\ 8.31\\ 8.89\\ 21.96\\ 4.82\\ 13.41\\ 6.49\\ 5.50\\ 5.33\end{array}$	5.767.794.946.284.0513.194.225.60 $5.029.023.1410.408.84$	$\begin{array}{c} 12.00\\ 15.25\\ 10.77\\ 12.92\\ 17.27\\ 40.91\\ 11.14\\ 15.00\\ 10.21\\ 14.62\\ 20.00\\ 22.71\\ 16.00\\ \end{array}$	2.19 4.42  3.58  13.52  	$\begin{array}{c} 19.95\\ 23.04\\ 20.13\\ 19.20\\ 24.90\\ 54.10\\ 15.36\\ 20.60\\ 15.23\\ 37.16\\ 23.14\\ 33.44\\ 24.84\end{array}$
Av. 13 rec Young groves ur 3	563.31 nder 9 years 350.00	1000.00	79.45	8.42	1656.89 1078.93	82.84 53.95	11.66	6.39	15.48	3.81	23.76
29	500.00	870.00	88.00	6.03	1482.78	74.14	12.69	4.53	16.50		21

TABLE 4

TABLE 5

	Yield,	Average	Average	Man Labor Hours per Acre*			e* Pruning costs Number	Culti- vation	Harvesting			
Serial Number	per acre	trees per acre	per tree pounds	Cultural	Harvest	Total	per acre	cultiva- tions	costs per acre	Picking per cwt.	Hauling per cwt.	Total
$\begin{array}{c} 11. \\ 5. \\ 14. \\ 1. \\ 9. \\ 28. \\ 57. \\ 29$	$\begin{array}{c} 16437\\ 14742\\ 8935\\ 10246\\ 9133\\ 11465\\ 7599\\ 7090\end{array}$	$122 \\ 81 \\ 108 \\ 115 \\ 77 \\ 71 \\ 161 \\ 90 \\$	$     \begin{array}{r}       131 \\       182 \\       83 \\       89 \\       119 \\       161 \\       47 \\       79     \end{array} $	$73 \\ 58 \\ 57 \\ 42 \\ 34 \\ 144 \\ 77 \\ 99 \\$	$   \begin{array}{r}     77 \\     72 \\     44 \\     67 \\     62 \\     53   \end{array} $	$     \begin{array}{r}       150 \\       130 \\                                    $	$\begin{array}{r} 4.50 \\ 9.67 \\ 5.50 \\ 6.48 \\ 2.09 \\ 19.21 \\ 9.43 \end{array}$	··· 0 0 ··· 3	$7.20 \\ \dots \\ 3.39 \\ 10.60 \\ 4.71$	$     \begin{array}{r}       20 \\       22 \\       40 \\       17 \\       26 \\       33 \\       33 \\       33     \end{array} $	.04 .04 .06 .02 .04	$     \begin{array}{r}       24 \\       22 \\       44 \\       23 \\       28 \\       37 \\       33 \\       33     \end{array} $
23 27 2 12 24	$\begin{array}{c} 3440\\ 5517\\ 2279\\ 3958\\ 2194 \end{array}$	90 74 104 77 88 86	$     \begin{array}{r}       46 \\       53 \\       30 \\       45 \\       26     \end{array} $	163 16 151	54  27	217  178	$ \begin{array}{c} .30\\21.90\\\\1.50\\1.92\end{array} $	0  0 	11.64 1.69  79.48 11.76	.41 .75 .30 .40 .40 1.11	.07 .20 .08 .06 .03	.48 .95 .30 .48 .46 1.14
Average 13 rec         8289         100         83         5.89         18.79         .31         .04         .34           *Does not include contract labor. Young groves under 9 years.												
3 29	$2883 \\ 1600$	68 112	$\begin{array}{c} 42\\14\end{array}$		27 22	68 90		1 0	$4.90 \\ 3.20$	. 42 . 66	.04	. 46 . 66

### TABLE 5-An Analysis of Cultural and Harvesting Costs and Other Factors

... Indicates data not available.

Table 5 presents an analysis of cultural labor and harvesting costs and some other factors. It is interesting to note the wide variation in the total number of hours of man labor required per acre. This varies from 86 hours to 207 hours. It will be observed that six cooperators reported no cultivation costs. This indicates a considerable trend away from field power cultivation in avocado groves.

