

LABOR COSTS: MONTANA

TABLE 18.—*Labor cost rates per hour, and hours of labor per acre on machine operations, employed in the production of sugar beets*

SUMMARY FOR MONTANA, 1921, 1922, AND 1923

Year	Labor cost rates per hour ¹	Direct labor per acre on machine operations ²	Direct and indirect labor per acre on machine operations ³
	<i>Cents</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Hours</i>
3-year average.....	33.5	54.1	62.2
1921.....	32.0	53.3	61.3
1922.....	32.0	53.1	61.1
1923.....	35.5	55.2	63.5

¹ The labor cost rates for 1922 and 1923 are those paid hired labor or allowed for unpaid labor as determined by field investigation. The wages for 1921 were determined by adjusting the 1922 rates on the basis of the percentage change in monthly wages (without board) paid farm laborers. For example, according to available wage data, the average monthly farm wages in Montana, without board, were the same in 1921 as in 1922, and therefore the 1922 labor cost established in this investigation was used as the 1921 costs.

² Exclusive of contract labor, labor operating tractors, all machine labor hired at custom or piece rates, i. e., drilling beet seed, etc., labor of supervising and managing, and indirect labor.

³ Indirect labor time was obtained by taking a flat 15 per cent of the hours of direct labor on machine operations.

TABLE 19.—*Man labor—Average hours of labor required to perform once the various machine operations employed in the production of sugar beets* ¹

SUMMARY FOR UNITED STATES AND MONTANA, 1922

Operations	Man hours per acre in—		Operations	Man hours per acre in—	
	United States	Montana		United States	Montana
Manuring.....	13.4	13.1	Hauling seed.....	0.1	-----
Cleaning ditches.....	1.4	1.0	Planting.....	1.0	1.2
Removing trash.....	.8	.2	Preparations for replanting.....	1.9	2.4
Disking before plowing.....	1.1	1.4	Replanting.....	1.1	1.4
Crowning alfalfa.....	4.7	4.9	Harrowing beets.....	.6	.9
Plowing.....	4.6	4.0	Rolling beets.....	.8	.9
Disking after plowing.....	1.3	1.3	Spraying.....	.9	2.0
Leveling and floating.....	.9	1.1	Cultivating.....	1.7	1.4
Spike-tooth harrowing.....	.7	.7	Plowing ditches.....	.8	.6
Spring-tooth harrowing.....	1.1	1.7	Irrigating.....	2.6	3.2
Rolling, cultipacking, and corrugating.....	.8	.9	Lifting.....	4.4	5.0
Hauling fertilizer.....	.3	-----	Loading and hauling.....	11.0	11.5

¹ All farms on which tractors were used were excluded from these tabulations. The above figures were obtained by dividing the hours spent on each operation by the number of acres for which the operation was performed. As not all of these operations were performed on all farms, the sum of the hours spent on each operation may be greater than the average hours of man labor required in the production of an acre of sugar beets shown elsewhere in this report.

TABLE 20.—*Percentage of acreage of sugar beets worked by the various kinds of hand labor (contract, family, hired help, and grower's labor) on sugar-beet farms investigated*

SUMMARY FOR MONTANA, 1922

	Percentage of the total acreage of sugar beets worked by the various kinds of hand labor		
	Blocking and thinning	Hoing	Pulling and topping
Contract labor ¹	88.5	86.7	88.0
Family labor ²	13.0	12.9	10.5
Hired help and grower's labor ³5	.4	.5

¹ Hired on an acre basis.

² Performed by members of the grower's family (other than the grower).

³ Performed by the regular hired farm labor and by the grower