



A Partnership to Sustain the California Dairy
Foods Industry & Local Communities

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www.alfalaproject.com

The Alfalfa Project

Farmer Economic Metrics with Precision Alfalfa Mgmt

PAM Annual Costs:		
Water & Pumping Costs (2.5 Acft @\$140)	\$350	\$/acre
Operating Costs*	\$275	\$/acre
Harvest Costs (Bail @ \$40 per Ton)	\$500	\$/acre
Establishment Costs (7 Year Amort)	<u>\$115</u>	\$/acre
<i>Subtotal Production Costs</i>	<i>\$1,240</i>	\$/acre
SDI System Depreciation (15 Years)	<u>\$160</u>	\$/acre
Total Costs	\$1,400	\$/acre
Tons per Acre	12.77	tons/acre
PAM Production Cost per Ton	\$110	\$/ton
Market Price per Ton (Hoyt Report)	\$230	\$/ton
Savings per Ton	\$120	\$/ton

Payback Period = approx. 2 Years

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Drought Year Results with Precision Alfalfa Mgmt

- Independent study by CPA firm Frazer, LLP (dairy exp.)
- Two year results from farmer records, interviews, etc.
- FY 2016 average results
 - 1,110 acres in three counties with multiple soil types
 - 12.77 tons per acre
 - 2.39 acre feet per acre
 - TDN 54.4%, CP 21.72% = premium quality
- FY 2015 average results
 - 803 acres in three counties with multiple soil types
 - 11.41 tons per acre
 - 2.33 acre feet per acre
 - TDN 52.0%, CP 20.34% = good quality

CA state average = 5.0 acre-feet/acre
CA state average = 6.9 tons/acre

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What's Possible?

CA Alfalfa Acres per USDA	600,000
Conversion Rate by 2024	50%
Total Acres Converted	300,000
Annual Per Acre Water Reduction	2.5 Ac Ft
Annual Acre Feet Not Applied	750,000
CA Silage Acres per WAGNER	350,000
Conversion Rate by 2024	50%
Total Acres Converted	175,000
Annual Per Acre Water Reduction	2.0 Ac Ft
Annual Acre Feet Not Applied	350,000
Total Annual Acre Feet Not Applied	1,100,000
Approx. Capital Investment	\$950 Million