Costs per Acre Capital Number Acre-in. Total Av. Total Appli-Int. & Yield age of appli-cations per acre acre invest-Method of depr. inches ment cation Water all ir. per ap-Serial of  $\mathbf{per}$ Soil Type Irrigation plication per acre per acre labor cost costs Number acre trees Fallbrook & MSL. Fallbrook FSL... Escondido Silt L. 16.228.7014.8029.91 $51.89 \\ 97.41$ Underhead Spr 10 1.618 16437 10 11 10.57 22.50Underhead Spr 30.0 150 00 64.34 1314742 $\dot{7}$ 133.81 26.22 17.38 51.67  $8935 \\ 10246$  $\frac{13}{12}$ Overhead Spr. 14  $\frac{8.75}{23.66}$  $\begin{array}{c} 34.38\\ 42.73 \end{array}$ Fallbrook Loam. Underhead Spr 14.035.0019 97  $\dot{7}$  $\begin{array}{c} 2.3\\ 2.3\\ 2.3\end{array}$ 12.2910 Fallbrook SL. . Underhead Spr 16.6106.36ġ 9133  $71.84 \\ 62.71$ Spr. & Furrow 18.530.38 73.9810.77115.1328 57 22 8 Vista SL..... Ram. & Kimb. SL 1146512  $\frac{1.8}{2.3}$ 24 31 9 40 Low post. Spr. 6 10.920.8454.5511 759928.2096.20 143.22 8.00 60.00 7020 11Fallbrook SL.... Underhead Spr 613.55.83 $1.8 \\ 2.8$ 14.6 44.959.2522 61 37.69 $\overline{23}$ 3440 11 Los Posas Loam. Furrow. 8 9.359.157.506.757.5022.150.00 17.91 57.94 85.01 Underhead Spr 27  $5517 \\ 2279$ 10 Vista SL..... Vista SL..... 8  $\frac{2.0}{2.2}$  $12.0 \\ 15.2$ 5.8713.95  $\frac{46.01}{22.38}$ 6 30.00 59.38Underhead Spr. 1043.08 Fb. & M SL . . .  $1\overline{2}$ 3958 Furrow..... 45.0011 1.9 13.1 50.00 43.9242.02 93.44 Vista SL . . . . . Furrow 24 219415Av. 18.379.4513.5336.7013.2358.848289 12 13 rec. Young groves under 9 years. . 9 9 21 50 8.72 18 13 5.3132.16Fb. & M SL. Underhead Spr 10 288319.40 10 88.00  $\overline{28}$ 7214.00 62.12291600 6 Altamont clay. Basin, hose

#### TABLE 6

### TABLE 6—An Analyses of Irrigation Costs and Practices

Table 6 presents an analysis of irrigation costs and irrigation practices. The amount of water used will depend upon the soil type and the age of the trees. It will be noted that all but three of the cooperators used the sprinkler system. Number of irrigations varied from 6 to 10, with an average of 7.3. Total acre inches per acre of water used varied from 39.6 acre inches to a low of 9.0, with an average of 18.3. Total irrigation costs per acre are made up of the cost of labor and water and interest and depreciation on the investment in the irrigation for the investment is one of the most important items in the number of our of the investment in the irrigation the system. Cost of irrigation is one of the most important items in the production of avocados. It will be noted in the last column that total irrigation costs per acre varied from a high of \$115.13 to a low of \$34.38, with an average of \$54.84. Irrigation is one of the most important problems in avocado production.

	Cover Crops Organic Fertilizer							C	ommercia	l Fertilize	r	Total	Spreed	
Serial Number	Kind	Cost of seed per acre	Kind	Pounds per acre	Pounds O.M.* per acre	Pounds nitrogen per acre	Cost per acre	Kind	Pounds per acre	Pounds nitrogen per acre	Cost per acre	pounds nitro. per acre	ing cost per acre	Total fertilizer costs
11 5			Straw	6400 none	5120	38	4.18	Uramon 6-9-6 16-20	$\begin{array}{c} 340 \\ 1340 \end{array}$	$\begin{smallmatrix}143\\60\end{smallmatrix}$	$\begin{array}{c}5.74\\32.66\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c}181\\60\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c}1.60\\3.04\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c}11.52\\35.70\end{array}$
14				none				Uramon 8-8-4	542	17	13.04	17	1.17	14.21
$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 9 \\ 28 \\ 57 \\ 22 \end{array} $	•••		Horse	1109 none none none	666	8	2.46	Blood	2031 1091 1622 none 328	166 116 214	52.3226.2242.859.18	174 116 214	2.95 .32 12.29 .80	57.73 26.54 55.14  9.18
$     \begin{array}{c}       23 \\       27 \\       2 \\       12     \end{array} $		.97		none none 10221	5991	200	21.13	meal 6–9–6	896 1567 none 500	54 307 23	$20.15 \\ 47.18 \\ 11.60$	54 307 223	. 90 5. 66	22.02 52.84 32.73
24						• • •		Uramon	?	?	10.44	?	4.56	15.00
Average 13 rec.		. 97	Į <u>.</u>	1530*	985*	23	10.56		807*	73*	23.59	96	1.89*	25.18*
Young	Young groves under 9 years old.													
$\frac{3}{29}$				$43227 \\ 5000$	16146 2000	307 125	$\substack{22.55\\8.00}$		$     160 \\     150   $		$\begin{array}{c} 4.01 \\ 11.75 \end{array}$	373 188	5.47 3.60	$\frac{32.03}{23.35}$

TABLE 7

\* O.M. = Organic matter.

