

## FIVE DOT HAYING AND FEEDING

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The Five Dot Land and Cattle Company is a ranching operation which is made up of five small ranches in Willow Creek and Honey Lake Valley of Lassen County. The ranches are operated by my brother, myself and my family. The greatest distance between the ranches is 35 miles.

The frost free period in Honey Lake Valley is 120 days, while that in Willow Creek Valley is approximately 80 days. We will take off three cuttings of alfalfa in the Honey Lake area and two cuttings from the alfalfa acres in Willow Creek. We also raise some field corn which is put up as silage for the winter feeding period.

The best of the alfalfa and the corn silage is being fed to the calves which are weaned around November 15. These are fed until April 1 to 15 and then moved to Willow Creek on the meadows for summer pasture. The poorer quality alfalfa and alfalfa-grass is fed to the replacement heifers and old cows from December 1 until April 1. However, this is determined by how soon and how late the snow starts and stays.

Each year we put up between 4,000 and 6,000 tons of alfalfa and alfalfa-grass hay. The first cutting in the Honey Lake area begins as soon after May 20 as the weather and crop maturity will permit. The last loaf of bread (hay) was put into the stack yard on October 20 of this year. During a ten hour day we will average 50 to 60 tons of hay in the stack yard. When all conditions have been favorable, big windrows, long runs, etc. we have put up 140 tons in a day.

The equipment being used in our haying and feeding operation is the Hesston Stackhand 60A, the Hesston Stackmover 60A and Stockfeeder 60A. This puts up a stack of hay which may weigh up to six tons. However, we have found that if we put up stacks which weigh approximately five tons, it is much easier on all of the equipment, reduces the number of breakdowns and greatly reduces the time lost for repairs. A John Deere 4030 diesel tractor is used to pull the Stackhand and operate the power take-off. The P.T.O. operates the fan which blows the hay up into the wagon and runs the hay pick up mechanism. When the Stackhand is filled with hay, a hydraulically operated conveyor moves the tilted stack out of the wagon and deposits it in the field. The retriever, which also has a hydraulically operated conveyor, tilts and moves under the stack, picks it up and moves it to the stack or feed yard. The retriever with a feeder attachment is used to feed the weaner calves and to move stacks into the feed yards during the winter feeding period for self feeding the cows. The retriever will move all of the stacks put up by the Stackhand during the day to the stack yard in a half of a day. So, we are basically putting up our hay from the windrow with one and a half men. Before the purchase of this equipment, 10 men were employed to do the baling, hauling and stacking. The feeding is also being done with two men which is a reduction from four which were required to feed the baled hay. In fact, we feel as though the savings made in fuel, repairs and labor the first year paid for our new equipment.

The following information are the costs as compiled by Doyle Reed and myself for using the Stackhand, Stackmover and Stockfeeder to hay and feed the crop each year.

STACKHAND INVESTMENT COSTS

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Haying</u>
Stackhand	\$22,472	\$22,472
Stackmover	8,321	4,160
Tractor	15,000	<u>15,000</u>
Total		\$41,632

Annual Overhead

Depreciation (10 years)	\$4,163
Interest (8%)	1,665
Taxes, Insurance, etc. (2%)	<u>832</u>
Total Overhead	\$6,660

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STACKHAND OPERATING COSTS

<u>Operating Cost</u>	<u>Per Hour</u>
Stacking - Labor	\$3.50
Repairs	.40
Tractor - fuel and repairs	3.00
Hauling - Labor	1.75
Repairs	.10
Tractor	<u>1.50</u>
Total cost per hour	\$10.25
Cost per ton @ 5T/hour	\$ 2.05

Cost At Various Tons Harvested

<u>Tons Harvested</u>	<u>Operating Cost</u>	<u>Overhead</u>	<u>Total</u>
4,000	\$2.05	\$1.66	\$3.71
5,000	2.05	1.33	3.38
6,000	2.05	1.11	3.16
7,000	2.05	.95	3.00
8,000	2.05	.83	2.88
9,000	2.05	.74	2.79
10,000	2.05	.67	2.72

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FEEDER INVESTMENT COSTS FOR WEANER CALVES

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Feeding</u>
Stack mover	\$8,321	\$ 4,160
Stack feeder	6,042	6,042
Tractors 1/4	3,750	<u>3,750</u>
Total		\$13,952
 <u>Annual Overhead</u>		
Depreciation (10 years)		\$1,395
Interest (8%)		558
Taxes, insurance, etc. (2%)		<u>270</u>
Total		\$2,232

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FEEDER OPERATION COSTS FOR WEANER CALVES

<u>Operation Cost</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>
Labor	.40
Repairs	.15
Gas and repairs	<u>.15</u>
Total	.70

Cost at Various Tons Fed

<u>Tons</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Overhead</u>	<u>Total</u>
3,000	.70		
4,000	.70		
5,000	.70		
6,000	.70		
7,000	.70		
8,000	.70		
9,000	.70		
10,000	.70		

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FEEDING COSTS WITH PANELS - COW SELF FEEDING

<u>Investment</u>	
Panels	\$2 ton
<u>Annual Overhead</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>
Depreciation	.40
Interest	.08
Taxes, insurance, etc.	<u>.02</u>
Total	\$ .50
<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>
Labor -- 2,000 tons, 3 months \$1,800 wages	.90
Overhead	<u>.50</u>
Total	\$1.40

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