### TABLE 7-An Analysis of Fertilizer Costs and Practices

Table 7 presents an analysis of fertilizer costs and practices. Fertility of the soil may be improved by means of cover crops, organic fertilizers or commercial fertilizers. This table shows the quantities and kinds applied by each coopcrops, organic fertilizers of commercial fertilizers. This table shows the qualitates and kinds applied by each cob-erator. Total pounds of organic matter are calculated and the total pounds of nitrogen applied per acre are shown. A wide variation in kinds and amounts used is indicated in this table. The total cost per acre varies from none to \$57.73 per acre. Only two cooperators in the study applied organic fertilizers, while all but two cooperators in the study applied commercial fertilizers. The amount of nitrogen applied per acre varied from 17 pounds to a high of 307 pounds, with an average of 96 pounds. Considerably less fertilizer was used this year than usual. 
 TABLE 8—Orange and San Diego County Records Compared

 Table 8 presents a summary of the avocado cost of production study

 in Orange County for 1941, in comparison with the San Diego study.

	Orange County Orchards	San Diego County Orchards
Number of records Total acres Average number of acres per record	$\begin{array}{c} 14\\58.3\\2.2\end{array}$	$     \begin{array}{r}       13 \\       39.53 \\       3.0     \end{array} $
Average age of trees Average number of trees per acre	12.9 84	$\begin{smallmatrix}&11.6\\100\end{smallmatrix}$
Yield, pounds per acre	3433	8289
Average return per cwt Total cost per cwt Management income per cwt		
Cultural labor cost per acre Harvesting and handling fruit	$\begin{array}{c} 32.15\\ 19.65 \end{array}$	$40.23 \\ 28.52$
Total labor cost per acre Material cost per acre Cash overhead cost per acre Total cash costs per acre	51.80 33.01 24.98 ,109.79	
Total income per acre Income above cash costs	$\begin{array}{c}191.65\\81.86\end{array}$	$468.94 \\ 317.34$
Depreciation per acre Capital and management income	$\frac{11.46}{70.40}$	$\begin{array}{c}11.66\\305.68\end{array}$
Interest on investment at 5 per cent	104.55	82.84
Management income or net profit per acre		222.84
Average total investment per acre Average investment in land per acre	$2091.01 \\ 978.12$	$\frac{1656.89}{563.31}$

A Standard of Labor, Material, and other Costs of Producing Avocados in Southern California Orchards about 15 years of age, with an Average Annual Yield of 6000 lbs. per acre.

This table is a computed standard of costs for a well managed mature avocado orchard with most of the work done by the owner. Investment, depreciation and rates for truck and tractor are based upon a 20-acre farm unit.

Labor costs per acre are computed at the following rates per hour: man labor, \$.30, 12drawbar horsepower tractor \$1.30, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-ton truck, \$1.50.

Costs per hundredweight shown above are based on a yield of 6000 pounds. Yields some years would be double this and some years they might fall as low as 2000 lbs. Aside from harvesting, which may be computed at \$.60 per hundredweight, costs per acre will not vary much for different yields. To obtain cost of production for any other yield, adjust the total cost per acre for the difference in harvesting cost and then divide by the yield. With the above yield total cost is \$4.24 per hundredweight, with a yield of 2500 pounds. Cost per hundredweight would be \$9.40.

TABLE 9

		Man	12 hp.	1½ Ton	Cost	Cost
		Labor	ractor rs per Ac	1 ruck	per acre Dollar	per cwt.
Pruning 75 Trees per Act Brush Disposal Planting Cover Crop	re	10 1 1		1	3.00 1.80 .30	
Applying Manure, 6 T at Applying Commercial Fe	t 50 cts rtilizer	Contract			$\frac{3.00}{2.10}$	
Cultivation 5 times, furre	ow 3	6 20	6		9.60	
Miscellaneous other work	ζ	10	1	1	5.80	
Total Cultural Labor		50	7	3	31.60	. 52
Picking		90 6		· · 4	27.00 7.80	. 45 . 13
Total Labor Cost		146	7	7	66.40	1.10
Irrigation Water 20 inche	es at \$1.50				30.00	
Dairy Manure 6 The Steel	2.50 a Tn.	* *	• •		15.00	
\$2.00.					10.00	
Total Material Cost					60.00	1.00
General Expense 5% of	Above		• •			
Costs	Value				6.32	
\$400, rate \$3.50					14.00 1.00	
Compensation Insurance	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				75	
Total Cash Overhead	l Cost				22.07	. 37
Total Cash Costs					148.47	2.47
	Original Cost	Average Invest- ment	5% Interest on Inv.	Average Annual Deprec.		
		Dollars	per Acre			
Trees. Service Building. Irrigation Pipe, etc Tillage Equipment. Small Tools and Miscl. Land.	$\begin{array}{c} 1000.00\\ 10.00\\ 60.00\\ 20.00\\ 6.00\\ 1000.00 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1000.00\\ 5.00\\ 30.00\\ 10.00\\ 3.00\\ 1000.00\\ \end{array}$	$50.00 \\ .25 \\ 1.50 \\ .50 \\ .15 \\ 50.00$			
Total Investment	2096.00	2048.00				
Total Depreciation .				3.50	3.50	. 06
Total Cash and Dep				151.97	2.53	
Total Interest on In	vestment		102.40		102.40	1.71
Total All Costs					254.37	4.24